In this issue...

Since our last newsletter, there have been two habitat restoration activities, a threatened species survey and, in October, twenty lucky members had the wonderful experience of being guided to the Lighthouse by FOTP member Richard Perry. We hope to offer another walk to the lighthouse in 2027 for those who missed out (including me).

Our main contribution to the Prom is through our activities but member Lisel Thomas shows how we can contribute every time we visit.

FOTP has always been keen to support research at the Prom and, following a generous ongoing donation, we are able to offer an annual scholarship; here we introduce the Dr Paul McGinn Scholarship – you can help us spread the word.

Predictions of a super El Nino this spring haven't ended in disaster for the Prom (so far). However, severe climatic events like this have implications for the Prom's plants and animals. An example is the Pookila, our random threatened species in this issue.

Spring has been a bad one for hay-fever sufferers but pollen does more than make us sneeze and help plants produce babies. One researcher has used it to discover what the Prom was like 6000 years ago.

On a trip to Sydney when I was about 10 years old, I was taken to Waratah (aka Ku-Ring-Gai Chase) National Park to see where Skippy the Bush Kangaroo was filmed. At the time, it was one of the best days of my life because, like most other kids of that era, Skippy was my favourite TV program and I wanted to be a park ranger, flying around in helicopters, arresting smugglers and conversing with marsupials. Even today, when I see a kangaroo up close, I will ask it whether Sonny has fallen down a well, and if the answer is yes, offer it my car keys to seek help, because anyone who has seen the show will know that driving a car is a simple task for a kangaroo. However, as I grew up, I came to realise that the makers of Skippy took a few liberties with the plots and indeed with what a national park ranger actually does. To find out more, I asked Ranger Cam Downing how he became a ranger and how he spends his week at the Prom.

As the millennium was coming to an end, FOTP was doing what we do well – caring for the park – but perhaps in a more melodious way than we do these days. Our retrospective in this issue is 1999.

And finally, as 2026 comes to a close, our President Karin Ruff reflects on the year for Friends of the Prom.

Keith McDougall, Newsletter Editor



FRIENDS OF THE PROM

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NEWSLETTER #246 NOVEMBER 2026

FOTP Activities

Habitat restoration (August 28)

Led by Ranger and restoration ecologist Lauren Talbot, 13 hardy Friends of the Prom volunteers were introduced to two new sites on Soup Track, where the tea tree had been mulched. Our task was to remove tea tree and coast wattle plants that could not be mulched as they grew around and between coast ballart and banksia plants. These plants are some of the species that coast tea tree has displaced and so each one is precious. The removed plants could be left as mulch. Some volunteers sowed various grass seeds into bare patches and used the mulched branches to provide some protection. Unfortunately, not long after work began, so did the rain, soon becoming too heavy to continue. So, we returned to the Yanakie Ranger Station for an early lunch and resumed work when the rain stopped. The afternoon was very productive and the weather turned on sunshine. It was pleasing to see some new volunteers enjoying the day.

Report by Karin Ruff.



Above: A sunny finish to another successful habitat restoration day.
Below left and right: Before and after – the FOTP destructo-team frees coast ballart from the clutches of coast tea tree. Photos: Keith McDougall.





Below left: fencing new areas after burning
Right: new growth in fenced plots and camera recording grazer activity
Photos: Karin Ruff and Lynne Muir

Habitat restoration (October 16)

On a gloriously sunny spring day, 11 Friends of the Prom volunteers met near the Yanakie sheds, as the Yanakie Ranger office was not accessible due to works on the new herbivore exclusion fence, to continue our work on grassland restoration. It was exciting to see the progress of the fence as we drove to Soup Track to check plant growth at the first two sites we had planted and seeded in fenced plots, cubbies and sheltered areas. Our tasks were to record plants that had grown, note any evidence of grazer activity outside the fenced plots and to remove tea tree and coastal wattle seedlings.

In the first and larger plot, there was good success and growth of the expected plants, but it was also clear that there was now plenty of food available for grazers and they had moved back again, with signs of munching all around the protected plots and cubbies. After lunch we moved to an area of 5 Mile Road with lovely heathland in spring flower; it had been burnt and recently had surviving tea tree removed. We continued this task and three new fenced areas were set up. It was great to have some new volunteers enjoying the day.

