

Mornington Peninsula Branch

2014 ANNUAL REPORT

First and foremost is my duty to thank the committee of 2014 for their immeasurable support in assisting me to address the Peninsula's heritage matters over the past year.

2014 has witnessed some huge heritage challenges for the branch with both the Arthurs Seat Skylift and the Point Nepean Quarantine Area developments being of major concern and demanding meetings and observations of a frequent and time consuming nature. Although the Skylift is currently awaiting a VCAT hearing to address objectors' concerns, the branch's area of interest, the vegetation offset, has been satisfactorily resolved. The Quarantine area has been made more difficult to address, as only a concept has been offered for consideration. At time of writing this report no business plan, nor indeed a footprint plan, has been made available. The branch's submission on the concept has been posted on the Branch web page (www.nationaltrust.org.au/vic/home>Get Involved>Branches>Mornington Peninsula)

The early part of each year goes into planning the Heritage Festival events and the Heritage Awards. The Awards have gone from strength to strength with this year's presentation in the Mornington Council Chambers in August an outstanding event. With additional input from Shire staff this year we were able to present an audio visual presentation that was really most interesting as well as prestigious. The branch congratulates the twelve Award recipients for 2014 and I especially thank Stephen Chapple, Director of Sustainable Environment's team this year: Roz Franklin, Helen Bishop, Liam Renaut, Nick Robinson, David Easton with Kat Hodgins covering communications and Terri Barrett from the Library who was responsible for the two week display in the Mornington Library window. This team was most ably complemented by Lorraine Huddle, the Shire's Heritage Advisor whose breadth of knowledge is most valuable and always appreciated. Victor Sullivan from the committee also joined in the process this year and it was an all round great team effort.

With a theme of Journeys to work with in this year's Heritage Festival the branch presented four associated events. The *Magic Lantern*, using a turn of the century projecting apparatus to display images from hand-painted glass slides fascinated patrons. This was held at Coolart in the theatrette. *South Channel Fort and Environs Tour* in Port Phillip brought delighted responses from those on board the Dive Victoria boat and *Shining Lights* – a tour of the exquisite stained glass windows of five of Frankston's Churches, with commentary by Dr Bronwyn Hughes was indeed a unique opportunity for members. Greg Hunt MP officially opened the Nature Trail at Endeavour Fern Gully and led quite a crowd on a walk through the trail and launched the QR coded interpretive signage depicting the beautifully crafted representations of gully flora and fauna by Peter Strickland, local artist. This event brought to a close the Branch's Festival events.

Conservation workshops continue and the team has expanded its prowess to include the collection at *Mulberry Hill* as well as *The Briars*. This is done on an alternating basis and the team is working through the various and diverse items in both collections. The workshops always prove interesting and we term them our 'fun days'. Conservation by way of revegetation and weed removal at Endeavour Fern Gully

continues under the watchful eye of Gillian Tolley and her marvellous volunteers. Pat Jemmet, Kay Jones, Elizabeth Saunders, Norma Baud, Meg Macmillan, Gay Johnstone, Gladys Aarons, John Storti and Rafael Heale, as well as the visiting school groups that have been involved again this year with students from the Green Team at Red Hill Consolidated working together with Franklyn Scholar students. Ormond College Conservation students at Melbourne University have also contributed.

Advocacy – we are currently working with the recently appointed Heritage Planner Dale Kelly on a program of restoration of the Rosebud Sound Shell. Recently we were able to locate the builder, local man Trevor Luck, whose knowledge of the construction methods of the building has been immensely helpful in plotting a path to a restored building. We were also pleased to be able to assist Parks Victoria in their quest to restore the five stone memorial cairns on Arthurs Seat Road. The cairns were in need of various forms of conservation as some had been vandalised and others affected by constant exposure to weathering elements over the past eighty five years. The branch is also working with Peter Brown, former Shire Heritage Planner to address the implications of sites within heritage precincts, and the consequence of not having individual overlay status even though in a designated precinct. This leaves any VCAT view open to interpretation. We continue to work with council in reviewing applications on Significant Landscape Overlays and to date have made twenty six inspections this year. We attended Panel Hearings for the Mt Eliza Woodlands and 2a Erlandsen Street Sorrento through the year and are most gratified to see that the Mt Eliza Woodlands Amendment has been ratified by the Minister. At long last after several years of uncertainty the residents now have clear guidelines on their properties. Erlandsen Street, similarly had a good outcome with only the existing house and garage being excised from the overlay which leaves reasonable protection in place from future neighbourhood development compromising the oldest extant building in Sorrento (stone cottage on corner of Pt Nepean Rd and Erlandsen Street).

Members have had the opportunity to attend coffee morning talks throughout the year. Fran Henke, 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” also a media adviser for state and federal MPs and author of several books was our first guest speaker this year followed by Jill Phillips who gave a comprehensive presentation on the *History of Red Hill* tracing its lineage through the families who have left their legacy in street names and property identification throughout the area. *Postcards from the Peninsula*, an excellent DVD of the Local History Network’s travelling exhibition, was the most recent and well received event.

Finally as I started with my duty to acknowledge the committee for their invaluable support I would like to highlight the individual roles they cover as committee members: Penny Carnaby – Membership and Local History Network representative, Peter Greer – Treasurer and Ranelagh Residents Assoc. representative, Peter Holloway - committee and planning support, Elizabeth Saunders – events and Crib Point representative, Adrienne Smith – planning and environment, Gillian Tolley – Endeavour Fern Gully and Tootgarook Advisory Board, Adrienne Herring – Minutes Secretary and Victor Sullivan - Secretary, Thanks also to the Chairman of the Board Dr Blackman OAM, CEO Martin Purslow, Conservation Director Paul Roser, Environmental Advocate Anna Foley and support staff at Trust Head Office for their ongoing assistance and valuable support of the branch.

Judy Walsh

President

21.10.2014