



**Berg**  
Mt Martha

Caring for the Balcombe Estuary Reserves

# THE CREEK

Volume 19 No 5, October 2015

## FOLLOW THAT DRAGONFLY!

There was magic in the Old Campground when the Mt Martha Preschool children helped their teacher Georgina McCallum to launch BERG Mt Martha's Dragonfly Audio Nature Trail on 25<sup>th</sup> August. The five audio-posts had previously been installed by our wonderful Green Army crew, who also helped at

the launch. We were delighted that Mayor Bev Colomb was also able to come.

Accessed by smart phone or tablet, the commentary at each post enchanted the children, telling them about local birds like snapping spoonbills and blue fairy wrens; our monotreme, the stickly echidna; underwater beasties like galaxias and long necked tortoises; slippery reptiles like blue tongued lizards and

water skinks; and nocturnal operators like the tiny microbat and the busy brushtail and ringtail possums.

Development of the audio trail was by environmental educators, SEEDS Bushland Restoration & Environmental Education, co-ordinated by BERG Mt Martha, with funding from the Shire, *The Leader* Newspaper, Melbourne Water, and donations from BERG MM



*Clockwise from top left: Green Army installing the Monotreme Madness audio post (DL); BERG Lorraine Lamb & Mayor Bev Colomb with some of the children (VM); Preschool teacher Georgina McCallum (in red) & BERG Jenny Selby talking to the children (EB); Green Army leader Tom Andrews listening to a commentary with a group (EB); Listening! (VM); Off to explore the estuary (VM). Photos by Liz Barracough (EB), Verity Mapp (VM), Di Lewis (DL)*



**With so much happening in BERG Mt Martha, this is a bumper 8-page edition of *The Creek*. Turn over to read about the launch of *Up the Creek*, *Weeds*, *Wasps*, *Schools*, *'Balcatraz'*, the draining of swampland, and more...**

NOTICE OF MEETING AND CALL FOR  
NOMINATIONS

**2015 BERG MT MARTHA  
ANNUAL GENERAL  
MEETING**

**SATURDAY 7<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER**  
**Mt Martha House (Mtg Rm 5)**  
**9.15am registration for the**  
**meeting at 9.30am sharp**  
**NOTE Earlier time this year**

Guest speaker is

**Jeff Yugovic**

Once, south-eastern Australia had a large population of native 'top predators' – dingos, owls, eagles, quolls, lace monitors... Today few are left but their prey – possums, roos and others – are thriving. Jeff, a skilled ecologist, will talk about the effects of this imbalance, particularly on tree decline on the Peninsula.

**Meeting Agenda**

- Welcome and apologies
- Minutes of 2014 AGM
- Committee reports:  
President, Graham Hubbard  
Treasurer, Richard Kirsner  
Field Officer, Liz Barraclough
- Election: President, Vice-President,  
Treasurer, Secretary, & up to 10  
ordinary committee members.
- Appointment of Auditor

**Nominations for office bearers &  
committee**

For nomination forms call 0447 160 208  
or go to [www.berg.org.au](http://www.berg.org.au), under  
'Resources'. Nominations in writing,  
signed by two BERG members &  
accompanied by the candidate's written  
consent, must be with the Secretary by  
Friday 30<sup>th</sup> October.

**BERG MT MARTHA  
PUBLICITY VIDEO**

*Graham Hubbard reports*

Roger Threlfall has donated his time and skills to film, edit and produce a seven-minute video covering the many facets of BERG Mt Martha's work. Judy Hubbard provided the enthusiastic voice track.

The video will be invaluable for promoting BERG MM. You can check it out via a link on our website (at [www.berg.org.au](http://www.berg.org.au)). Thanks to Roger and Judy for their work on this project, which has already drawn interest from the Shire.