Report by Karin Ruff.







FOTP Activities

Lighthouse walk (October 20—22)

It was little more than a thought bubble when I raised with Karin the idea of making a FOTP contribution within the south of the park. There was then a little apprehension when my offer to guide a group to the Prom Lighthouse was accepted and supported by both the Committee and Parks Victoria. In no time it seemed, and we were away, leaving Telegraph Saddle in warm conditions and energised by the thought of a stay surrounded by the Prom's rugged and spectacular coastal environment. And were we rewarded for effort? A brief thundery shower, rainbow, spectacular sunset …and that was just the first few hours!

Our Wednesday weeding exercise, removing Sweet Alyssum (*Lobularia maritima*), was interrupted by an amazing whale breeching and tail slapping display before a sea fog settled over our little haven. Overall, it was a great success and I'm confident all are looking forward to more such expeditions.

Report by Richard Perry, photos by activity participants

What the participants said:

I am deeply grateful to FOTP for giving me the opportunity to see the Prom's incredible lighthouse with a group of kind, generous and good-humoured folks. This hike was something of a personal challenge for me, which I'm so proud of achieving, but beyond that, I experienced 3 days of pure joy. The highlights for me were the stunning double rainbow that followed the thunder storm Tuesday evening, but nothing compared to the play of the whale pod travelling down the west coast of the Light Station Point. Watching them breech, roll and tail slap while we whooped and cheered them on, it was just a joyous inter-species interaction. So, thank you so much to the Committee, to Richard, (and Thomas who supported us slow pokes on the way back), and to Parks Victoria for a memorable trip. **Kate O'Donnell**

It was SO enjoyable Karin. And my knee lasted the distance! Some of my highlights: the good fortune of having 18 friendly walking and weeding companions; the inspiration of the changing weather moods at the lighthouse: sharply visible islands under a sunny sky, dark clouds approaching and an electrical storm, sea mist obscuring any view; the opportunity to contribute in a small, hands-on way to a place I love; the support of a patient and knowledgeable walk leader. Thanks to FOTP and all who coordinated the event. **Cath Shugg**

We had everything — the weather gave us sunshine, fog, rainbows and thunderstorms, but surprisingly nothing really cold, wet or windy. Spring gave us orchids, heady smells of honey myrtle, and wildflowers in the full rainbow of colours. Parks Vic gave us helicopter action, a lighthouse tour, and huge support to us as both a group and individuals. We were given a spectacular sunset, sunrise and a whale display that was unlike any other I have witnessed. And FOTP drew together a wonderful group of humans (with a terrific leader in Richard) who were interesting & interested. It's hard to pick a highlight! I hope it (or similar) becomes a regular event. Congratulations to the committee for organising and facilitating this event, it was fantastic! **Jo Sasse**

The lighthouse walk was so fantastic, thank you so much for the opportunity to join! Here's some comments for the collection. It was wonderful to explore different areas of the Prom and to share the experience with the lovely FotP group. The camaraderie amongst the group was beautiful and I am very grateful for the support I received when I had trouble with my knee. A big thanks to the Parks rangers for their assistance too! Richard was a fantastic leader/guide, thank you so much for all your efforts. Oh and a special thank you to my lovely bunk mate Kate! We were a great pairing. I feel very lucky to have been part of the group on this magical adventure. The sea mist, whales and beautiful rainbow are some of my highlights. **Alex Blazejewski**





FOTP Activities

Coast Fescue Survey (November 7)

In our last newsletter I reported how our FOTP sea spurge expert Peter Wilson stumbled on an endangered grass called Coast Fescue (*Poa billardierei*). This grass grows in sand dunes from New Zealand to Western Australia, but hasn't been collected at the Prom since the 1980s, nor this Century between the Mornington Peninsula and the NSW border.
Is it really rare or has it just been overlooked? – that's what the Friends aimed to discover, for the Prom at least.

With lots of help from Parks Victoria rangers Lauren Talbot and Kyle Campbell, who obtained a survey permit from DEECA and provided maps of places we needed to avoid because of cultural heritage values and hooded plover sightings, we were able to search for it on beaches between Cotters and Norman. Despite the weather, which alternated between hail and sunshine with gale force south-westerly winds (i.e. typical Prom conditions), 16 hardy souls and Parks Victoria rangers (Kyle Campbell, Harrison Garlick, Kylie Whelan and Mat Wearne) showed up at the Picnic Bay carpark for an induction and to see what they would be looking for. We then broke into two groups with Jim and Kyle leading one to search between Cotters and Darby beaches, and a second group led by Harrison and I to search Picnic, Squeaky and Norman beaches (the latter done ably by Olga Wilkinson, Charlie Ablitt and David Green, despite a tiger snake). My group were very good at finding small Coast Fescue plants on Picnic Beach, several metres from the large parent plant. We counted 10 in all – whether or not they are all connected by underground stems is unknown. On the day, it looked like we found no further patches but on Saturday evening Quentin Mattiske produced photos of a grass he saw between Cotters and Darby, and so now we know of two patches at the Prom for certain. Rhea Nichols also took photos of suspected Coast Fescue plants at Tidal River, which will be checked in the coming weeks. Full marks to the enthusiasm of the FOTP volunteers during and after the activity. A little seed was collected from the Picnic Beach plants, which the nursery will attempt to grow.

Report by Keith McDougall.



Right: Windswept volunteers marvel at the motherload of Coast Fescue on Picnic Beach. Photo: Olga Wilkinson.

About Gang-gang Cockatoo nesting sites

I have been missing Sealers Cove terribly, so when the track reopened, I quickly booked a couple of nights camping. My friend Jo joined me. After learning how to use iNaturalist on a Friends Of The Prom Bioblitz event, I often record interesting observations when I walk. On this particular trip, I recorded sightings of Bogong Moths, Common Splendid Ghost Moth, Sooty Oystercatcher, Yellow-tailed Black Cockatoo and Gang-gang Cockatoo. On the middle day, Jo and I walked to Refuge Cove and back. It was on this walk that we saw a Gang-gang Cockatoo perched high on a tree. Imagine my thrill when I received the following message from iNaturalist user Michael Mulvaney after uploading my observations:
"I am a co-ordinator of several citizen science studies that have found out most of what is now known about Gang-gang diet and nesting ecology. While the studies are near completion (and published in Canberra Bird Notes and Corrella) we are helping maintain a Register of known nests and working with State and Commonwealth governments to ensure protection of all nest trees (this is already the case in the ACT and NSW). Your recent Gang-gang sightings has a Gang-gang male perched above what looks like a suitable nesting hollow. At this time of year Gang-gangs have usually selected the hollow and eggs would have been laid. The male usually does the day egg sitting and the female the night. Gang-gangs also obtain much of their drinking water from hollows and it is possible that the gang-gang was above a drinking hollow."

"It does look like a very likely nest. I expect chicks to fledge in December - for 3-10 days before fledging, chicks often poke their heads out of hollow entrance so if you are up that way again late November early December you may see them. Gangs-gangs tend to nest in aggregations in areas where there is both an abundance and density of suitably sized hollows - so there is a good chance that there are other nests in the area of your sighting."

Michael encourages us all to report (by loading image sightings into iNaturalist) wherever we see a Gang-gang near, looking into, in, or entering/leaving a hollow. Knowing that I am contributing to knowledge and research about endangered species gives me a real buzz, as does the fact that Wilsons Prom is providing suitable nesting opportunities for these wonderful birds. If you are out that way, keep an eye open, and if you see a Gang-gang cockatoo displaying these behaviours, please put your observation onto iNaturalist.

'Contributing to knowledge' article by Lisel Thomas

The Dr. Paul McGinn Research Scholarship

Mrs Regina McGinn recently made a very generous donation to Friends of the Prom in memory of her late husband Dr. Paul McGinn, who had a deep connection with the Prom.

