

We gradually emerged from strict Covid restrictions this year and our activities began to return to normal.

1 ADVOCACY

We had some pleasing results this year from our previous year's lobbying – the AGL Crib Point Development was abandoned, and Hillview Quarries withdrew their application to expand.

This year we supported the Flinders Pier heritage listing application as part of the campaign to prevent the demolition of the pier.

At a more local level:

We have supported Council in asking for re-instatement of the Ambulance Service in Main Ridge Fire Station, voiced our opinion on the location of the new CFA water tank in Mechanics Road, and had our say over the Shire Local Law review – particularly in relation to privacy hedges obscuring protected landscape sightlines. We are lobbying for recycle bins in our local parks and we were represented at the United Energy and DEWLP review meeting following last year's storm.

2 LOCAL WORK PROJECTS

We have continued to monitor and drive local work projects.

Red Hill Station Reserve Master Plan

After a very slow start, the Red Hill Station Platform and Shelter is eventually taking shape. David Maddocks has tirelessly pursued the Shire, with great attention to detail, to ensure the historical accuracy of the representational Shelter. We hope that it will be completed in time for our planned official opening as part of our annual BBQ.

Red Hill South Reserve New Pathway Rollout.

Following the impromptu rollout of the controversial new asphalt path across the Red Hill South Community Park in contravention of the specifications in the Community Park master plan, we had much correspondence with the Shire regarding its appropriateness in our rural setting.

A pragmatic approach to avoid further needless rates expenditure resulted in it remaining, but we have stressed our strong opposition to any further asphaltting of the gravel paths.

Shoreham Road Upgrade

The Shoreham Road Upgrade, originally scheduled for May this year, will now take place between October and January along the full length of Shoreham Road. We discussed our various concerns with the Shire during the design process and provided members with links to the detailed design plans.

3 REPRESENT AND INFORM THE COMMUNITY

We have represented and informed the community:

REPower

We have been involved with RePower in their project to set up satellite renewable energy groups throughout the Mornington Peninsula. RePower held a well-attended information session in Red Hill on 25 September and the launch of the Red Hill group will take place at 7.30 on Wednesday 19th October in The Mechanics Hall. We encourage members to become involved.

Information resources

Members are informed of community issues through emails, our website and our Facebook page and we have welcomed information from members on issues of community concern such as safety hazards, vegetation clearing and planning proposals.

We have collaborated with other local organisations and kept up our regular communication with relevant Shire officers both to obtain and to provide information on local issues. We also raise issues of concern to our members with Red Hill Ward Councillor David Gill.

I would like to thank Councillor Gill for his interest in listening to our concerns and in frequently bringing to our attention issues which may affect our community.

4 COMMUNITY EVENTS

We have held several successful community events:

Remembrance Day

On Remembrance Day last November, we were still livestreaming our very simple ceremony on Facebook.

Community BBQ

However, by February this year, we had a great turnout at our annual community BBQ, despite the rain. Activities included a Smoking Ceremony, guided indigenous walks, live music, art activities for the children, and live animal handling.

This event was made possible by funding from Mornington Peninsula Shire and generous donations of time, materials and produce from many local individuals and businesses and we thank them all.

Anzac Day

We also had a wonderful community turnout for Anzac Day. The Red Hill Consolidated School choir and the two young students who read poems were very impressive and the address by Roger Stuart-Andrews was particularly touching.

Community Coffee Catchups

Our monthly community coffee catchups have continued this year. Councillor Gill came along to most of them, and we had a chance to air grievances and seek information as well as catch up socially with other members. These catchups are open to all members and friends and neighbours, and I encourage everyone to come along on the first Friday of every month.

5 THANKS

I would like to thank all the committee members for their hard work this year.

Sadly, Hannah and Roger will be leaving the committee as they move down the hill to Martha Cove. Thank you to them for their valuable input over the years.

I would also like to thank all our members for their interest and involvement. The voice of RHCA is only as strong as your voices.

6 LOOKING FORWARD

We look forward to another year of building connections and strengthening and protecting our wonderful Red Hill community.

Carolynn Massola
President, RHCA
15 October 2022