

Hill 'n' Ridge Community Newsletter



A Community Newsletter published by Red Hill District Lions Club inc

PO Box 72 Red Hill South 3937 Email: lionsnewsletter1@gmail.com Website: lionsredhill.vic.lions.org.au

WHAT'S ON

MEN'S SHED

Tues / Wed mornings

Ladies Group Tues afternoon

LIONS FITNESS SESSIONS

Tuesday mornings

MARCH

- 5 RED HILL MARKET
- 5 LIONS AWARENESS DAY
- 4-6 TENNIS TOURNAMENT
- 7 COFFEE CONVERSATION
- 12 RED HILL SHOW
- 15 RED HILL LIONS
- 20 MAIN CREEK LANDCARE REPAIRING BUSHLAND
- 20 PONY CLUB ALL WEATHER ARENA OPENING

APRIL

- 2 RED HILL MARKET
- 3 RHCA BBQ
- 4 COFFEE CONVERSATION
- 11 RED HILL LIONS MEETING
- 17 EASTER EGG HUNT
- 23-24 WOMEN'S MOUNTAIN - BIKING EVENT
- 24 MAIN CREEK LANDCARE AGM
- 25 ANZAC SERVICE RED HILL

MAY

- 2 COFFEE CONVERSATION
- 7 RED HILL MARKET
- 9 RED HILL LIONS
- 15 MAIN CREEK LANDCARE WALK IN GREENS BUSH

CELEBRATING 100 YEARS SINCE FIRST RED HILL SHOW

Although this show is billed as the 94th Annual Red Hill Show it is, in fact, 100 years since the first Red Hill Show. The efforts of a handful of Red Hill residents to find a place to showcase their produce manifested itself in the first Red Hill Show being held in the Red Hill Co-operative Coolstore on Wednesday, March 29, 1922. The discrepancy in years is explained because the show was not held in the war years 1941 to 1947.

In 1922, in the Coolstore grading room, empty fruit cases covered with white paper, or bed sheets, were used as stands for a spectacular pyramid of locally grown fruit. In addition to locals, hundreds of people travelled three hours by train from Melbourne to attend the show, the train service having just started in the previous year.

A highlight of the day was the woodchop with a crowd surrounding six axemen standing on logs to compete. Now bigger and better it is still a highlight of the day for many.

So, the show has been part of this community for 100 years, attracting thousands of exhibitors and crowds of young and old on Labour Day Saturday – this year on March 12.

“Apple orchards, dairying and livestock are what the Peninsula pioneers produced in the early days but over the years this has changed to alpacas, olives, berries and wine and it is this heritage and evolution we want to celebrate,” said the show’s executive officer, Bec Davis.

The humble sausage will be one of the show’s features this year. The Golden Sausage Award is encouraging producers and butchers from across the state to enter. A \$500 prize sponsored by sausage guru Peter Bouchier towards the Best Sausage in Show should be an incentive to attract some exciting and tasty entries. While there are three classes - Beef, Pork and a flavoured sausage - there can only be one overall Best in Show sausage.

Enter your sausage by March 9 and live judging takes place on the Mornington Peninsula Paddock Stage on Show Day, with esteemed MC-Judge Richard Cornish and guest judge Paul Mercurio.

The Mornington Peninsula Paddock will be filled once again with quality Peninsula products from olives and apples to ciders and bread. Cherry season has finished by March but the apple harvest is in full swing, which is why there is an apple pie competition with a \$500 prize donated by local families. “So come to the show, acknowledge the centenary, meet the producers and enjoy the bountiful seasonal harvest,” Bec said.

Also new this year is the Horticultural Hangout, with talks about all things growing, gardening and flowers and will include new environmental exhibits.

Add to this the livestock and horticultural exhibits, the cooking competition, art and photography, and you have a wonderful day out for the whole family.

Due to Covid, and for quicker entry, it is preferable to book tickets online. However, cash and card will be accepted at the gate.
WWW.REDHILLSHOW.COM.AU FB: RedHillShowAu INSTA: redhillshow



Deadline for Issue 80

APRIL

Please email articles, dates of events, photos to

lionsnewsletter1@gmail.com

Include events for
May, June, July 2022

Bendigo Bank

Community Bank
Rye, Rosebud and Dromana

Red Hill
Easter Egg Hunt



Keep an eye out for details . . .

TWO LOCAL AUTHORS ENJOY SUCCESS

For her third published book, *'Water Music'*, Christine Balint won a significant literary prize. Eleven year old Emma Hanson used her time in Covid lockdown to write her first book *'The Islands and Beyond'*.

Coincidentally, these two authors live in Arthurs Seat, within a few streets of each other.