Of Paul, Regina writes: "Paul cared deeply about the Prom – his spiritual place since he spent his first holidays there as an eight-year-old. Numerous summer holidays were spent there with his family and friends. As a young doctor the Prom was the place to reconnect to nature and to help him cope with the stress and pressure. Paul was diagnosed with cancer in April 2024. In the time until his death, in February 2026, he stayed at the Prom as often as possible and 'being close to nature' was able to accept his diagnoses and to find peace."

The award will be offered annually to an Honours or postgraduate student at an Australian university for research in terrestrial, aquatic or marine environments at Wilsons Promontory that contributes to knowledge about biodiversity conservation or management. Please help spread the word about the scholarship if you know anyone involved in environmental research.



Above:Paul McGinn at the Prom. Photo supplied by Marina McGinn

The Pookila (New Holland Mouse)

Our random threatened species in this issue is the Pookila *(Pseudomys novaehollandiae, Pseudomys* meaning 'false mouse'). Until the 1990s it was known as the New Holland Mouse; at that time various native rodents were given Traditional Owner names to remove the notion that they are vermin. Pookila derives from the word for mouse in the language of the Ngarigo people of the Snowy Mountains region.

The Pookila is about the size of a house mouse but you can tell the difference because the Pookila has larger ears and eyes, and doesn't have a mousy odour. It occurs between Tasmania and Queensland but extends inland to places like the Blue Mountains. The Pookila is nocturnal, lives in burrows and eats insects, seeds, plants and fungi, helping to turn over the soil, thus aiding landscape health and perhaps the germination of native plant seed.

Pookila live for 2 to 3 years and reach sexual maturity between 3 and 5 months. They can have litters of 1 – 6 young, one to four times / year depending on rainfall. Gestation lasts for about a month and young are weaned by 4 weeks of age.

The Pookila was first recorded at the Prom (on Yanakie Isthmus) in 1972 but then not seen in the Park again until 1993. Surveys since have found Pookila in open-forest, woodlands, heathlands, shrublands and grasslands, but population numbers have fluctuated greatly at some sites. Most populations are in decline across its range, the main reason being predation by cats and foxes. Landscape fragmentation hasn't helped because many populations have low genetic diversity; the Prom population has especially low diversity. The Pookila can escape fires in its burrows but very hot fires may burn into the soil or reduce food availability afterwards. Climate change is likely to have a big influence on its future. The Pookila has more litters in wet years so, if the future climate is drier, numbers will continue to decline. As Mark Norman (Parks Victoria Chief Scientist) explained to us at the AGM, the Prom will be buffered from some impacts of climate change and will be an important refuge for species such as the Pookila. Increasing genetic diversity (which is being managed through a breeding program at Melbourne Zoo; https://www.zoo.org.au/fighting-extinction/local-threatened-species/pookila-new-holland-mouse/), removing foxes and cats and managing fire will hopefully enable the Pookila to thrive at the Prom.

One of the steps in conserving threatened species can be the preparation of a recovery plan, which identifies the actions required to ensure survival and the people who will be instrumental in achieving that. You can read the Pookila National Recovery Plan at https://www.dcceew.gov.au/environment/biodiversity/threatened/publications/national-recovery-plan-new-holland-mouse-pookila.

Below: A Pookila (New Holland Mouse); photo © Barb Wilson, Deakin University (with permission).



Research spotlight: the Prom 6000 years ago

In terms of geological time, history on earth is but a mere blip, a couple of thousand years of the written word and before that the stories passed from generation to generation by First Peoples of various lands. Written history is dominated by conflict: who slayed whom in battle, who became king or queen, and whose head ended up in a basket. You won't find accounts of what the weather was like, whether the vegetation was lush or the fish were biting. For that reason, people have been very clever in recent times at finding ways to explore such things. Growth rings for instance not only tell us how old a tree is, they can tell us what the climate was like when the tree was growing. Similarly, some bright spark discovered that pollen is deposited every year in swamps and so you can dig down through a history of pollen and discover the vegetation it came from, a science known as palynology.

