

PATRON OF THE FRIENDS

Susan McCulloch, OAM

Website: <https://mprg.mornpen.vic.gov.au/FRIENDS>

email: mprgmembership@gmail.com



Welcome to the Autumn issue of the Friends newsletter. Now that the cooler weather has arrived we have two interesting Friends events planned for April and May. It's a pleasure to have Colin G Smith, a passionate researcher of the artistic Boyd family, return to MPRG to share his knowledge about the life of Merric Boyd. Many will remember his visit a couple of years ago when he discussed the short but interesting life of Penleigh Boyd. Lock in **Monday, 28 April** for this informative and engaging conversation. The second event takes us to Studio & Co in Moorooduc to learn more about traditional glassblowing and appreciate the creative work of glassblower, Leisa Wharington. Leisa is well known on the Mornington Peninsula and her glass blowing demonstration will be a delight for everyone. This has been booked for **Monday, 12 May**. More information soon on both events.

It's also an ideal time to visit MPRG and enjoy the Autumn exhibitions. They reflect the experience of James Tylor (photography) and Bruce Nauman (neon signs), as well as showcasing the artistic works of young local VCE and VET students in the New Wave 25 exhibition. Remember to grab a coffee and snack from Nuno's Coffee Cart based at the gallery from Thursday-Sunday and say hi to Thomas and Rani.

We're also delighted that Friends will be supporting an upcoming *Skywhales* exhibition at the gallery by well known contemporary artist, Patricia Piccinini. This outdoor exhibition, consisting of two monumental hot air balloons, is touring Australia and will be in Mornington in late April. More information soon from MPRG.

A warm welcome to Stephanie Sacco (Curator Collections) and Laura Castagnini (Curatorial Lead) who have recently joined MPRG. Stephanie and Laura bring a wealth of experience and enthusiasm to their new positions and we wish them all the best as they settle into life at MPRG and the Mornington Peninsula.



Stephanie Sacco

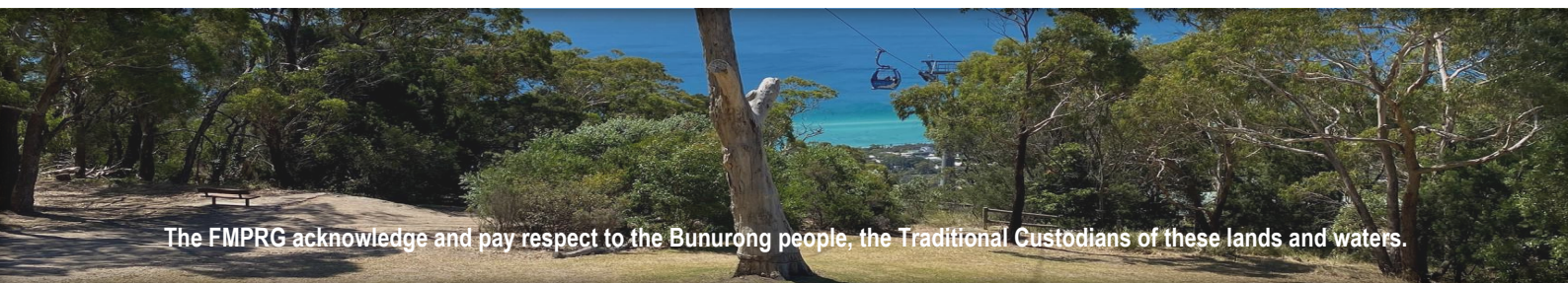


Laura Castagnini



Skywhales hot air balloons

The Friends Committee appreciates the continued support and encouragement from our members. Participating in our Friends events throughout the year not only brings people together but also supports our wonderful gallery. As a valued member, if you have any ideas or feedback you would like to share with the friends Committee please contact us at mprgmembership@gmail.com



The FMPRG acknowledge and pay respect to the Bunurong people, the Traditional Custodians of these lands and waters.

Glass Feather Installation

A Sanctuary at St John's Anglican Church in Flinders



Glass Feathers inscribed with the words Friends of the MPRG

Feathers is a permanent art installation by artist David Wright.

Located in the baptistery of St. John's Church in Flinders, the artwork features a spiral structure from which hundreds of delicate glass feathers are suspended. It evokes a sense of weightlessness, breath, wind, and spirit, transforming the space into a peaceful sanctuary for reflection, away from the activity of the outside world.

The wider community has been invited to dedicate one or more feathers in perpetuity, with names engraved on the glass as a lasting tribute.

In exchange for this dedication, a tax-deductible donation goes towards the long-term maintenance of the building.