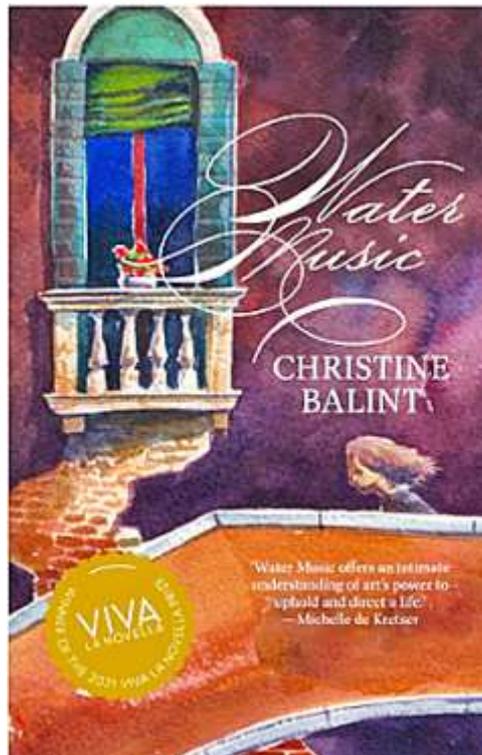
CHRISTINE BALINT: AWARD WINNING AUTHOR

In November last year Christine Balint won the 2021 National Viva la Novella Prize for her new book *'Water Music'*, published by Brio Books.

Christine is also the author of *'The Salt Letters'*, which was shortlisted for the Vogel / The Australian Literary Award when she was 23. Her second novel, *'Ophelia's Fan'*, was internationally published in 2004. Her work has been published to acclaim in Sydney, New York, Milan and Munich.

'Water Music' is a work of literary historical fiction, examining the little-known system of patronage that existed in Venice between 1400 and 1797. Girls of any class or background could be given a full-time musical education leading to a career in music, if they passed an audition. In many cases, this allowed impoverished girls to earn income and establish a career or save for a dowry—enabling them to forge a fruitful life.

In this historical context Christine tells the story of an orphan, Lucietta, who is raised by a fisherman's family yet supported by a secret benefactor to study music. At 16, she takes up her position at the *Derelitti* Convent, one of the prestigious musical orphanages for girls, playing the violin in the ensemble and training the younger musicians. Confronted by her benefactor's plans for her life, Lucietta uncovers the true



legacy of the women who came before and her role in bridging the past. Michelle de Kretser, winner of the Miles Franklin Literary Award, in praise of this book said. 'Christine Balint writes about music with quiet authority. *'Water Music'*

offers an intimate understanding of art's power to uphold and direct a life'. Christine was fortunate to receive funding to undertake archival research into the Venetian Musical Orphanages that provided educational and professional opportunities to women not available elsewhere in Europe at this time.

In addition, as part of her research, Christine has been a member of Melbourne Women's Choir under the directorship of Faye Dumont. In 2016, she travelled to Venice with the choir and sang music composed for the orphan girls in Vivaldi's Pietà church.

Christine holds a PhD in Creative Arts from the University of Melbourne where she now teaches Creative Writing. Previously, she supervised Masters and PhD students in Creative Writing at RMIT University for seven years.

'Water Music' is available at Farrells Bookshop in Mornington, the Rosebud Book Barn, Petersen's Bookstore in Hastings and Antipodes in Sorrento or online from Booktopia. Also here is a link to a book trailer with photos from Christine's research. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YRGvmkjAg2I>

AT 11 EMMA HANSON WRITES ABOUT ADVENTURE

Like most students at Red Hill Consolidated School 11 year old Emma Hanson did much of her Year 5 studies from home during the first lockdowns in 2020. But unlike her fellow students she did something challenging and quite unusual. She wrote a book.

"I felt that I needed to write a story and because I like to read fantasy and adventure books I chose to write something on a similar theme," Emma said.

The book is titled *'The Islands and Beyond'*. It is 110 pages. On the back cover the teaser reads:

The discovery of a treasure map leads Jennifer and her sister Stephanie to a strange island.

Their quest takes them on to a world they had never imagined. Will they ever find any treasure or is it just a wild goose chase?

Embark on the perilous journey with the two sisters to find out what lies ahead.....!

Emma did not write every day, but did it bit by bit. Her goal was to finish her story by Christmas 2020 as a Christmas gift to her family.



Emma Hanson

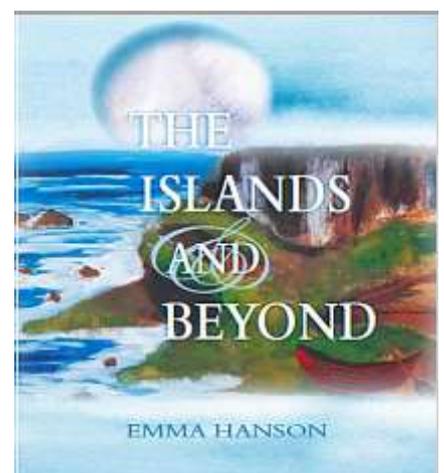
"She was so determined to achieve her goal and keep her promise and she did it," said her mother Anu. "Emma not only wanted to write a story but she actually completed it. We are so proud of her efforts".

A first version of the book was printed at Officeworks and later it was self-published through Cadex Communication Publishing. It is on sale at Rosebud Book Barn.

Emma also painted the illustration for the book cover.

"I really enjoy writing and though I have only self-published one book so far, I want to continue creating stories in the future," Emma said.

Now 13 years old Emma is a first year student at Dromana College. She is very glad she used her Covid lockdown time so creatively and productively.





News from your elected advocate for Red Hill Ward - Cr. David Gill.

Thanks for your feedback about the topics raised in the last newsletter.

There was a great deal of support given to a **Wildlife Management Plan** for the Mornington Peninsula.

