



Guest Speaker for meeting on Wednesday April 19th, 2023

Speaker: Max Patten

Max spoke of the work that he and his team are doing along the Whitecliffs foreshore. Most interesting and engaging. An inspired 'local' involved with improving the foreshore and its environs.

Topic: Whitecliffs Foreshore Reserve management overview. Risks and impacts of climate change on the foreshore and throughout Port Phillip Bay

Max has lived on the southern Peninsula his whole life, loves the area and is passionate about protecting it.

He has spent 6 years on Foreshore Management with the aim of preserving this precious environment, including the wildlife, for future generations.

There is a small group of three full time staff down at Whitecliffs who manage the foreshore area.

Max then showed a video of a 700kg seal which came out of the water in Blairgowrie around Australia Day and hung around the area for 25 days before deciding to go back into the water. People travelled from everywhere to see this fabulous animal and it is wonderful that people can be so 'in touch' with the wildlife down here and extremely important to maintain the safety of the animals and protect the environment.

Completed projects in Blairgowrie are:

- *having 20,000 ton of sand moved from the bay to the beach at St. Johns Wood Road
- *establishing a walking friends group
- *junior foreshore Ranger project during school holidays
- *drone survey and monitoring

'Up and coming' projects are:

- *Seville's Car Park from Bay Trail
- *completion of Bay Trail with MPSC and Rotary project Peninsula Trail
- *erosion issues

Max then spoke about climate change and the need to address this issue.

thank you Max