**CULTURAL HERITAGE  
WALK**

*Jenny Selby reports*

At the invitation of Naturelinks, Steve Compton from the Boonerwung Land Council took a Cultural Heritage walk through Balcombe Estuary Reserves in September. The aim was to make work crews aware of possible evidence of Indigenous cultural heritage. A few of BERG MM's bushland volunteers were also there.

Steve talked about the indigenous plants and their traditional uses for food, medicine and shelter. Coastal Banksia flower cones would be steeped in water for a sweet cordial, while dried cones, when set alight, would smoulder and were carried as fire starters. Bower spinach and Saltbush he called 'green vegies', while Paperbarks were 'women's trees', used somehow for 'women's problems'. She-oaks are excellent to camp beneath, with their soft needles over the ground, and the seeds can be used to counter insect stings.

As bushland workers, we should be alert around disturbed soil, as this is where stone tools might be found and middens. Middens indicate that the surrounding area was highly valued by the Boonerwung.

Steve and Uncle Merv, a Boonerwung elder, then showed us a range of stone tools that we may come across in our bushland work.



*Steve Compton talking about the uses of Coastal Banksia Photo Pam Hearn*

**BERG Mt Martha**

**welcomes new members**

Barry & Jill Morris, Annette Klein, Ian Gould & Suzanne Ryan, Leanne & Jeff Hodgson, Shirley Kerr, Noel Cass

**MEMORIES OF  
"BALCATRAZ" 1967-9**

*By Johnathon "JB" Brown*

While staying with relatives at Mt Martha recently, I walked along the boardwalk and across Mace and Citation ovals, bringing back memories of my three years as an apprentice at the Balcombe Army Apprentices School. I remember some of the apprentices in an intake before mine in, around 1967, would steal cars and dump them in the old quarry, take off all the saleable parts and throw the tyres in Balcombe Creek. The culprits were eventually caught and the ring leaders went to jail. I understand some of the BERG MM volunteers are still dragging out car parts and tyres from the creek.

As a prank some apprentices stole some underwear from the WRAAC barracks at Mt. Martha House to run up the flagpole, and they put the flagpole on the front gates at Balcombe army barracks. Sadly, on one occasion, they touched the flagpole on to the 11,000 volt power wires and two of the apprentices were killed instantly.

The apprentices called the army cooks 'fitters and turners' as they would fit the food into pots and turn it into 's\*\*t'.

Often the apprentices would buy a keg of beer from the Royal Hotel to consume on the banks of Balcombe Creek. They were very neat and would return the kegs to the pub, not leave them in the creek.

The Army Apprentice School was awarded the keys to the city of Mornington, which means they were able to enter Mornington with swords drawn, bayonets fixed beating their drums at any time. As far as I know, this is still current.



*Johnathon at the Memorial Gates to Mace Oval, on the Nepean Highway Photo Di Lewis*

## LAUNCH OF UP THE CREEK A FITTING TRIBUTE TO MARY STEMP

*Judy Hubbard reports*

Some fifty BERG Mt Martha members joined a large group of Stemp family members to launch *Up the Creek: The story of BERG Mt Martha*, written by Mary Stemp and Angela Kirsner, at Mt Martha House on Saturday, 22<sup>nd</sup> August. Among those present was founding President Richard Hawkins, who had come from Benalla with his wife Nancy.

The launch was a moving tribute to Mary, who died on 9<sup>th</sup> August last year; her pivotal role in writing the story and her years of dedicated service, notably as Secretary and as founder and leader of the Tuesday Group.

In launching the book, Councillor Anne Shaw said how much BERG MM had influenced her understanding of local ecosystems, flora and fauna and how honoured she was to launch *Up the Creek*.

She recalled that Richard Hawkins, BERG's founder and inaugural president, had collared her on just her sixth day in office as a Councillor to

put her straight on BERG Mt Martha and the issues it was tackling!

We greatly appreciate Anne's ongoing support for our work.

In welcoming guests to the launch, President Graham Hubbard acknowledged the importance of capturing the 17-year journey of a group of committed volunteers who were able to overturn a Council decision and preserve an important area for revegetation.