My idea is now going ahead with the support of the Environment Minister Lily D'Ambrosio and the Council. It is a first in Victoria and may be a breakthrough in ensuring the on-going viability of our local wildlife.

All wildlife will be considered with threatened species like koalas among the priorities.

Other feedback included ways to restart the local music industry and dirt jump sites for local kids.

I am about to make recommendations for **Mayoral commendations** for local volunteers who make a significant contribution to our community. I would love to hear your suggestions.

A serious problem on our farmland and roadsides is the spread of **noxious weeds**. Since the State Government took over the responsibility for noxious weeds in rural areas decades ago the issue has been neglected.

Farmers trying to make a living from their properties are continually dealing with the costly removal of weeds spreading from neighbouring properties and roadsides. This is another burden affecting the **viability of our farmland**.

With all the other pressures on retaining Green Wedge land at least this can be fixed if our politicians show that they care. All **firework permits** are issued by WorkSafe. There seems to be little consideration for livestock or grass fires when these permits have effects on farmland. They are issued within fire ban times of the year and official advice to neighbours' states "lock up or remove your animals" which may be reasonable with dogs and cats but more difficult with livestock.

I am looking at a local law or advocacy to clarify the issues and welcome your feedback.

Back to Bee Talks again.

First up was a local Garden Club interested in attracting bees to their gardens. We discussed:

- Bee navigation, the private lives of bees and hibernation
- Native Bees found on the Peninsula
- The history of bees
- The fascinating Buzz Bees that hover and use the perfect frequency of their wing beat to vibrate flowers to force pollen to fall.

- Blue banded buzz bees are just one of our local native Buzz Bees that can be seen in our gardens.

As a bee advocate, I welcome opportunities to talk about Bees to groups, clubs and schools around the Peninsula.

Congratulations to Dirk Jansen from the Mornington Peninsula Koala Conservation group who is our **new MPSC Citizen of the Year**. Dirk has led the way in a massive effort to plant koala trees across the Peninsula. In a way he represents the many individuals and groups involved in creating bio-links on the Peninsula.

Suggestions often come in for new **walking and riding trails** and maintenance or improvements to existing trails. My latest correspondence is about a sealed walking and bike path for all ages and abilities to connect Arthurs Seat to the Red Hill South shops via the school and the Recreation Reserve. I welcome your views.

March 19th **Womin Djeka** at Balnarring Beach (Robertson Park from 10am – 7pm) showcases cultural experiences and live music. Hope to see you there.

Last year's **storm damage** is still being addressed with costs reaching almost \$3million with 75% of the clean-up completed. Hopefully council will have learnt a lot and will be better prepared in future. Please continue to report dangerous trees and situations and I will continue to follow up.

Another local issue concerning many

people is the **state of our roads**.

- The Barkers Road area in Main Ridge highlights many of these issues - drainage, dust suppression and the grading of dirt roads

The Main Creek Road area that includes concealed driveways and faster traffic on the sealed roads, often without made shoulders, is also typical of the road problems in Red Hill ward.

The long-term solution is to prioritise roads in Council, State and Federal budgets.

In the short term we need better outcomes with the money available. This requires all methodology to be reviewed, for example a pothole shouldn't reappear soon after asphalt is applied!

To make local roads a bigger budget priority I need your feedback on road issues 'in your backyard'.

With elections coming up we also need to contact candidates and make sure that they prioritise *fixing our local roads*.

I have recently had two half day tours with the new Director of Planning and Infrastructure, Mike McIntosh, to discuss many of the issues in Red Hill ward. At the end he said "David, despite these issues, you live in the best ward in Australia."

Keep well.

Regards,

David.

0437 129 016

davidgill@mornpen.vic.gov.au

APPLE PIE COMPETITION



It's on again . . . Apple Pie Competition and there's money to be won!

The Apple Pie Competition at the Red Hill Show will be a feature event of the upcoming show day 12th March 2022.

And there's \$500.00 cash on offer for the first prize!

We would love you to be part of the fun. Judges from William Angliss Institute will again be on hand to do the judging and the official taste testers. They also provide extraordinary insights into baking and hints to other 'would be' pastry chefs in the audience.

Check the schedules for an easy on line entry at redhillshow.com.au/exhibit, make a note of the rules and we'll look forward to seeing you on the day!

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Australian Native

Plant Sale

The Briars, Nepean Hwy. Mt Martha.
Saturday 7th May 2022. 10am to 3.30pm.

Purchase from and talk direct to the growers for professional advice

Free talks on- 11am Pruning & maintenance.
- 12pm Propagate from a cutting.
- 1pm Planting the correct way
- 2pm Attracting birds & insects to your garden

Australian Plants Society, Mornington Peninsula
For further details contact secretary, 0428 284 974

LOCALS PAY TRIBUTE TO 'BAILS' MYER WHO DIED AGED 96

Baillieu 'Bails' Myer, AC, the only surviving son of Sidney Myer, the founder of the Myer retailing dynasty, died peacefully at the family home, Elgee Park, Merricks, on January 22. He was 96.

In accordance with his wishes a small private family service was held at St George's Anglican Church, Red Hill, on Saturday, January 29. A thanksgiving service held at St John's Anglican Church, Toorak, on February 9 was live streamed to the Elgee Park Gallery where a large number of locals gathered.

