

This year we have continued to pursue the aims of the organisation. This was despite lengthy absences for personal reasons of both our President and Vice-President.

Many thanks to the other members of the Committee who carried an extra load in our absence.

PROTECT LOCAL CHARACTER

We have continued to monitor and drive local projects with the aim of protecting and preserving the rural character of our area.

Red Hill Station Reserve Master Plan

After a very slow start, the Red Hill Station Platform and Shelter was eventually completed this year. RHCA secured the funding for the construction from Mornington Peninsula Shire as part of the Red Hill Station Reserve Master Plan and RHCA member David Maddocks has tirelessly led this development over the past five years. It was completed in time for the official opening in conjunction with our annual BBQ and our Association was proud to receive one of the 2023 Mornington Peninsula Heritage Awards for Excellence in Interpretive Signage and Replication of a Heritage Place.

Strategic Heritage Review

As part of the Shire's Strategic Heritage Review, we made a submission regarding several local sites including the Red Hill Recreational Pavilion, The Red Hill Mechanics Hall, Red Hill Cool Store, Red Hill Trading Company (Blue Moon) and certain of the school buildings. We are yet to learn the outcome of our submission.

Shoreham Road Upgrade

The Shoreham Road Upgrade was carried out by the Shire under the Black Spot Funding programme. We had discussions and correspondence with the Shire regarding the design plans and we did manage to have a few changes made to the original plans.

Under this programme further upgrades are planned to Arthurs Seat Road and Tucks Road and we have also had discussions with the Shire regarding these works.

INFORM AND REPRESENT

We have continued to represent and inform the community:

Resilience Group representation

RHCA is taking part in the Emergency Response Planning Workshops which have been organised under the auspices of the CFA, and which aim to strengthen resilience in the face of natural disasters and plan a co-ordinated local response in the immediate aftermath of such events.

REPOWER

John Eldridge has been our representative at RePower meetings, reporting back to us on the group's progress, and we have supported the organisation, forwarding information to our members.

RAM

We have attended the Resident's Association Meetings organised by local Councillor David Gill and the Shire.

Burning Off

We made a submission to the Shire regarding the proposed changes to the Local Laws regarding burning off.

Information resources

We continue to inform members on 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 and 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.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

We have held several successful community events:

Community BBQ and Opening of Station Platform and Shelter

In February we organised and hosted the official opening of the Red Hill Train Station Interpretative Platform and Shelter. The Mornington Peninsula Shire Mayor, Steve Holland, and Red Hill Ward Councillor, David Gill, cut the red ribbon together.

The official opening was followed by our annual BBQ in the community park. This event was made possible by funding from Mornington Peninsula Shire and generous donations of time, materials and produce from many local individuals, organisations and businesses and we thank them all.

Anzac Day

We had a wonderful community turnout again for Anzac Day. The Red Hill Consolidated School choir and the young students who read poems were much appreciated and local historian Roger Stuart-Andrews gave a thought-provoking address.

Remembrance Day

We also recently organised the Remembrance Day ceremony.

Thanks to David Maddock who was the main organiser for both of these events.

Bunnings Sausage sizzle

In August this year we manned the Bunnings Sausage sizzle stand for a day. This was our main fund-raising event and provided a greatly needed boost to our finances. Thanks to John Eldridge for organising this and all the volunteers who helped to man the stand.

Community Coffee Catchups

Our monthly community coffee catchups have continued this year on the first Friday of every month. These catchups are open to all members and friends and neighbours and are a great chance to catch up socially with other local residents.

THANKS

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

A very special thanks for his long service and invaluable contribution to John Eldridge who is stepping down from the committee this year.

I would also like to thank all our members for their interest and involvement. The voice of RHCA is only as strong as our member's voices and we urge our members to encourage their friends and neighbours to join the Association.

LOOKING FORWARD

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

Carolynn Massola
President, RHCA
25 November 2023