He thanked Mary Stemp for her commitment to telling the BERG Mt Martha story; Angela Kirsner for her superb co-authoring and editing; Liz Barraclough for her outstanding volunteerism over 17 years, Richard Kirsner for long hours of photo scanning; Anni Dowd for her wonderful cover design and bird illustrations; an anonymous benefactor who assisted with printing the story; and the Community Awareness Group, led by Barbara Thraves, for organising the launch.

Angela Kirsner gave the audience a marvellous snapshot of the book, a preview of some of the archival photos it contains, and again acknowledged that her role had been to write and edit in the spirit of Mary, and stay true to her intentions.

In true BERG Mt Martha style, the launch wound up with a delicious home-made morning tea. Special thanks to Jenny Selby and Lorraine Lamb.

### What's in *Up the Creek*?

- 90 pages of text and over 100 full colour photos, together with early newspaper reports, from the birth of BERG Mt Martha to 2014.
- Topics covered include the early years; role of Rotary with the boardwalk; planning and funding; weeds and working bees; Waterwatch; community awareness; and projects and issues.
- Profiles of BERG Mt Martha's key people, from the earliest days.

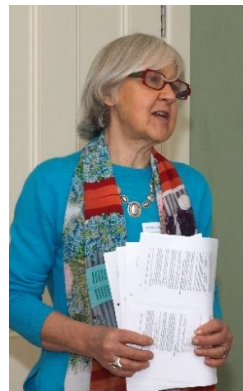
### Where can I get a copy?

Copies are available for \$35 at newsXpress Mt Martha (the newsagency), or Farrell's Bookshop in Mornington – or contact us at 0447 160 288 or info@berg.org.au.

*Up the Creek* is part of our journey as members, and we encourage you to buy a copy or three and share them with your relatives, friends and neighbours so that they too can understand and appreciate the importance of BERG Mt Martha's preservation and restoration work in the Balcombe Estuary and Reserves. It's an inspirational story!



*At the launch, clockwise from left: Tuesday Group stalwarts Isobel Cook & Pam Hearn with Anni Dowd; Richard Hawkins & Bronnyn Street; Jenny Rolleston & Jenny Selby selling copies; morning tea; Mary's son Brendan Stemp; Cr Anne Shaw; Angela Kirsner* Photos Richard Kirsner



## WHERE ONCE WAS THE KOO WEE RUP SWAMP - A SEDIMENTATION STORY

*Emeritus Professor John Swan, who died in June, was BERG's first AGM speaker in 1998. This article, part of a talk he gave a few years ago, is published with the consent of The Wallaby Club, of which he was a member.*

Melbourne was founded by a group of Tasmanians in 1834. They sailed across Bass Strait from Launceston. For the next 60 years the only easy access from Melbourne to the fertile plains of Gippsland was also by ship – the Koo Wee Rup swamp was a near impassable barrier, stretching from the northern coast of Western Port to the Great Dividing Range. There is a place name on the map of the eastern shore of Western Port – Queensferry. No trace of this once-thriving town remains.

When the vast forests of South Gippsland were cleared for agriculture, the timber was shipped from Queensferry to Melbourne – timber was the fuel that baked the bread, heated the water and warmed the houses of Melbourne. There was no Princes Highway, no train line to Bairnsdale and Sale until the Koo Wee Rup swamp was drained – the work finally ended in the late 1890s, done without any knowledge or understanding of risk management.

The current extensive swamp drainage system, now managed by Melbourne Water, takes all the water from a very large catchment straight into Western Port via a network of drains and streams. The Koo Wee Rup land area is now the richest and most productive agricultural land in Victoria. Koo Wee Rup is the asparagus capital of the world.

But there is a down side resulting from the swamp

drainage, which nobody predicted. The run-off water now contains large quantities of sediment – some 70,000 tonnes per year, which enters the estuary and drops out in the salty water. The soil particles also bear witness to their origin, with sometimes adsorbed nutrients, pesticides and the like. And hydrocarbons from car exhaust – the suburbs of Melbourne now extend eastwards along the Casey-Cardinia corridor. Cranbourne, Beaconsfield, Officer, Pakenham – a developer's paradise.

