



## Mornington Peninsula Branch

### ANNUAL REPORT

It is my pleasure to give the following report to the Mornington Peninsula Members for their appreciation of the depth of commitment this Branch committee has invested in heritage over the past year. When referring to matters in the first person it is to be understood that I am speaking on behalf of all members of the committee working together on behalf of the Branch.

In addition to a full agenda year the committee has been able to offer its members several events of specialist interest for their enjoyment. Our own committee member Peter Greer, started the ball rolling by presenting a fascinating talk titled *Demystifying British Silver Hallmarks*. This was closely followed by the Branch's contribution to the National Trust Heritage Festival with the *Governor's Window* where Dr Bronwyn Hughes, stained glass historian and consultant, detailed the intricacies of the beautiful stained glass window in Chapelle de l'Hermitage in Switzerland, dedicated to the first Governor of Victoria – Charles Joseph La Trobe. In June, local retired map maker, Des Young gave a most interesting insight into the actual process of *Mapping Australia* which formally took place (as a whole) between the 1960s and 1980s. The most recent event for members was to revisit *Westerfield* in Frankston South, apropos the excising of portion of the property for the new Peninsula Link and the final event for the year will be our Annual General Meeting on Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> November where author and retired journalist Fran Henke will be our guest speaker.

Studies the Branch Committee has participated in include Plan Melbourne, Shire Council Review on heritage management within the council departments. Demolition by Neglect; a survey being carried out by RMIT Graduate Renee Muratore where the Branch cited 42 Barkly Street Mornington and the former Moorooduc Uniting Church as case studies. Deakin University a survey on the townships of Sorrento and Queenscliff. Both commenced development around the same time but have developed in different directions. The question: *Why is That So?* Currently involved in a study of the Balcombe Creek and its significance in the Peninsula's history and topography. This collaboration under the direction of Mrs Winty Calder, known to many on the Peninsula for her great environmental endeavours and includes members from the Mornington & District Historical Society, The Briars Management and Balcombe Estuary Reserves Group. Elizabeth Saunders, committee member, is currently involved in a survey study of the social history of the township of Crib Point with members of the local Advisory Group.

Conservation works continue to play a very strong role in the Branch's position. Endeavour Fern Gully, under the coordination of Gillian Tolley is now really showing benefits for the last four years' work. Apart from our marvellous regular volunteers, Pat Jemmet, Kay Jones, Elizabeth Saunders, Norma Baud, Meg Macmillan, Gay Johnstone, Gladys Aarons and Rafael Heale, several 'enthusiastic' school groups have

been involved again this year with students from the Green Team at Red Hill Consolidated working together with TAFE and CALM Landscape students under the watchful eye of their leader Allan Pullen. They have been joined with visits from year 9 students from Toorak College and all their effort has been invaluable as well as most enjoyable. Gillian is currently working with local identity Peter Strickland to complete the artistic representations of flora and fauna for the interpretive signage for the nature trail, which the Branch will launch during the 2014 National Trust Heritage Festival.

**O**ther conservation work has been the commencement in January, under the supervision of Trust Conservator Elizabeth Anya-Petrivna, of monthly workshops at The Briars Homestead Collections. So far we have, with a number of the guides carried out conservation work on furniture, silver, brass, ceramics, glass and fabric and in all have contributed over one hundred and sixty man hours to conserving the collection. The team has also been invited to take its skills over to Mulberry Hill to carry out some conservation work on the collection there in the new year.

**A**dvocacy work this year involved a great deal of time with Direction and Panel Hearings as well as Council Assessment meetings for the Mt Eliza Woodlands area which has finally gone to the Minister. Council Ward Meetings, Power Point presentations and our support of the Peninsula Speaks group in its mission to compile a list of Significant Trees on the Peninsula. Committee member Penny Carnaby represents the Branch on the Local History Network Group. Peter Holloway is monitoring the Arthurs Seat Chairlift proposals and planning issues, while Adrienne Smith represents the Branch on the Devilbend Advisory Group and joins me in site inspections for applications for development on property covered by the Significant Landscape Overlay. This year has been quieter than the previous year with only sixteen or seventeen visitations, compared with forty in 2012. Gillian Tolley also is the Trust's delegate on the Tootgarook Wetlands Advisory Group. The Branch has been successful this year also in securing a Conservation Management Plan for the Rosebud Sound Shell.

**P**eninsula Heritage Awards, a partnership between the Mornington Peninsula Shire and the National Trust Branch, continue to go from strength to strength with the awards being presented in the Mornington Band Hall Pavilion in May this year. There were eleven awards in conservation categories, four in specialist heritage trade skills and two individual awards for outstanding heritage contributions. The Branch is once again indebted to Shire personnel Stephen Chapple, Director of Sustainable Environment, Simon Lloyd previous Strategic Heritage Planner, Helen Bishop from Planning Support and Lorraine Huddle, Heritage Advisor to Shire for their ongoing support and partnership with the Branch in presenting the awards on an annual basis.

**T**he Committee was sorry to lose the services of Strategic Heritage Planner Simon Lloyd to retirement. The Committee has worked closely with Simon and in his tenure of seven years he has produced some excellent outcomes for Peninsula Heritage, including the Heritage Thematic History, Heritage Review Area 1 (Mt Eliza, Mt Martha & Mornington) which has seen eighty new places on the Shire's Heritage Overlay. He has left sound plans in place for the continuation of reviews of the other areas on the Peninsula. Overseeing the implementation of Conservation Management Plan of the Ranelagh Estate and the Fossil Beach Cement Works site. We are gratified

to learn that the Shire has advertised a replacement position for a full-time Strategic Heritage Planner.

**C**urrent focus is on next year's National Trust state-wide Heritage Festival which is scheduled in the month between April 18 and May 18. We are working around four events which we hope will encourage the support of members from not only within but also beyond the Peninsula.

**F**inally my thanks and admiration to all of the committee: Penny Carnaby, Peter Greer, Peter Holloway, Elizabeth Saunders, Gillian Tolley, Victor Sullivan, the newest member of our team, he has only been with the committee for a year but has quickly adopted committee team work ethics and finally the ever smiling Secretary Adrienne Herring, for her eagerness and ability to do all things 'Secretary'. Thanks also to the CEO and Staff at Trust Head Office for their willingness in sharing their broad knowledge regarding heritage in all its forms and their friendliness and warmth when responding to Branch inquiries.

**I** extend a welcome to our guest speaker on this occasion, Fran Henke, whom Peninsula Residents will recall was a journalist for many years with the Hastings based Independent News Group and a contributor with a column in The News titled "Conversations with Fran Henke". Fran also worked as a media adviser for state and federal MPs and has just released a book *The Other Side of the Wind* which is a story about women and survival in the new colony of Victoria set in the 1850s.

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November 2013

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