

# MORNINGTON PENINSULA RATEPAYERS & RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION INC.

Reg. No. A0034245B.  
PO BOX 4087, ROSEBUD VIC 3939

Newsletter – November 2014



President: Alan Nelsen: 5982 3821

Deputy President: Graham Harder

Committee Members: Mal & Doris Campbell 5982 2872,

Email contact: [alanne@ihug.com.au](mailto:alanne@ihug.com.au)

Secretary: Ian Morrison 0437 460 668

Treasurer: Graeme Morrison 5986 2891

Debbie Peters 5982 2528

## PRESIDENT'S REPORT

### *Please nominate for the 2015 Committee*

All committee positions become vacant at the AGM and **we urge you to nominate for any of the positions** below. We can always do with more help.

The committee comprises:

- President
- Deputy President
- Secretary
- