

# FOCS newsletter

No. 14 - December 2017

Find us at [focs.com.au](http://focs.com.au)

Summer has arrived - even if it hasn't been obvious from the weather we have been having. However, with the (slightly) better weather and more FOCS people around activities are ramping up both on the social front and in pursuing some of our community based initiatives.

## FOCS AGM and election of committee

As every year the AGM was a great mix of business and pleasure. The formal part of the meeting was followed by an amazing lunch and drinks provided by our host and some committee members. Our president thanked the committee for their contributions and their hard and useful work through the year. All reports submitted are available for FOCS members to view

The following were elected as office bearers for 2017/18

- President. Barrie Rimmer.
- Vice President. Debbie Withers
- Secretary. Phil Mottolini.
- Treasurer. Robyn Johnston.
- Membership Development Officer. Chris England
- Committee:
  - Mal Kalinowski
  - Ian Renwick
  - Jo-ann Currie
  - Irene Wylde

## Cape Schanck Community activities

### Halloween



This year Halloween was made a great celebration thanks to a number of families organising it for Cape Schanck kids. We all appreciated the great costumes, smiles on kids faces and how well the event was organised. We have been approached by the organising families to thank the community for embracing the fun. Above all, it seems the kids were very happy with their treats. A great all-round community effort.

### Sausage sizzle at BUNNINGS

This will be our main fundraising event for the year. Once again, proceeds will go towards establishing our community reserve. We had been allocated the 29th of December at our Boneo Rd Bunnings store. Come along and buy a snag to support your local community. We would also love some extra volunteers for 2 hour shifts so if you could spare few hours please contact us via email: [friendscapeschanck@gmail.com](mailto:friendscapeschanck@gmail.com).

### Listening to the Land (Spring): Bushranger's Bay

This was a walk organised by the Mornington Peninsula Interfaith Network on the 18th November. It included an introductory talk, a listening walk, and a didgeridoo meditation at Bushranger's

Bay. The walk and meditation was led by Gunditjamarra Kirrae Wurrung-Bundjalung man, Lionel Lauch. FOCS members Debbie Withers and Ian Renwick joined the walk and soon realised that many of the plants they thought of as weeds on their block were in fact utilised and harvested by indigenous people. Local Peninsula Aboriginal man, Lionel Lauch facilitates Living Culture ([www.livingculture.com.au](http://www.livingculture.com.au)) and provides Indigenous Educational programs and healing meditation sessions, including: guided walks, sharing knowledge of traditional bush foods and medicinal plants, didgeridoo lead meditation, workshops and traditional art making.



## Community Reserve Progress

We have received a response about progress on the planning of the Community Reserve. The process seems to be very complex and, as a consequence, is progressing slowly:

- Council had a meeting with Bunurong Council officers and they are broadly supportive of a low impact community reserve that preserves cultural heritage, provides a passive meeting/recreation area, and importantly restores the natural vegetation as much as possible. They are also keen to tie it in to other important cultural sites at Cape Schanck and Bushrangers Bay.
- Council's planning will be for creation of a childrens playspace in the first instance as well as an integrated plan for the longer-term restoration of the entire block (subject

to Bunurong endorsement). This would be led by a shire officer with involvement from Community reps, Bunurong reps and DEWLP

- Community direct involvement would be encouraged through the shire Natural Resources team, who typically manage volunteer education, coordination and indemnity in these types of projects.
- Following the meeting of the Bunurong Board, we will have opportunity to hear from them about how/when this will proceed.

## Community Matters

### Dumping of Rubbish

Recently there have been several cases of rubbish being dumped on vacant land in our area. While this is always a disgusting thing to see, it is pleasing that our Council takes these occurrences seriously and if reported is quick to try to identify and act against the perpetrators, as well as to remove the rubbish as quickly as possible. If you see any instances of rubbish dumping, please report them promptly to <https://mtrsv.mornpen.vic.gov.au/crmwebinput/home/new> and select "Waste Dumping" category.

### Red Hill Ward meetings.

FOCS continues to meet with community groups within the Red Hill Ward. The meetings are convened by Red Hill Ward Councillor David Gill. The subjects discussed are issues affecting the entire Ward and include proposed changes to planning laws by the State Government, green wedge policy of the Shire, communications including mobile phone coverage and NBN, fire readiness and coastal village strategy.

### Access to RACV Facilities

Our President Barrie is having initial discussions with new RACV management about possibility of special offer on using new RACV facilities such as Gym, swimming pool and meeting rooms for FOCS members. We will see what we can negotiate

### NBN

If you haven't heard The NBN is now available in parts of Cape Schanck, VIC 3939. To check your address, go to <https://www.nbnco.com.au/connect-home-or-business/check-your-address.html>

### LOCAL business

FOCS would like to support Local Business and in line with one of the priorities from "Your Big Ideas" we will publish a list of local Businesses. If you would like to include your Business on our web page please let us know.

## The FOCS Value Proposition

As an incorporated community body, we can formally engage with government, commercial and non-profit bodies to put forward a community view. Membership of FOCS offers the following benefits:

- The opportunity to **have your say** and **influence our stance** on matters of importance to the Cape Schanck community
- The opportunity to **be kept informed** on matters of importance to the Cape Schanck community
- Input to, as well as receive, our **regular newsletter**
- Free attendance at periodic **neighbourhood social events**
- The opportunity to **feel engaged in a very special local community**

## Feedback and Enquiries

If you have any feedback or questions, or are interested in joining our group, please check our website at:

<https://www.facebook.com/pages/Friends-of-Cape-Schanck>  
<http://focs.com.au/index.php/focshome>

## Contacts

Website: <http://focs.com.au/>  
Facebook: FOCS on Facebook  
Email: [friendscapeschanck@gmail.com](mailto:friendscapeschanck@gmail.com)

## Cape Schanck Green Energy Project

This is an exciting time with many different community-based alternative energy generation models that have been successfully setup around the world. With the possibilities offered by emerging technologies, FOCS and RACV are wanting to continue exploring options to establish a joint commercial/residential project for Cape Schanck with another meeting planned for next week. It is envisaged that this will focus on organising a jointly planned information session for residents in the first part of 2018. Any project would need to be staged and the first step would be to increase the amount of solar panels installed at Cape Schanck. We would hope through a joint initiative that we may be able to offer a more cost effective package to residents thinking about installing solar panels and/or battery storage.

Considerations about energy storage has been part of the discussion in our project discussions. It's acknowledged that battery storage will make a significant change to the dynamics of energy supply and use in Australia in the coming years. I think it is particularly exciting that local residents Dr Bruce Godfrey and Irene Wylde were involved in researching and writing The Role of Energy Storage in Australia's Future Energy Supply Mix. a report for the Australian Council of Learned Academies. It is terrific that we have the expertise of both Bruce and Irene contributing to our discussions with RACV. A copy of their final report can be downloaded for free at <http://acola.org.au/wp/esp/>

If you are wanting more information or are thinking about installing solar panels or battery storage then please contact Ian (on 0418 106 315 or [irenwick@primus.com.au](mailto:irenwick@primus.com.au)) and let us know so we can include you on any direct communications.