And in addition to the swamp drainage and land clearance, many stands of mangroves in Western Port, those wonderful trees that can thrive in salt water, were cut down and burnt to provide a strongly alkaline ash for soap making. Mangroves can absorb wave energy and when present, protect the coast from erosion. The two-metre-high cliffs extending several kilometres to the north and south of the Lang Lang river mouth, the border of the former swamp, are now eroding at 1-2 metres per year and contributing a further 30,000 tonnes of sediment annually.

The northern waters of Western Port are now permanently turbid with this 100,000 tonnes of annual sediment. Turbidity cuts out light,

and almost certainly has been the major causative factor in the extensive dieback of the huge Western Port seagrass meadows. Thirty years ago, if you stood at the mouth of the Lang Lang river and looked westward at low tide, it was green, green seagrass to the horizon, interspersed by narrow salt water channels. The view is now black mud.

Interestingly, the mud is now home for millions of ghost shrimps. When a dominant species (such as seagrass) disappears, the space vacated is usually quickly occupied by another life form. The ghost shrimps now increase the muddiness of the northern waters of Western Port – they dig burrows 15-30 centimetres in length and this constant digging keeps a lot of sediment in suspension. If the seagrass can be reinstated, the shrimps will be excluded. They cannot dig through the grass beds.

It would be good to restore the seagrass beds – they are a wonderful fish nursery and habitat. Over the last thirty years, commercial fishing in Western Port has declined, from 10-15 operators down to one.

Biology is complicated, natural systems are hard to predict, and the environmental consequences of human activity will always be uncertain and often deleterious.

## DO YOU REMEMBER?



*Do you remember when you parked under Coastal Banksias to shop at Mt Martha? The cream brick Milk Bar, built around 1950, was on the corner of Lochiel Ave and Watson Rd, with Pingiaro's Garage next door (on the right of the photo).*

*Photo courtesy of the National Library of Australia Trove website*

## WORKING WITH SCHOOLS

Jenny Selby reports

### Balcombe Grammar

BERG Mt Martha's annual program with Balcombe Grammar has become an integral part of both our program and the school's. This year, the Year 6 students did lots of planting by Hopetoun Creek below the Balcombe Preschool. One

During one session they buddied with the Balcombe Preschool children to teach them how to plant. John Inchley also taught them how to monitor the health of the creek by conducting a macroinvertebrate survey (see Liz Barraclough's photo, below).



We worked with two groups of students for five sessions each – a total, for BERG MM, of ten sessions. We were delighted to receive a card from the students:

Dear Liz and the BERG team,

We have loved helping to plant things that have helped our environment and look forward to seeing them grow.

Thank you for all we have learnt, from all of the Year 6 students at Balcombe Grammar School.

### Peninsula Specialist College

Peninsula Specialist College Year 11 students, all with some level of intellectual and physical disability, brought a special air of delight to the reserves. At their first session, half a



Peninsula Specialist College, clockwise from top left: Crew on the first day, with Jenny Selby (AK); Stacking Polygala (AK); More Polygala to be stacked (AK); The full crew on a rainy Thursday with BERGers Lorraine Lamb (in BERG vest) & Flo Gason (right) (JSb); Checking out the BERG MM bird brochure (JS); and centre, the Skink (see text)! (AK)  
 Photographers Angela Kirsner (AK), Jenny Selby (JS), Jodie Shanahan (JSb)

dozen students enjoyed using loppers, saws and secateurs to remove heaps of Polygala and Rock Rose from behind Village Close. Excitingly, they found a Skink, which one lad held with great care as we photographed it.