The Friends of MPRG supported this cause by purchasing two feathers to thank David for the welcome given to the Friends at their 2024 excursion to view and learn about the production of St John's beautiful stained glass windows.



McCrae Homestead Visit

Sometimes we don't know what is on our own doorstep.

Another great event from the Friends of the FMPRG. The bus took 24 of us to the McCrae Homestead in McCrae. It was somewhere most of us had never been to before, even though we live on the Mornington Peninsula.

The homestead was built in 1844 by one of the first families to settle on the Mornington Peninsula and remains one of Victorian's oldest homesteads. We had three tour guides, and learnt about the various families who lived there.



Scottish lawyer, Andrew McCrae and his artist wife Georgiana and their family, lived there from 1844 to 1851. The Burrells, a sheep farming family, lived in the homestead for the next 70 years.

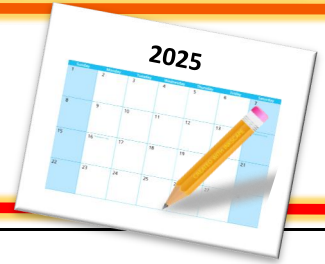
The original drop slab homestead is made of local materials including Stringybark and wattle, and is a reminder of early pioneering life.

The homestead is now owned by the National Trust.

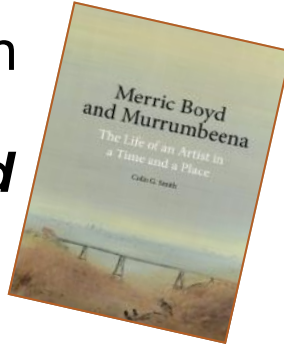
A museum and gallery has been added, where you will see many family items, including jewellery, clothing and Georgiana's original sketches, paintings and early photographs of Port Phillip. This painted a vivid picture of the European settler experience.

To finish our outing we went to the Wildflower Cafe for a delicious lunch. A wonderful day was had by everyone and, we all agreed, McCrae Homestead is well worth another visit. Sometimes we don't know what is on our own doorstep.

Report: Jennifer Clifton Images: Carole Reed



Monday April 28th
Colin Smith
Merric Boyd and Murrumbeena
MPRG



Monday May 12th
The Studio & Co
Leisa Wharington
*glass blowing demonstration, art chat
and morning tea*
Self drive

545 Mornington-Tyabb Rd, Moorooduc



August
AGM

Location to be confirmed



September
Australian Jazz Museum
Visit



October

Geelong Gallery



Archibald Prize
Bus trip

November
Band Concert
Rose Garden



Join the Friends

Join Friends of MPRG and become part of the vibrant cultural life of the peninsula. Members are part of a social network that organises events and raises funds to support the continued growth of our great Gallery.



Membership cost

Membership type	Annual	3-year
Single	\$35	\$90
Concession/Students	\$30	\$75
Family/Duo	\$55	\$140



Like us on Facebook

Check out the link for up-to-date information

<https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100091463713533>

Benefits:-

MORNINGTON PENINSULA REGIONAL GALLERY



- Receipt of the MPRG quarterly Gallery Program brochure, which provides information about the Gallery's exhibitions.
- Priority access to exhibitions and events organised by the Friends
- Invitations to exhibition openings featuring guest speakers, artists and curators. Meet new friends and enjoy refreshments.
- The MPRG new members annual morning tea and a behind-the-scenes tour hosted by Gallery staff and Friends' representatives.
- Discounts on Gallery activities such as guest speakers, workshops, excursions and master classes.

Please make sure you show your current FMPRG membership card to receive discounts of 10% from the following select Mornington Peninsula retailers:



Beleura House & Garden

03 5975 2027 W: beleura.org.au

Concession to MPRG members



Antipodes Bookshop and Gallery

03 5984 4217 W: antipodesbookshop.com

138 Ocean Beach Road Sorrento, Victoria 3943

Opening Hours: 10am - 5pm 7 days

Extended Winter hours Closed Christmas Day



Luup

03 5977 0718 W: Luup.com.au

Shop D7, Peninsula Home, 1128 Nepean Highway, Mornington

Opening Hours: Monday to Saturday 9am - 5pm

Sunday 10am - 4pm



The Framers' Workshop

03 5975 3674 W: theframersworkshop.com.au

68 Main Street Mornington Victoria, 3931

Opening Hours: Monday - Saturday 9:30 - 5 pm

Closed Sunday



The Studio & Co

0407 812 982 W: thestudioandco.com.au

10% discount on Leisa Wharington glasswork

545 Mornington-Tyabb Rd, Moorooduc, VIC 3915

Mon - Fri 9:30am - 4pm Weekends 10am-3pm

Closed Tuesday