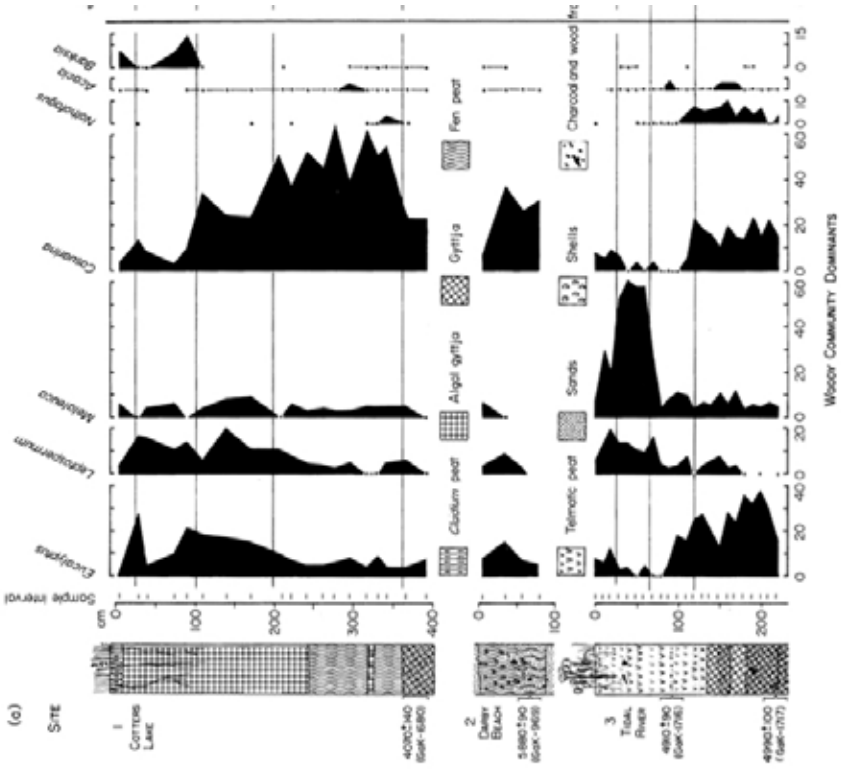
One of Australia's best-known palynologists was Geoff Hope. Geoff completed his Honours and the MSc on the vegetation history of Wilsons Promontory (as interpreted from pollen profiles) between 1966 and 1968. He then went on to do a PhD on the vegetation history of Mt Wilhelm in Papua New Guinea. Geoff had a long career at the Australian National University in Canberra, mentoring numerous students and advocating passionately for the protection and restoration of montane peatlands, which are still being trampled by feral horses.

So, what did the Prom look like 6000 years ago? There were certainly fewer caravans. By taking peat cores at three wetlands (Cotters Lake, Darby River and Tidal River), Carbon dating organic material and identifying pollen, Geoff was able to infer that there have been no major changes in vegetation during that time. However, some groups of species increased while others decreased. A wetter environment 4500 – 6000 years ago is inferred by the diminishing presence of the rainforest genus *Nothofagus* (Myrtle Beech) after that time. Casuarinas (she-oaks) were a big deal at all sites until relatively recently. Interestingly, in the Cotters Lake area at least, the much-hated Coast Tea-tree has been a feature of the vegetation there for a long time, certainly before European settlement, while Banksias have appeared only recently (perhaps in the last 250 years). Geoff's data also showed that the Prom coastline has been stable during the past 6000 years.

Geoff died in 2021 after a long battle with cancer. Despite his poor health, he was still out in the field with colleagues and students in his last months. In Geoff's obituary, Simon Haberle from ANU quoted a passage from Geoff's PhD acknowledgements: *After a few months in the field in New Guinea one tends to think back to dry, rolling plains with scattered trees and clear blue afternoon skies, with the luxuries of the straight smooth roads, hot water on tap, shops and libraries. One may vow never to walk again along muddy tracks, dreaming of a day without wet feet. But within a short time of returning to the laboratory bench, a reversal of attitudes takes place. One thinks instead of the unbelievable tangle of ridges rising up to mountain peaks, of grasslands and the gleam of ice, with clouds swirling down over sombre still lakes clinging to sheer rock walls and deep green forests*.