Their teacher Jodie Shanahan (daughter of long-standing BERGER Mal Hackett) said the task was so perfect for them, and the young people so enjoyed it, could they bring an extra group next week? So up to 20 came for the remaining three sessions, to plant and mulch at

Ferrero Reserve 'rabbit patch', and explore the reserves.

### Thanks!

BERG MM is indebted to its team of volunteers (many of whom are teachers themselves) who have brought so much experience and expertise to these school and preschool activities: Jenny Selby, John Inchley, Liz Barraclough, Lorraine Lamb and her daughter Tathra Lamb, Flo Gason. Patricia Reilly, Heather Gerraty, Barbara Thraves, Di Lewis

## FIELD NEWS

### Field Officer Liz Barraclough reports

The planting season is over. We planted our last in September and are hoping for enough follow-up rain to get them established, with a hot, dry summer forecast.

### Sunday working-bees

In August we worked on the north side of Balcombe Creek, in from the fire track, removing more Tradescantia and Winter Cherry, along with Tobacco Plant, Hawthorn and Pittosporum seedlings.

In September, with a dozen adults and an army of little kids to help us with hole digging and cake eating, we planted hundreds of grasses and sedges and lots of shrubs to prevent erosion and increase diversity below the Balcombe Pre-school on Hopetoun Creek – in total, 230 tubes and 660 cells! We were pleased to welcome newcomers Kevin and Jill Conlan along with Declan and Chloe, and 12-year-old Jake Taylor, who came on his own initiative and worked very hard.

This area around Hopetoun Creek is already looking great, with our recent work with the local schools and preschool, and we should see it transformed as the plantings grow over the next couple of years.



Jake Taylor planting at the September working bee Photo Angela Kirsner

### Tuesdays and Fridays

The Friday Morning Group has continued planting and weeding in the Old Quarry and near Uralla

Bridge. Weeding particularly targeted Tradescantia and grassy weeds, along with the remaining woody weeds (Boneseed, Privet, Winter Cherry). The group also cleaned up where a car destroyed barriers and a number of old Melaleucas near Uralla Bridge.



Chloe Conlan kept her dad supplied with tubes to plant at the September working bee Photo Angela Kirsner

The Tuesday 'Bunyip Team' continues under Jenny Selby's leadership. They have worked near Daly's Dell (where Ian Daly many years ago turned fallen trees into rustic seats and tables for morning tea) to liberate the indigenous Lomandra, Dianella and others from *Erharta erecta*. With the Green Army, they also weeded around the 'cubby village' beside Mt Martha Preschool. And during morning tea, the preschool children joined them to picnic in their cubbies!

### Green Army

Our latest Green Army crew has been a great group, hard-working and eager to learn. This Australian Government program supports young people to gain practical training and experience while working in their local environment.

Their program included propagating at The Briars Shire Nursery, weeding Polygala on the foreshore near Victoria Cres and Coolangatta Rd, and planting our northern and southern foreshore areas with Coast Banksias and coastal shrubs. They have also finished off their Tradescantia weeding on the north bank with fine raking, leaving the weed pile to bake under black plastic, and planted *Carex appressa*. And they installed the new audio trail posts in the Campground and helped at the Launch.

Finally, they removed a 10m wide section of

dense Polygala at the top of the Rabbit Paddock, and tackled the dense Ivy and Pittosporum on the west side of Hopetoun Creek below the Preschool.

They had a great send-off in the Old Campground. Greg Hunt MP was there, along Landcare representatives, Matt Stahmer from the Natural Systems Team, and from BERG MM Jenny Selby, David Street and me. BERG MM contributed sausages and cakes. Thanks to all who helped with supervising over the five weeks: Jenny Selby, David Street, Jock McMillan, John Stirling, Eric Smalley and John Inchley. The Green Army team and Tom Andrews, their leader really appreciated them.

We have another Green Army crew for four days in November. Their project with us is still be finalised.

### Peninsula Habitat Conservation and Management Course

Two extra Shire-funded places available to BERG MM at the last minute (due to cancellations) excited great interest. Peter McMahan and Emma Doherty were first off the mark, and they are now on the course along with the two BERGers already participating, Sue Milton and Christo Viljoen. And we hope we can accommodate the four others who expressed interest in next year's program.