Businessman and benefactor, some of his philanthropic endeavours are well known through the Myer Foundation. Established in 1959 by Bails and his brother, the late Kenneth Myer, the Foundation distributes grants to a broad range of interests and sectors across Australia. But closer to home much of his generous philanthropy found its way to local organisations on the Peninsula, and around Red Hill in particular.

Tess Clarke, a well-known Red Hill orchardist, went to Elgee Park to witness the thanksgiving service because of her admiration for the support Bails Myer gave to the Red Hill community, especially to the Red Hill Fire Brigade. Her late husband, Len, was Brigade Captain for 12 years and Tess recalls that for several years, Red Hill families were invited to a picnic at Elgee Park where they picked grapes and, in turn, Bails made a donation to help pay off the debt for extensions to the fire station in Mechanics Road. "Bails was an absolute gentleman," Tess said. "He circulated among the people and entertained the kids. He always had a treat and a coin in his pocket for them".

Len and Jan Kirchner, parishioners of St George's Church Red Hill enjoyed a regular coffee and chat at Red Hill with



Bails, a fellow parishioner. Jan said: "Bails was the instigator for the rebuilding and renovations at St George's when he offered a considerable sum of money to the church on the basis of the parishioners raising an equal amount. His wish was to 'do something for the community'. His generosity resulted in facilities which, until Covid intervened, were widely used by the community and are on offer again for community use. Bails' faith-driven philanthropy, friendship, humility and gentle, but quirky sense of humour will be greatly missed by all of us here."

trail blazing vigneron

Early local vignerons acknowledge that Bails was the trail blazing vigneron on the Peninsula. The spark for what has become the Peninsula's flourishing wine industry of today came when Bails Myer, with the guidance and encouragement of the French Ambassador, planted a vineyard in 1973 at Elgee Park on Wallaces Road. With Stephen Hickenbotham as the winemaker they had their first vintage in 1975.

Fellow pioneer vigneron, Nat White, who established Main Ridge Estate vineyard around the same time, describes Bails Myer as being seminal in the foundation

of an important wine region which has been achieved with determination along with fun, co-operation and vision.

These are but a few of many examples of the unheralded support Bails Myer gave to the local community in many different ways. Suffice it to say that the breadth of his interests was wide and his support for them was extraordinary. He leaves a wonderful legacy.

respect for workers

Bails also had a lot of time for those who worked for him – like vineyard workers, builders, plumbers, the water delivery man, Graeme Prossor. He genuinely engaged with every person who worked for him and they held him in very high esteem.

Local builder, Geoff Taylor, recalls that he first went to Elgee Park about a building job around 30 years ago. While there he thought he was enjoying a yarn with the gardener and then to his surprise discovered it was Bails. "This began a cherished friendship. Bails is the most remarkable person I have ever met," Geoff said. "He was always interested in what you had to say, would crack endless jokes, was a genuine gentleman, and did so much unspoken that helped others. He taught his children and grandchildren the value of treating others as equals, showing interest in them, taking the time to shake hands with everyone on the job, look the person in the eye, have a meaningful yarn, and remember their names and personal details".

Common words used in tributes included warmth, wisdom, wit, kindness, generosity and humility.

Bails Myer is survived by Sarah, his wife of 67 years, sons Sidney and Rupert and a daughter, Samantha, and their families. RIP.

BRIGADE FAREWELLS DEDICATED FIREMAN

A surprise farewell function for Martin Gallon and his wife Rachel was held at the Red Hill Fire Station on Sunday afternoon, February 13.

Martin has been a member of the brigade for six years and took on the role of Communications and Training Officer. With enormous commitment he has trained 12 new recruits in that time.

He has responded to 372 call outs and according to 1st Lieutenant, Sam Norris he is the most enthusiastic member of the brigade.

Martin has decided to return to live in England to be with his daughters.

"We thank Martin and Rachel most sincerely for their commitment to Red Hill Fire Brigade," Sam said.



Martin Gallon says goodbye

FREE COMMUNITY BBQ

The annual free community barbecue will now be held on Sunday 3 April from midday.

This year there will be a special Welcome to Country and Smoking Ceremony by Lionel Lauch, then he will host an Indigenous walk on Country through the neighbouring community reserve followed by a didgeridoo meditation.

The wildlife encounters will be back along with local artist Michael Leeworthy helping kids get creative.

Join in the fun from midday until 2.30pm at the Red Hill Community Park, Corner of Shoreham and Point Leo Roads, Red Hill South. See you there!

Red Hill Community Association

MAIN CREEK LANDCARE FOCUSES ON REPAIRING BUSHLAND

Main Creek Landcare is off to a flying start for the year with a great "Welcome to New Members BBQ" and bush flora walk in February. Many new members came and enjoyed meeting other members and learning more about Landcare.

Main Creek Landcare has a full program for the year, with activities planned every month. On March 20th at 10.00 am we are visiting a property in Main Ridge to learn more about habitat restoration and wildlife corridors, a key feature to helping preserve our precious, remnant plants and wildlife.

Lindy Lumsden, a wonderful bat specialist from the Arthur Rhyllah Institute, is kindly coming to speak at the AGM on April 24th at 2.00pm in the Main Ridge Hall. This will be a very interesting afternoon and all are welcome.

