



MORNINGTON PENINSULA BRANCH ANNUAL REPORT

Thank you for your attendance today at the Peninsula's oldest extant residence! Once again it is my very great pleasure to deliver the Annual Report on behalf of the Mornington Peninsula Branch Committee which you will see is a most active committee across the whole Peninsula.

HERITAGE AWARDS

The Awards are one of the highlights of our activities and this year, held on 13 September, was no exception with excellent nominations and such an enjoyable presentation night. It was also rewarding to see a strong representation from Council supporting the event. This year also appreciation of the support given by the Heritage Planners Anne Grogan and Ana Borović along with Freya Keam at head office setting up the inaugural People's Choice Award, which resulted in Flinders Cargo Shed taking out the award.

SIGNIFICANT LANDSCAPE (SLO6) INSPECTIONS

Our Significant Landscape Overlay inspections relating to development applications on properties within SLO6 areas have continued. This year has been a little quieter than usual with a total so far 35 compared with 49 last year. These inspections give the Trust an opportunity work with the planners regarding concerns and to comment and indeed object to any inappropriate development and we have been able to bring about a degree of change that supports the principles of significant landscape in some applications.

LOCAL ISSUES PARTICIPATION

Neighbourhood Character Studies and Heritage Area III Review. The Branch was represented at the Review forums with other Peninsula organisations and commends Council for adopting the recommendations of the Review. The Neighbourhood Character Studies for the Southern Peninsula took place at Council Chambers with Ethos Urban Planning Group in February and the Trust contribution recorded.

Tootgarook Wetlands. Participation in an extensive study, attendance at drop-in sessions and a submission in support of the extent of the Tootgarook Wetlands was made and passed through Council in June. These are very important areas for the Trust to comment on and influence the outcomes and the Branch appreciates the opportunity to participate.

Draft Local History Development Plan

The Branch has long supported the principles of the Local History Development Plan and supported the Draft document by recommending Councillors accept the recommendations made in the document, by planning now for future adequate facilities to ensure the work of the historical societies is held as an integral part of the development of the Peninsula and provide a great cultural resource for not only local residents but also as an on-line tool for planners and historians.

The Cyril Young Memorial Chapel

The Cyril Young committee invited the Branch to their site and inaugural meeting to discuss elements of a restoration process and we congratulate the group on their excellent organisation and foresight with this truly deserving project and offer ongoing support.

Hill View Quarry

Quarry management has conducted the Branch Committee on a walk-in of the Pioneer site on Boundary Road and committee members regularly attend the EES drop-in sessions provided by DELWP.

The Briars – the Branch is regularly represented at meetings with management and National Trust Head office personnel to discuss ongoing issues with restoration and Collection matters. The Branch congratulates Council on the excellent restoration of the Laundry and Apple Store adjacent to the Homestead and while it recognises that there is much to be achieved yet to restore this property it is gratifying to see this restoration as a great start.

PROJECTS

As a group we aim to initiate a project of local heritage significance in addition to the Awards and this year we have embarked on a restoration project directly connected to this property. When the McCraes moved here from Melbourne they contracted the tutor they had engaged in town to accompany them; his name was John Mc Lure and was from the Isle of Skye. He acted as tutor to the four McCrae boys until their departure in 1851 when he accepted a position as Clerk of Courts in Pleasant Creek (near Stawell) where he subsequently died and was buried in the Deep Lead cemetery. At the base of his grave is an inscription on a marble tablet placed by the boys as a tribute to Mc Lure during their former and riper years. As the grave and the inscription had deteriorated over years, The Branch engaged the local stonemason to attend to the restoration of the grave and tablet which has now been completed.

Every year the Branch organises one event with the funds raised going to support the Mornington Peninsula National Trust Properties Endowment Fund. In March we conducted a most successful Open Garden event in Mt Martha with the very kind cooperation of Wendy and Ian Gilbertson and their magnificent garden. The day provided excellent weather and over one hundred visitors attended with a substantial amount of funds raised for the Foundation.

We also continue to support the National Trust's State-wide Heritage Festival conducted between April and May each year. This year we supported the Buckley Opera at the Rosebud Memorial Hall and conducted heritage walks through the Ranelagh Estate in Mt Eliza. Committee members also supported the Enviro Week activities at The Briars enlightening the grade 3 and 4 children to the 'mind boggling' facts of life without TV, iphones & ipads and furthermore the fact that tea bags didn't exist in the olden days – the children were in disbelief!

As you can see by the above report our committee is a very busy one and I must thank all the members for their support and input, given so willingly, to making the Branch a pillar of strength in the community. As always we receive tremendous support from the Chairman, Kristin Stegley OAM and CEO, Simon Ambrose and the staff at head office in Tasma Terrace, especially by the community advocacy team. I am sorry to report that long standing member Gillian Tolley, after twenty years service, retired from the committee this year and Elizabeth Saunders who joined in 2012 likewise has retired. I do thank them both most sincerely for their individual contribution. To the remaining committee Penny Carnaby, Peter Greer, Adrienne Herring, Adrienne Smith, Victor Sullivan and Val White heartfelt thanks for your commitment to the Branch demonstrated by your support of the Trust's core values of heritage and the volunteer hours given to the Branch. In the past twelve months the Branch has recorded 413 hours of voluntary service not only to the Trust but also to the community.

That ends my report – Thankyou.
Judy Walsh, President,
24 October 2019