### Deakin University students

On 28<sup>th</sup> August, I took a Walk, Talk & Gawk session through the Old Campground and boardwalk with Deakin University Environmental and Life Science students, as part of their Catchment Management unit.



The Green Army crew pack up after a hard morning's work clearing dense Polygala in the reserve below Village Close Photo Angela Kirsner

**Annual Weedbuster stall**

On September 5<sup>th</sup> we set up again outside the Mt Martha IGA with the Sunshine Reserve Conservation Fireguard Group, to tell locals about our environmental weeds. There was lots of interest from passers-by and as a bonus, some of those who stopped were interested in getting involved with BERG MM. Thanks to Angela Kirsner, Jenny Selby and David Street, who helped spread the ‘weedy’ word with Anne Hammond from the Sunshine Reserve group.



David Street, Anne Hammond & Jenny Selby 'Weedbusting' outside the IGA  
Photo Angela Kirsner

**New furniture for the reserves**

The Shire has recently installed a fine seat overlooking the creek at the end of the track running the two Ferrero Ovals. They have also provided a new table and benches in the Campground Laundry (fixed securely to the concrete floor), which are already well used. Thanks to Jane Johnson of the Shire, who organised this.

**THANKS TO OUR NEW TRADER SPONSORS**

- Rumours Café
  - IGA Supermarket
  - Mr Curtis café
  - Mt Martha Post Office
  - Mt Martha Medical Centre
- Please support them in return, and thank them personally.

Do you know an organisation that might support us? Tell us at [info@berg.org.au](mailto:info@berg.org.au) or 0447 160 288. And thanks to John Stirling for making all this happen!

**WEEDS TO WATCH OUT FOR**

Among the many species of environmental weeds in Mt Martha and our reserves, some are more invasive and threatening to a thriving indigenous ecosystem than others. A number of these are flowering in spring. Remove them from your garden and anywhere else before they seed! (You may need to continue removing them for several years – seeds of some species can survive a long time.)

**Polygala**

A South African native, this is covering much of Mt Martha’s foreshore and cliffs, it flourishes along naturestrips, and we continue to remove it from our reserves.



**Boneseed**

Another South African native that has taken over bushland in many parts of Victoria. We’ve removed masses from our reserves over the years, but seedlings keep appearing, and there is still quite a bit around Mt Martha, the seeds carried by birds



**Pittosporum**

Indigenous to South East Gippsland rainforest, this tree is a weed on the Peninsula. Remove seedlings as they emerge. The photos show it in flower and berry. Birds love the berries and distribute the seeds widely



**BIRDS Jock McMillan reports**

In September, Birds Australia Mornington Peninsula had its regular monthly walk along Balcombe Creek board walk, led by Pam Hearn. We spotted 39 different species.

The Bunyip was full of Eastern Spinebills, and looked fantastic. The most notable sighting, from my point of view, was three Striated Pardalotes in the quarry. We have seen Spotted Pardalotes there before, but not Striated. One participant, a serious birdo, was very complimentary about the bird habitat in the quarry, where we also saw Grey Fantails, Fairy Wrens and Yellow Robins, with a Golden Whistler elsewhere. Bound to become a favourite place for bird spotting.

**CAN YOU HELP?**

**FAMILY DAY AT THE ESTUARY,  
SUNDAY 28<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY 2016**

**WE NEED**

**SMALL PLASTIC CONTAINERS**

... for a kids’ activity – empty butter or margarine tubs or similar.

Drop at 38 Birdrock Ave Mt Martha (by front door) or contact [info@berg.org.au](mailto:info@berg.org.au) or 0447 160 288.