May 15th will see us joining with Greens Bush Association as Virginia and Mark Carter, share some of the secret delights of our National Park and we help with some restoration work.

If you are interested in attending any of these activities, please email ajbreidahl@gmail.com

Anyone who is interested in joining a Landcare Group can do so by heading to the Mornington Peninsula Network website <https://mplandcare.org.au/> and clicking on the group relevant to where you live. All new members are warmly welcomed.



POWERFUL OWLS
photo Steve Castan

Summary of Main Creek Landcare dates

March 20th 10.00 am 260 Baldrys Rd, Main Ridge.

"Repairing Bushland and Creating Biolinks" RSVP – ajbreidahl@gmail.com

April 24th 2.00 pm Main Ridge Community Hall

AGM and "The Amazing world of Microbats" Lindy Lumsden

May 15th 10.00 am - National Park entrance at the end of Greens Road, Main Ridge

"Walk, talk and repair walk with Greens Bush Association"

May 28th 10.00 am Planting day venue tbc.

HELPING LOCALS AND VISITORS TO UNDERSTAND THE LOCAL INDIGENOUS BUSHLAND

Red Hill South Landcare Group with the support of the Mornington Peninsula Shire prepared and have now had installed three new flora/fauna signs along the Rail Trail and a historical interpretive sign in the Baynes Road Reserve. The signs aim to foster people's interest in the bush as habitat for native animals and plants and to highlight opportunities for managing local bushland.

The contents of the signs were informed by a small survey of visitors to these reserves conducted by the Landcare group in 2019. Initial expectations were that visitors would be local residents, but the survey found most were from other areas of the Mornington Peninsula, Melbourne and even further afield. Many said they were attracted to Red Hill South for its rare combination of a 'nice walk, food and beverage, in nature'.

Visitors surveyed said they enjoyed the generally peaceful and restorative qualities of the area. They tended not to pay detailed attention to the bush, but were receptive to information about it.

The signs build on these experiences and interests by showing how the bush provides habitat for native fauna like Powerful Owls and Koalas. For foodie visitors, the signs highlight local plants such as the Prickly Currant-bush, which has berries which are edible for both birds and people.

Red Hill South Landcare group is confident that this project will encourage and increase the wider community understanding of the role of the bush for local fauna and diversity of flora. The signs highlight the importance of the Shire and Landcare in protecting natural areas and hopefully inspire more landowners to protect their bushland.

If you would like to help the Group in restoring the bush, contact the Secretary on 0400 989 150.



New signs have been installed along the Rail Trail and Baynes Rd

IN SEARCH OF STOKE - WOMEN'S ONLY GRAVITY ENDURO EVENT AT RED HILL MTB PARK

A women's only mountain biking event will be held at Red Hill Mountain Bike Park on April 23 and 24.

Gravity enduro mountain biking is where the downhill segment is timed, and participants have to ride back up the hill each time in between downhill segments.

These events are historically heavily male-dominated and while this situation is changing, there are still large barriers (both real and perceived) to women's access to the sport.

In Search of Stoke seeks to address these barriers by creating an all-female, super welcoming and inclusive environment to demystify the race scene for women and help them to build friendships, networks, community and experience.

The event will run over two days, with Saturday 23 featuring a race for the fellas and kids, so the whole family can join in.



Sunday 24 will feature the women's race.

The atmosphere of last year's race was fantastic, with many partners/kids/family and friends all coming along to cheer and support the participants.

<https://insearchofstoke2022.wordpress.com/>

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RHCA
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community

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engagement

• ♣ to advocate on behalf of the community

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NATIVE PLANT SALE –

PICK UP PLANTS AND KNOW-HOW AT THE SAME TIME

Interested in native plants but not sure how to grow them, what will suit your garden or when to prune them? This year at the annual Native Plant Sale run by the Australian Plants Society (APS) Mornington Peninsula group there'll be the opportunity to get those questions answered.

In addition to being able to buy from a range on local and regional growers of native and indigenous plants, there'll be short sessions run on pruning and maintenance, propagation, planting the correct way, and attracting birds and beneficial insects to your garden. Kids will also have a chance to get up close to touch and feel some of the range of interesting flowers and fruits that our native plants display.

Put the date in your diary now – Saturday 7 May 2022 from 10.00am – 3.30pm....and note that the Sale has moved to a new venue at The Briars, Nepean Highway, Mt Martha from its previous location at Seawinds. Entry to the event is free.

The Sale is a great chance to see the wide range of Australian plants which are suitable to the growing conditions on the Mornington Peninsula, and to pick the brains of the growers who are always happy to share their knowledge. Plus autumn is the perfect time to get out and plant – the soil is still warm, and the plants have a chance to establish themselves over the winter months to make the most of the spring burst of growth.