I think we can all relate to that in our experiences at the Prom, where we may have cursed the heavy rain or march flies with a heavy pack on our back, but we wouldn't trade the experience for quids.

Below: Part of the pollen diagram from Geoff's paper on vegetation history at the Prom (G. S. Hope (1974) The Vegetation History from 6000 B.P. to Present of Wilsons Promontory, Victoria, Australia. The New Phytologist Volume 73, pages 1035-1053). The graphs show the amount of pollen from different dominant woody species in different parts of peat cores at Cotters Lake, Darby River and Tidal River. The top 100 cm at Cotters represents the post-European era.



Profile of Cam Downing—ranger at the Prom

I'm a Foster local who now lives in Inverloch. I've worked at Wilsons Promontory for around 19 years, although my connection to the Prom goes back much further than that.

My dad, Ian Downing, worked at the Prom for more than 40 years, first as a track ranger and later as the tracks crew team leader. Growing up, I spent a good portion of just about every school holidays at Tidal River or Sealers Cove while Dad was working. I have plenty of great memories from those days, and Sealers Cove is still my favourite place in the park.

I didn't really know what I wanted to do when I left school, but I always enjoyed working outdoors and was happy to give just about anything a go. I completed an apprenticeship in turf management at Foster Golf Club, then worked for a local VicRoads contractor before eventually finding my way to full-time employment at the Prom.

For most of my career, I've been based at Tidal River, working in what was previously the campground team and is now the Tidal River maintenance team. Until recently, my position was classified as a Field Services Officer (FSO), but the title has now changed to Ranger.

A bit of everything...

If there's one thing I've learnt over the years, it's that being a ranger involves a bit of everything, and not all of it is particularly glamorous!

On any given day, I could be unblocking toilets, repairing plumbing, replacing taps, mowing grass, maintaining campsites, grading roads, filling potholes or carrying out building repairs. There's also weeding, tree planting and revegetation work, often alongside the Friends of the Prom and nursery crew.

It's a pretty varied job, and there's certainly never a shortage of things to do. Some days you start with a plan, but it doesn't take long for something else to come up!

Working with the Friends...

My involvement with FOTP started when I helped out at a Thursday nursery session. I later assisted with planting around the Wilderness Retreats after they were built in about 2008. I continued to be involved over the years and became the nursery group's official contact ranger around 2012–2013.

One of the most rewarding parts of the job has been the friendships I've made through the nursery group and the broader Friends community.

It's also been great to look back at what we've achieved together. Over the years, we've grown and planted well over 10,000 plants in the Tidal River campground alone. More recently, I've been involved in the plantings around the new Visitor Centre and surrounding gardens.

Another highlight has been helping my own children plant trees at Tidal River. Having grown up spending so much time at the Prom myself, it's pretty special to now share some of those experiences with them.

A few memorable moments...

Over the years, I've had some experiences that I certainly wouldn't have had in many other jobs.

One of my favourites was working alongside Dad on track maintenance at the outstations. It gave me a real appreciation for the work involved in building and maintaining the Prom's walking tracks, particularly in some of the more remote areas.

I've also been lucky enough to take helicopter flights to the lighthouse and outstations. During the major floods in 2011, I was involved in the emergency response, flying around the park helping to rescue stranded hikers and campers. That's an experience that has definitely stayed with me.



Firefighting and emergencies...

Firefighting is another big part of my working life, although thankfully it's not something we have to do every day.

I completed my General Firefighter training in November 2007 and attended my first fire just a month later at Lilly Pilly Swamp. We spent five days working in waist-deep water and mud, which was certainly an interesting introduction to firefighting! It was hard work, but also a great experience.

Since then, I've responded to fires across Victoria, including the 2009 Black Saturday fires at Devon North and Wilsons Promontory, the 2019–2020 bushfires, the more recent Grampians fires and numerous fires throughout East Gippsland. I'm also involved in planned burning operations when required.

It's not just fires, either. I've assisted with floods, storms, whale strandings, deceased whales washing up on beaches and, more recently, the ongoing avian influenza response.