**GAZEBOS/SHADE SHELTERS**

Do you have one (preferably with sides) you could lend us for the day? Contact Di Lewis at [info@berg.org.au](mailto:info@berg.org.au) or 0447 160 288

**ACTIVITIES!**

Can you offer a kids’ activity for the Family Day? – painting, storytelling, making things – the only limit is your imagination! Contact Barb Thraves on 5974 2185

## EUROPEAN WASP CONTROL

Spring is the time to catch the **QUEEN** European Wasp as she emerges from hibernation, before she makes a nest. This simple, safe and environmentally friendly trap was devised by Laurie Nicoll after all other the wasp control measures he could find had failed. With it, he has caught some 175 queens a year around his two-acre bush block in central Victoria.

**You need:** some 1.25 L soft drink bottles. Make 3 holes 10mm wide about 150mm from the base of each.



Mix 4-5 tablespoons of honey in hot water and add a little pure vanilla essence. This will do 4-5 traps. Divide the bait between traps, top up with water to just below the holes, replace cap and hang the trap in a sunny spot. The bait will take a couple of days to activate (it ferments in the sun). Shake it every few days so some bait dribbles out. Strain out the wasps when it is full and top up bait with water. Leave in place until January.

For further information contact Laurie Nicoll on 5423 2412.

*Left: A trap filled with dead queens, with more entering. Photo Laurie Nicoll*

BERG Mt Martha Working Bees	Other BERG Mt Martha Activities	Other Groups
<p>❖ <b>Sunday working bee:</b> monthly, 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday, between 9am &amp; 12noon. Next are <b>18<sup>th</sup> October</b> and <b>15<sup>th</sup> November</b>. Details emailed a few days ahead, or call Liz Barraclough, 0408 388 430.</p> <p>❖ <b>Tuesday working bee:</b> monthly, 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday, between 9.00 &amp; 12 noon, meet at the end of Latrobe Dve. Call Jenny Selby on 0432 719 288.</p> <p>❖ <b>Friday working bee:</b> weekly between 9.30 and 12 noon. Call Sue Betheras on 0408 808 201.</p>	<p>❖ <b>Waterwatch testing:</b> 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday at Augusta St Bridge. Call John Inchley, 5974 1095.</p> <p>❖ <b>BERG Mt Martha Committee</b> meets monthly at Mt Martha House, 9.00am on the second Saturday. Next are <b>10<sup>th</sup> October</b> and <b>14<sup>th</sup> November</b>. All members welcome.</p> <p>❖ <b>AGM:</b> Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> November, 9.30am, Mt Martha House.</p>	<p>❖ <b>Fairbairn Bushland Reserve Friends Group</b> next working bee 10am to 2pm, Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> October. Meet at the notice board near the playground. Call Judith Whittaker 5974 8174 or John Stoker 5977 1397.</p> <p>❖ <b>BirdLife Mornington Peninsula</b> bird-watching 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday and 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday. Enquiries to Max Burrows 9789 0224, mornington@birdlife.org.au or www.birdlife.org.au/locations/birdlife-mornington-peninsula.</p> <p>❖ <b>SPIFFA</b> 1<sup>st</sup> Monday, 7.30 pm, at Parks Vic, Hinton St, Rosebud. Enquiries 5988 6529, or <a href="http://www.spiffa.org">www.spiffa.org</a>.</p> <p>❖ <b>Sunshine Reserve</b> working bee 9.30am, last Thursday of month. Call Pia Spreen, 5974 1096</p>
<p><b>BERG MT MARTHA COMMITTEE</b></p> <p>PRESIDENT GRAHAM HUBBARD • VICE PRESIDENT JOHN INCHLEY • SECRETARY DI LEWIS • TREASURER RICHARD KIRSNER                      FIELD OFFICER LIZ BARRACLOUGH • NEWSLETTER ANGELA KIRSNER • ROTARY CLUB LIAISON GEOFF KAYE                      COMMUNITY AWARENESS BARBARA THRIVES • SCHOOLS LIAISON JENNY SELBY • JOHN TREVILLIAN • BRONWYN STREET</p>		
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