ST. GEORGE'S STAYS STRONG

For over 100 years St. George's Red Hill has provided a place of worship and community outreach for those living on the "Hill" and the "Ridge". This service has continued unbroken, though changed, during the past difficult years of the Pandemic. The past few months have seen services resume at the church with strict COVID protocols in place and the addition of a Zoom link for those who do not choose or who are unable to attend. Links to these services are circulated via email to any who wish to be included on the distribution. A new website for the church has recently been launched and the St. George's Red Hill Facebook page remains active. The Parish continues strong and caring under the leadership of the Revd. Fiona Goy with invaluable assistance from the Revd. Willy Maddock. For the last six months of 2021, we were fortunate to have with us a theological student, Andrea Nagy, who assisted with services whilst gaining experience prior to her ordination. Her great contribution and wonderful personality will be missed. Due to COVID it was necessary to scale down Christmas services. The traditional evening Festival of Carols and

Lessons was held the week prior to Christmas, those present enjoying mulled wine and Christmas cake after the service, and one service was held on Christmas morning, to which we welcomed a number of visitors holidaying in the area. Throughout the Pandemic, we have maintained pastoral care and outreach activities, most notably our regular contributions of food and other necessary items to Food for All and the Refugee and Asylum Seeker Centre in Dandenong.

It was with great sadness that we noted the passing of our much loved parishioner and generous supporter Bails Myer in January this year, a great loss not only to our church but to the wider community and the many organisations he had been involved with. As a point of interest, Bails initiated the first vineyard on the Peninsula!

We look forward with hope to a brighter and easier year in 2022 and the day when we will no longer have to sing with masks on!
JA

Flinders Motoring Heritage wins Community Event of the Year

Flinders District Lions Club has been awarded the Australia Day 2022, Mornington Peninsula Community Event of the Year, for the Flinders Motoring Heritage event conducted on Easter Sunday.

This is great recognition of the Club's work over recent years and its commitment to serve the community and support Peninsula Health.

Flinders District Lions wish to thank the event sponsors: Kallus Kenny Intalex, Bendigo Bank in Balnarring, RT Edgar Mornington Peninsula, the Flinders Hotel, Blueprint Printers and Porsche Centre Brighton, amongst others. Their continued support has ensured that contributions to Peninsula Health of more than \$100,000 over the past five years has been achievable and we look forward to welcoming them again at the 2022 event on Easter Sunday.

Flinders District Lions Club manage the Flinders Motoring Heritage fundraising

event to encourage visitors to Flinders and to raise funds for Peninsula Health for specific projects. The funds raised in 2021 helped purchase foetal heart monitors for the Special Care Nursery.



Sven Burchartz, President Monica Holland, Mark Holland with the Mayor of Mornington Peninsula Cr Anthony Marsh

Hill 'n' Ridge Contact

| LANDCARE | |
|--|---|
| Main Creek | adriennemjs@bigpond.com |
| Adie Smith | 0438877780 |
| Mantons Creek | david.maddocks@bigpond.com |
| David Maddocks | 5989 6212 |
| Red Hill South | gr.white@bigpond.net.au |
| Geoff White | 0400 989 150 |
| Dunn's Creek | info@dunns creek.com.au |
| Roger Stuart-Andrews | 5989 2011 |
| Sheepwash Creek | mdelacoeur@gmail.com |
| Michelle de la Coeur | 0419 579 277 |
| PROBUS | |
| Arthurs Seat | 0408 360 944 Meets 10am 2nd Friday Main Ridge |
| Kerri Flockart | |
| Main Ridge | Meets 9am 1st Friday Main Ridge |
| Mervyll Reid | |
| Red Hill | val.lardy@gmail.com Meets Main Ridge 4th Tues 0418 143 856 |
| Val Lardy | |
| SPORTING CLUBS | |
| Bowls & Petanque Main Ridge | robert.hudson45@gmail.com |
| Robert Hudson | 0423 704 185 |
| Cricket Main Ridge | john.mcencroe@bigpond.com |
| John McEncroe | 0418335761 |
| Cricket Red Hill Club Room | ken@excelpacific.com.au 5989 2500 |
| Football Red Hill Club Rooms | redhillfc.vcf.com.au 5989 2500 0417 125 143 |
| Kim Sherry | |
| Junior Football Red Hill | www.redhillfc.net |
| Darren Morgan | 0425 791 870 |
| Tennis Main Ridge Night Tennis: | tennismainridge@gmail.com 5989 6128 / 0408 382 453 |
| Marie Louise Hekel Anne Thomas | |
| Tennis Red Hill Adrian Clarkson | redhilltennisclub@gmail.com Club House 5989 2642 / 0414598923 |
| RECREATIONAL / LIFESTYLE CLUBS | |
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| Ann Hull | |
| MP Alpaca Breeders | 5989 2866 |
| David Daddo | |
| Peninsula Music Society | pmsmusic.asn.au 9789 8392 |
| David Fickling | |
| Seawinds Nursery Volunteers | 5987 3093 (Mon am) Meets Mondays 9:00am |
| Kathy Wyatt | |
| COMMUNITY / SERVICE CLUBS | |
| Red Hill Community Assoc. | redhillcommunityassociation@gmail.com 0415 514 440 |
| Kerry Watson | |
| Dromana & District Historical Society | dromanahs@gmail.com 5981 9119 |
| Jean Rotherham | |
| Lions Club Red Hill | Meets 2nd Monday Scott House 0408314800 |
| Bambi Blizzard | |
| Opportunity Shop Red Hill | redhillopshop@gmail.com 5988 0486. |
| Robyn Allan | |
| Red Hill Show | info@redhillshow.com.au 5989 2357 |
| | |
| St Georges Anglican Church | stgeorgesredhill@gmail.com 5981 2580 9.30 am Sunday 9am EveryWednesday |
| Revd Fiona Goy | |
| Scouts Red Hill | 1stredhillscouts@gmail.com |
| Yvette Richardson | |

A tour by Dromana & District Historical Society members, squeezed in between lockdowns in July 2021 reignited an interest in the lives of Andrew and Georgiana McCrae who had married in 1830. Later, they moved to the Port Phillip colony. They built a homestead which is now one of Victoria's oldest, original existing houses where they lived from 1844 until 1851.