Over the years, I've gained a range of qualifications and experience, including training as a Level 1 Operations Officer, Crew Leader, Advanced Tree Feller, Heavy Tanker Operator and Hazard Tree Assessor.

More than meets the eye...

I think a lot of people would be surprised by just how varied a ranger's job can be. One day you might be elbow-deep in a blocked toilet, the next planting trees with volunteers, and the next heading off to help fight a bushfire somewhere across Victoria. There's also plenty of paperwork and planning squeezed in between it all!

After 19 years, I still enjoy the variety of the work, the people I've met and the opportunity to look after a place that has been part of my life for as long as I can remember.

And while I've been lucky enough to see some pretty amazing parts of the Prom over the years, Sealers Cove is still hard to beat.

Left: Cam at his first fire in Lilly Pilly Swamp. (Photo supplied by Cam Downing)

FOTP looking towards the new millennium

In 1999, with the new millennium approaching and the Y2K bug threatening to destroy technology as we know it, the Friends picked up rubbish along beaches, removed sea spurge, and planted out nursery-produced plants at revegetation sites; membership for families was $20 -> not much has changed!

At the beach clean in February, then newsletter editor Geoff Champion reported that *Disappointingly it was all fairly mundane rubbish, nothing very exciting and in fact not very much at all, so either people on land and sea are learning not to litter or the high tides had swept some of it away to be returned later. With hotter weather on the Sunday it was time for a swim at Whisky Bay where Mary discovered that oversize 'Hands Off The Prom' T-shirts are not very good for swimming in. Being of a closely woven material they trap too much air and not only hinder progress but also give the appearance of a fairly short beached whale.*

The nursery was getting on with its job of seed collection and propagation while anxiously awaiting their planned move to Yanakie – whatever happened to that?

FOTP pulled sea spurge from Norman Bay in April and May, with PV staff removing 7 truck loads from the beach. I love the optimism of the newsletter report: With two dozen enthusiastic people each time we really made a difference to the appearance of the place. But please stay with us. There's a lot more sea spurge at the Prom, but we will eventually get this toxic beast under control.

One notable difference between the FOTP weekends of then and now is evening music at Stockyards. After the 1999 beach clean the newsletter reported: *The Saturday evening entertainment back at camp was top class, with Tony's guitar and harmonica in C and newcomer Jon's guitar and banjo in G and even some creditable singing. It was good that Heather and Jim came over to join us and I don't think it was just to complain about the noise! And in September: Our musical Saturday evening around the fire took a turn for the better too, with two guitars, harmonica and improvised percussion (washbowls etc), young voices and groovy music and a "Tiny Tim" duet by Shane and not-so-tiny Tim was a comedy highlight.*

Perhaps our next Coastcare application should be for musical instruments and voice training; feel free to resurrect this practice at future FOTP weekends if you have such talents.

The year in review from your President

Friends of the Prom have enjoyed many activities in 2026, the reports of which have been in our newsletters and social media, and in the Committee Report presented at the AGM. I would like to thank the rangers we work closely with, our committee and nursery volunteers and all the members and volunteers who attended our activities for all the hard work they have done. 2026 has seen a truly impressive contribution to caring for the Prom by us all.

New activities this year included holding market stalls to promote Friends of the Prom in Foster in December and Sandy Point in January and our first members-only weekend in February, which was so successful that we plan to repeat it in 2027. A recent walk for 20 members to the Prom Light Station was a highlight for those lucky, hardy walkers. They were led by member Richard Perry and stayed for 2 nights, assisting rangers with weeding around the cottages on their "rest" day.

We were pleased to help with the planting around the new Visitor Centre and to be invited to the opening ceremony, participating in the smoking ceremony by the three Traditional Owner groups together.

Progress on our major projects continued — restoring Hooded Plover Habitat by removing Sea Spurge at Squeaky and Picnic Beaches, Koala Habitat restoration on the Yanakie Isthmus, tree planting to replace canopy around Tidal River Campground, bi-monthly days of Habitat Restoration on the Yanakie Isthmus and more.

