



NATIONAL TRUST

Every moment an amazing story

Mornington Peninsula Branch

Before commencing this report I would like to take the opportunity to pay a tribute to our former President, the late Peter John Holloway. Peter had a wonderful grasp on planning and was an inspiration when dealing with planning issues where heritage was affected and his amazing ability to connect with people opened many doors across the Peninsula. He was a staunch advocate for heritage, history and his domestic domain, Dromana and has had a great influence in good outcomes for those areas. His input and leadership of our branch committee has been greatly appreciated and is sadly missed. Due to Peter's untimely death, I as Vice President, have taken the position of Acting Chair for the period from April until present.

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The end of 2015 saw the completion of the Heritage Review Area II nominations. The areas represented were Safety Beach, Dromana, Rosebud to Dundas Street Rye. Peter H was involved in both Dromana and Rosebud with me assisting in Rosebud. From the Rosebud investigation the branch recommended that the Shire instigate a tree study, with a view to some protection, as many fine examples of urban and private tree specimens were observed in the exploration of the area.

During the year the Shire CEO accepted two invitations to meet with the Branch for discussions and we found this a most satisfactory approach. We thank Mr Cowie for being open to our opinions and recommendations where heritage is concerned.

Once again we participated in the Trust's state-wide Heritage Festival with three excellent events. *Billy tea'n'damper* at Endeavour Fern Gully, *Discovery of Elgee Park* providing a wonderful look at a private sculpture and art collection in the landscape of the hinterland and *Ranelagh Rambles* conducted by Peter Greer, committee member, through the curvilinear streetscape of the Walter Burley Griffin designed village of Mt Eliza.

Conservation works have continued with our team cleaning and polishing nearly everything in the McCrae Homestead from furniture to artefacts. That as well as two full days of concentrating on vegetation maintenance, with volunteer John Carnaby attending to the mowing has the property looking 'cared for'. Other work has continued at The Briars on a regular basis and fund-raising this year saw the branch being able to supply the metal specimen name tags for heritage garden vegetables and orchard apple varieties.

August saw a presentation to Gillian Tolley for her splendid conservation work at the Endeavour Fern Gully. Gillian's work was acknowledged by Senior Conservation Manager at the National Trust, Paul Roser and attended by Chairman of the Board, Senior Conservation Advocate Anna Foley and Community Advocate Caitlin Mitropoulos with Haley Jenkins from HR. It was also an opportunity for the branch to meet the recently appointed Victorian National Trust CEO, Simon Ambrose.

The 2016 Heritage Awards, presented in September, were an outstanding success with nominations ranging from a humble 1800s cottage to the Walter Burley Griffin designed outdoor chapel at YMCA Camp Manyung. The Shire CEO gave the official welcome and the Mayor Cr Graham Pittock along with National Trust Board Chairman, Kristin Stegley OAM presented the awards. We are pleased to be able to give a video presentation of the awards at the conclusion of the AGM.

Planning applications on significant landscape overlays have been as strong as ever and have called for twenty inspections for my colleague Adrienne Smith and I to examine. The branch appreciates the Shire's readiness to accept commentary on these applications as part of the process for granting permits.

The Local History Network has been ably represented and supported by committee member Penny Carnaby. The work of the Shire's Local History Network co-ordinator Sally Robins, with the support of the branch and historical societies across the Peninsula has formulated a Mornington Peninsula History Development Plan to draft stage. The document addressed the weaknesses and built on the strengths of the network and recommends a pathway for future security and public access to the invaluable records and historical artefacts now held separately across the Peninsula. The branch is proud to be associated with this excellent initiative.

By now you will have noted that our branch committee has been involved in various aspects of heritage. On occasion these give us great pleasure such as the National Trust Open Day at the Briars with a bric-a-brac and book stall, Devonshire teas (96) garden walks and talks leaving us all quite exhausted but enjoying the conviviality of committee. We are now required to submit monthly volunteer hours worked and to give you an idea of just how much time this committee spends in administering the branch objectives combined with guiding duties at McCrae homestead, conservation and car parking at Endeavour Fern Gully, house conservation measures at three properties, we have recorded 420 hours since commencing records in July. Well done Team; Gillian, Peter G, Victor, Elizabeth the two Adriennes, and Val – definitely a team to be reckoned with, certainly admired!

We were dismayed to learn of the resignation of Heritage Ranger Jarrod Ruch at the Briars. The Branch has appreciated the contribution Jarrod has been able to bring to the heritage aspects of the Homestead, outbuildings and acreage jointly owned by the Shire and the Trust and the committee wishes him well in his new appointment.

The 'jewel in our crown' this year has been the launch of the National Trust's *Mornington Peninsula Properties Endowment Fund*. This fund, launched on 23 October calls for donors to support the future of the Trust's four properties on the Peninsula; Mulberry Hill in Langwarrin, The Briars in Mt Martha, McCrae Homestead in McCrae and the Endeavour Fern Gully in Red Hill. Donors can select a particular property or a general Peninsula Fund to support. The Branch, with its hands on experience at all properties has long recognised the importance of a future fund for these properties and has been working steadfastly with the Trust's Chairman of the Board and CEO to bring about this fund. The branch urges all members to seriously consider supporting the fund.

To our previous President and the team all named above, I say congratulations on the accomplishments and contribution your efforts have made in 2016 to heritage on the Peninsula.

Judy Walsh

Acting Chair

November 2016