THE McCRAE HOMESTEAD

The McCrae family built their home at the Arthur's Seat Run, a lease comprising 33 square miles or 20,500 acres (8,296 hectares). Andrew McCrae, a lawyer arrived in 1839 before his family. In 1840, he was joined by his wife Georgiana and their four boys, George - Gordon, Willie, Sandy and Perry who were born in Scotland. Travelling to a foreign country, Georgiana, a woman of strong character, required courage.

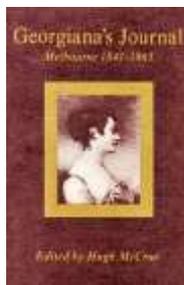
A Pioneer Woman, Georgiana Huntley McCrae 1804 – 1890

Georgiana became a significant figure in the early days of settlement with her charm and wit and cultivated tastes. This was in spite of being the illegitimate daughter of the 5th Duke of Gordon in Scotland. Fortunately, he ensured she had an exceptional education. She became a talented musician. With her artistic abilities, Georgiana was recognised as an excellent portrait painter who specialised in miniatures. To quote Georgiana who married in 1830 - **left my easel at home and changed my name.** She was originally forbidden by her husband to paint for money.



The McCraes were one of six pioneer families who established properties on the Mornington Peninsula. After a time in Melbourne, Andrew was involved in several financial misadventures. The parents sent their children to the Arthur's Seat lease. In keeping with her own education, Georgiana hired a tutor, John McClure, who was also given the challenge of building a dwelling on the lease before the permanent homestead was built. The four boys helped build the wattle and daub huts. Georgiana designed the house and each detail of the 3000 bricks necessary for the building. They were sent down the Bay from Williamstown to Arthur's Seat on the *Jemima*, a small sailing boat.

Georgiana kept a diary. This provides an insight into Peninsula life. In 1934 Hugh McCrae compiled **Georgiana's Journal**, an important resource for historians. Also included in the journal are the lively letters and observations of life in Melbourne.



The area around the Homestead was important to the local Bunurong tribe who would camp nearby and were befriended by the McCrae family. The pristine environment was teeming with bush creatures. The children explored the bush and learned to fish from the beach with wooden spears. Georgiana's skill managing the aborigines was a help to other run holders as she was useful as a drover of cattle and horses. She was renowned as a 'medicine woman'. A relationship evolved with Eliza, a Bunurong woman who taught Georgiana and her son, George, customs of the local tribe and words and songs from their language. Reference was made to the aborigines dying of diseases like infantile dysentery. These indigenous friends helped with chores and hazards such as snakes in the house. The garden was a challenge and a joy to develop - hence diary entries show a preoccupation with the weather. Georgiana made good use of the family connections entertaining frequent visitors including Lieutenant-Governor Charles La Trobe and his wife who became close friends.

At other times, it became tedious entertaining people who were curious about their lifestyle on the Arthur's Seat run.

1851 October: Yet a deeper sorrow has now arrived. I must say good bye to my mountain home, the house I have built,

the garden I have formed. The town of McCrae developed in the following years. Georgiana died in 1890.

The Burrell family lived at the Arthur's Seat cottage for seventy four years. In 1961, the homestead was repurchased in a visionary act by George Gordon McCrae. He was named after his grandfather and was thus Georgiana's great grandson. Following his death his son, Andrew, donated it to the National Trust in 1970. By then the exterior surroundings of the house were greatly changed by time and the original vast land run had shrunk to a mere few blocks with its view mostly obscured. The interior of the house was dilapidated, however, the roof construction survived the ravages of time, a reminder of the early pioneers.



Georgiana's talents are on display in a cabinet - her paint box and brushes and some examples of her exquisite miniatures, including a self-portrait, and paintings of her children and her Bunurong friend, Eliza. There is also a childhood drawing of a local corroboree by George Gordon McCrae.

The McCrae Lighthouse is a prominent landmark to visitors to the Mornington Peninsula. There are plans to restore it to its former glory. Hence the lighthouse will remain a shining beacon to the community and tourists in future years.

McCrae Homestead Visitors Centre
The homestead is run by the National Trust of Australia Mornington Peninsula branch, staffed by helpful volunteers.
A joy to visit.

Additional attractions

The Burrell Twycross Gallery built adjacent to the original homestead tells the story of the Burrell family and contains 19th century heirlooms, video presentations, original artefacts furnishings and the magnificent photographs of John William Twycross - Visions of Port Phillip.

Address: 11 Beverley Rd . McCrae 3938 (tucked in behind the McCrae shops)
Open: SUNDAYS 11.00am - 4.00pm
Admission :\$10.00 Concessions available (03) 5981 2866

Acknowledgements: McCrae Homestead brochures . Georgiana's Journal ed Hugh McCrae.