Most importantly, our Nursery continues to thrive, thanks to the dedication of our hardworking volunteers. The Nursery remains a central part of our activities, not only supplying plants for revegetation but acting as a hub for Junior Ranger involvement and education. We are now looking at how we can fund a much-needed new polyhouse and a storage shed at the Nursery.

Friends of the Prom are very excited and grateful to be able to offer a scholarship for Honours and postgraduate students at Australian universities for the Dr Paul McGinn Research Scholarship: $2,500 annual award supporting research that contributes to biodiversity conservation and management at Wilsons Promontory. The scholarship is made possible through the generosity of Regina McGinn, in memory of her husband Dr Paul McGinn, whose connection to Wilsons Promontory was lifelong and deeply personal.

I have really enjoyed working with you this year and I wish everyone a safe and happy festive season. Have a good rest and gather your energy for next year!

Karin Ruff, President

DONATIONS

Friends of the Prom has benefited from generous donations by well-wishers over the past few years. We have been using these donations to encourage scientific research at the Prom through our program of an annual grant to a tertiary student to help with expenses. We have now made the process of donating easier by registering our organisation with Landcare Victoria's Deductible Gift Recipient Fund.

You can make a tax-deductible donation via Landcare Victoria's fundraising page https://landcarevictoria.org.au/donate; alternatively, scan the QR-code below using your smartphone.

Please make sure you nominate 'Friends of the Prom' under
'I would like to support a particular group' on the first page of the online donation form.
This will ensure that Landcare passes on your donation to us.

FEEDBACK FROM YOU

If you have any thoughts on what we do, our activities,
or matters raised in this newsletter,
we would love to hear from you – please put your comments
in an email to the Secretary:

info@friendsoftheprom.org.au

Photos: Please note that all effort has been made to attribute photos throughout

MEMBERSHIP FEES

You don't have to be a financial member to participate in our activities. But if you have been to some activities and want to continue volunteering with us, we urge you to become a financial member.

Your membership fees keep us afloat, as without them we cease to exist. The fees we levy are set as low as we can make them, and they only just cover our basic running costs, such as public liability insurance and unavoidable IT expenses.

To renew your membership, please contact our Treasurer, Peter McDowell at ***membership@friendsoftheprom.org.au***

You can pay via Direct Deposit to our Westpac account:
Account Name: Friends of the Prom Inc.
BSB: 033 152
Account Number: 188795

Single: $15,
Couples and families : $20,

Please remember to provide your full name as a reference so we can identify you on the bank statement.

NEW MEMBERS

We extend a very warm welcome to the following new members:

Robert Colman, Andrew Davies, Julia Hunter, Kirby Leary and family, Ben Lee, Merrin Mason, Sophie Nyaguy, Denis Nyaguy, Susan Templar, Robyn Woolcock

EVENTS CALENDAR
NOVEMBER 2026 TO APRIL 2027

Except for the nursery, a reminder with more detail about these weekend and weekday activities will be emailed to members closer to the date.

Please note that the activities are subject to approval by Parks Victoria and may be changed. Keep an eye on your mail inbox and follow us on our website and Facebook.

NOVEMBER: Friday 27 & Saturday 28	Sea spurge weeding
DECEMBER: Friday 11	Habitat Restoration
FEBRUARY: Friday 5	Habitat Restoration
FEBRUARY: Saturday 20	Member only event: talks and activities
MARCH: Friday 19	Habitat Restoration
MARCH: Saturday 20	Beach clean
APRIL: Friday 16 & Saturday 17	Sea spurge weeding
MAY: Friday 14	Habitat Restoration

WEEKDAY ACTIVITIES

Every second Thursday, rain, hail or shine –
meet 9:30 am at the nursery compound in Tidal River – check website for dates

REGISTERING WITH PARKCONNECT

Please remember to register for all activities on *ParkConnect* and make sure you have a **Working with Children Check** loaded on to *ParkConnect*. WWCCs are now compulsory (unless you are volunteering with us for the first time).

If you need assistance with navigating your way through *ParkConnect* or the WWCC process, you can contact *Friends of the Prom's* Peter McDowell on **membership@friendsoftheprom.org.au.**

CONTACTS

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