

## PRESIDENT'S REPORT 2021



This has been another challenging year for everyone.

Despite Covid lockdowns and the difficulties in getting together and arranging events, we have successfully continued to fulfil the Association's objectives.

### **1      ADVOCACY**

We have advocated on behalf of the community on varied issues:

#### **State Government Green Wedge Consultation**

In January 2021 we made a submission to the State Government as part of their Green Wedge consultation. This process aimed to collect information to assist in the development of proposed planning scheme reform options for Melbourne's Green Wedge and agricultural land. We provided members with a copy of our submission which reinforced the need to protect and preserve the character of our area and members were also encouraged to make their own submissions.

#### **AGL Crib Point Development**

We responded to considerable community concern over the unacceptable environmental consequences of the proposed gas import jetty at Crib Point. The Mornington Peninsula Shire produced a detailed and convincing report, and we wrote to the Minister supporting the Shire's position and endorsing their submission.

#### **Hillview Quarry Expansion**

We continue to monitor the progress of this proposal which has met with much community opposition. We now await the completion and publication of the environmental effects statement which is currently being prepared.

At a more local level:

#### **Centrepoint Planning Application**

The controversial Centrepoint planning issue was resurrected. This contentious plan for 23 short stay apartments at 159 Shoreham Road was originally approved in 2008 but the development has never been commenced. However, the existing permit has been extended year after year since 2012.

In March 2020 the owner applied to Mornington Peninsula Shire for approval of some amendments to the plans and requested yet another extension of the permit. The matter went back to VCAT. RHCA submitted a detailed objection and kept in touch with Shire planning officers in relation to the progress of the case.

Ultimately the owner decided to withdraw the VCAT application before the hearing which was due to take place in August 2021. The Shire has confirmed to us that there is now no valid permit in force and that any future development will require a completely new planning permit application.

## **2 LOCAL WORK PROJECTS**

We have continued to monitor and drive **local projects**.

### **Red Hill Station Reserve Master Plan**

Despite funding approval, Shire progress on the Red Hill Station Platform and Shelter has been very slow. Although the pine trees have been removed and the platform structure has appeared, the station shelter is yet to materialise. David Maddocks has tirelessly pursued the Shire and currently tenders are out for the work (for the second time). Hopefully the shelter will be built soon.

## **3 REPRESENT AND INFORM THE COMMUNITY**

We have represented and informed the community:

We regularly communicate and connect 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.

### **RAM**

We have continued to represent the Red Hill community at the quarterly Residents Associations Meetings where Councillor Gill and Shire officers provide information updates and field questions.

### **Information resources**

We have kept our members informed of community issues through emails, our website and our Facebook page which Kerry Watson keeps up to date. We are always looking for information and ideas of interest to our members.

Information is a two-way stream and we have welcomed information from members on issues of community concern such as safety hazards, vegetation clearing and planning proposals.

## **4 COMMUNITY EVENTS**

Amazingly in these Covid times, we have managed to hold several successful community functions:

### **Community BBQ**

Although delayed until March this year, we had a great turnout at our annual community BBQ. Everyone enjoyed the delicious BBQ cooked by our volunteers and activities included guided indigenous walks, live music, art activities for the children, and live animals handling.

Mayor Despi O'Connor and Councillor Gill were among our guests.

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 over 150 community members at our Anzac Day ceremony. Contributors to the ceremony, young and old, helped us remember the service and sacrifice of the men and women of Red Hill and Main Ridge and their families.

### Remembrance Day

By contrast, on Remembrance Day we were back to livestreaming our very simple ceremony on Facebook.

### Community Coffee Catchups

Our new monthly community coffee catchups have been successful when we were allowed to have them. 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 are open to all members and friends, and I encourage everyone to come along on the first Friday of every month.

It is a great way of catching up with others in the community - meet old acquaintances and make new friends. It also gives us an opportunity to get your feedback and suggestions.

## **5 THANKS**

I would like to thank all the committee members for their hard work this year; in particular, for their time and effort in mastering all the Covid rules and procedures to ensure that we could carry on with as many as possible of our usual activities.

Sadly, Sam and Briony will be leaving the committee due to their expanding work commitments. We have appreciated their younger and fresher input and we hope to see them back again.

John Eldridge will be stepping down as Secretary. I would like to thank him for all his hard work over the years in this position.

Our current membership stands at 56. 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**

In conclusion, looking forward, next year we would like to see:

Greater collaboration with other local community groups

A closer local connection with Mornington Peninsula Shire

More input from members – and generally more members!

As we leave the restrictions of Covid I hope that we move forward towards – more members, greater connection, and a new energy in our community and communication.

Carolynn Massola  
President, RHCA  
20 November 2021