100 YEARS OF CRICKET CELEBRATED AT MAIN RIDGE



Main Ridge - the most picturesque ground on the Peninsula

“At the Main Ridge Cricket Club we celebrate success just as much when the fourth X1 team have success as we do when the first X1 team have success,” said Gareth Wyatt, responding after Club veteran Lloyd Hosking announced that Gareth had been selected as the Captain of the Team of the Century.

This egalitarian, inclusive philosophy is deeply embedded in the Club’s culture. It explains why the same surnames are repeated on the Club’s honour boards down through the years. Sons proudly follow fathers to play cricket for Main Ridge on the oval at the A. R. and F. Ditterich Reserve, recognised as the most

picturesque ground on the Peninsula.

It also explains why the Main Ridge Hall was crowded to celebrate the Club’s centenary on Sunday, February 20. Former players returned for the occasion and locals were pleased to see old friends, some who they had not seen for 40 years. Welcoming the gathering, John McEncroe, Club President now in his ninth year, rightly described it as a family club, ‘and the club is a family’, that has survived through hard times and good times. Later in proceedings, Stuart Rigby, another Club veteran went further. “In this Club we make friends for life,” he said.

Continued page 11 . . .



From the Lions' Den . . .



Red Hill Lions Members are back working on the parking for the market at Red Hill Recreation Reserve.

Lyn and Club mascot Leo are ready and roaring to go at the March market.

We would love some more volunteers to support this project.

Lions are also parking cars at the Red Hill Show.

If you would like to support this project contact Lions at

redhillvictions@gmail.com

Up coming projects. . .

- **COFFEE CONVERSATION CONNECTION**
Join us on the first Monday of the month for a casual catch -up.
- Plans are underway to hold an Easter Egg Hunt in Red Hill - watch out for information in the coming weeks.
- 75th Anniversary of Lions Clubs in Australia - local Lions are planning some garden projects to celebrate in September.
- Lions International Peace Poster competition - students 11-13 use art to interpret their ideas about peace, more information soon.
- Lions Junior Public Speaking Contest for years 3-6 .
- Club contest in July/August.



A large crowd attended the celebrations in the Main Ridge Hall.

Club record holders were acknowledged. Starting as a 12 year old, Lloyd Hosking, now 69, has played 528 games and holds the Club record for the most games played with 247 games in the first X1. Now in the twilight of his career he is captain of the third X1 team, and he was called to the stage to announce the Team of the Century. The 12 selected for the team were: Frank Ditterich, Robbie Holmes, Bill Martin, Rod Bright, Gareth Wyatt (Captain), George Fox, Marcus Wyatt, Ken Colwell, Les Bright, Danny Rea, Rod McWilliams and 12th man Pio Casagrande. Only four of the 12 players named were present: Robbie Holmes, Danny Rea, Rod McWilliams and Gareth Wyatt. Some, of course, have passed away while others have left the district. With legendary status, Gareth Wyatt was a popular choice as captain – Lloyd Hosking describing him as 'Main Ridge personified'.



Les and Heather Iapozzuto, both Life Members of the Club. Les played 470 games for Main Ridge to be second highest in number of Club games played.

Teams selected from players in three past decades were named and acknowledged in Teams of the Decade – 1990 to 1999, 2000 to 2009 and 2010 to 2019.

Gareth Wyatt, who has been Club champion ten times, was selected in all three of these Teams of the Decade while Travis Barker, Danny Rea, Marcus Wyatt, Jason Albress and Scott Miller were selected in two Teams of the Decade.



The only members of the Team of the Century present on the day: From left: Gareth Wyatt, Robbie Holmes, Danny Rea and Rod McWilliams.

As named players came on to the stage, MC, Jason Albress, revealed their statistics and then interviewed the captains of each team. On field and off field behaviour was recalled and the stories that emerged demonstrated the strong bond and camaraderie that existed during these decades.

For example wicketkeeper Ed Aarons was remembered for the day he made 97 runs facing Jayde Herrick from Somerville, an extremely fast bowler who had played in a Victorian team. Given the number of balls that struck his body he was black and blue and he is hailed as the bravest player at Main Ridge. "It was the most memorable innings of my career," Ed said.



Some of the organising committee: from left – Greg Hay, Lloyd Hosking, Gareth Wyatt and John McEncroe.

A committee, responsible for organising the celebrations comprised President, John McEncroe, Greg Hay, Gareth Wyatt, Lloyd Hosking, Mick Holmes, Stuart Rigby, Danny Rea and Brad Bryant along with Julie Redhouse who took charge of the catering.

Greg Hay is the author of an impressive 120 page centenary book which contains a history of the Club, including reports on important matches, press cuttings, photographs, statistics on players, life members, and much more. For \$30 it can be obtained from Greg Hay, email gha1980@bigpond.net.au

Photos: Peter Wakeman - RB.

Footnote: Kevin and Margaret Wyatt registered a warm hearted apology. They were flying to the Philippines on Sunday to be with their son Marcus, named in the Team of the Century, for his 50th birthday celebrations. They relied on Gareth for a full report of the day.

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Sunny Ridge would like to thank you for your continuous support during this difficult time. Please check our website and socials for opening hour and café specials