

## PRESIDENT'S REPORT 2024

Up until August this year things were fairly quiet.

### **REPRESENTATION**

We continued to represent the community in various ways:

#### **Resilience Group representation**

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

#### **RAM**

We have taken part the Resident's Association Meetings organised by local Councillor David Gill and the Shire. There we have discussed issues which affect the whole of our council ward with representatives of other local community associations.

For example, we supported the Shoreham Community Association in its fight for more consistent speed limits.

#### **Collaboration**

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 our local councillor.

### **INFORMATION**

We do our best to keep the community informed, through our website and our Facebook page and regular articles in the Hill'n'Ridge.

If you want to receive information from us in relation to the various issues which come to our attention, the best way is to become a member. We continue to inform members on community issues through emails.

## **EVENTS**

We had fewer organised events this year:

### **Anzac Day**

We had a wonderful community turnout again for Anzac Day. We appreciated the involvement of the Red Hill Consolidated School choir and the students who read the poems, the local Scouts, and Brett Trebilcock from our committee gave a very personal address.

### **Remembrance Day**

Our Remembrance Day ceremony will be held this coming Monday morning at 10.30.

Our thanks go to David Maddocks who is the main organiser for both of these events.

### **Community Coffee Catchups**

Our monthly community coffee catchups have continued this year on the first Thursday of every month. This year we have rotated the venue between Red Hill Café and Wine Bar, Food on the Hill and Nordies. These catchups are open to all members and friends and neighbours and are a great chance to catch up socially with other local residents and to discuss any current issues.

## **ARTHURS SEAT ROAD ROAD WORKS**

Our major work this year has been in relation to the Arthurs Seat Road roadworks.

The stated aims of our organisation are :

To protect and preserve the rural character in which we live  
to create an informed and active community  
to advocate on behalf of the community, and  
to provide a forum for community engagement

We have been heavily involved in all of these in relation to this campaign.

### **Our initial involvement –**

We were initially involved in November last year when we were invited to a preliminary meeting in relation to the federally funded Black Spot works, and later when we attended

the public meeting in March. On both occasions we gave our opinion that the proposed works were inappropriate and disproportionate to the risk, and that there were other spots of much higher priority. We followed up on both occasions, and later when the speed limit was reduced to 60k, with correspondence to and from the Shire. We were continually advised that, as the works had been approved, there was no scope for change.

### **Recent campaign**

As all of you will be aware, we have recently been co-ordinating the community's outraged response to the construction of the federally funded Black Spot safety barriers and signs, and also the separate Council funded civil works project in front of the service station and general store.

We have doing this in conjunction with the

Red Hill Fire Brigade

Red Hill and District Lions Club

Red Hill Agricultural & Horticultural Society

Red Hill Football & Netball Association

Mornington Peninsula Vignerons Association

Mornington Peninsula Tourism Board

Mornington Peninsula Hinterland Tourism Association, and now also the

Mornington Peninsula Landcare Network

Our recent representations to Council have been made jointly with these local organisations, and, in particular, the Red Hill Fire Brigade who are the first responders to any accidents.

We submitted our short form objections to the works in mid September. Since then we have had much correspondence with the Shire and various meetings and we have organised both an on-line petition and a local hard copy petition supporting our demands.

Because of the recent local council elections, the earliest date that these petitions can be presented to Council is at the meeting on 3 December.

We are about to submit our long form objections, together with the petitions in time for them to be considered at that meeting.

If you have not yet signed the petition, there is a copy at the door!

If you have been collecting petition signatures can you please get them to me or to the Vignerons Association Office next to Cellar and Pantry by Monday.

Currently we have over 1300 signatures on our hard copy petition and 714 signatures on our on-line petition.

We are concerned not only about these recent works, but also about the general failure on the part of the shire to consider these infrastructure projects in a holistic manner and in accordance with the council's own Green Wedge Management Plan.

A further concern is the failure to have any prior local consultation.

## **THANKS**

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

We were greatly saddened by the untimely death of our Vice President Rob Commerford in August, and we miss his humour and enthusiasm.

A special thanks to Jane Reynolds who has gone above and beyond in her role as secretary, especially recently in relation to the Barriers campaign.

I would also like to thank all our members for their interest and involvement

The current issue with the barriers and signs is a great example of everyone coming together to add their voice to our protest to the council. However, it's important that we have the support of the community all the time, and not just when there is something to protest about. The size of our membership adds weight to our voice when we advocate on behalf of the community – both against inappropriate changes but also when we seek improvements.

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. If you are here today and you are not a member, I urge you to join – we have membership forms at the door.

If you are a member, you might consider joining the committee.

## **LOOKING FORWARD TO THE COMING YEAR**

-We hope that we might still arrange a centenary dance in the Mechanics Hall here to celebrate its 100 years anniversary this year. Unfortunately, we have not had the capacity to organise it this year.

-We will keep up our campaign against the inappropriate works in Arthurs Seat Road.

-And, we will continue to monitor and oppose inappropriate development of all kinds, and lobby for our public funds to be applied to the highest priority projects.

We look forward to another year of strengthening and protecting our very special Red Hill community.

We ask for your help in joining us to do this.

*Carolynn Massola*  
*President, RHCA*  
9 November 2024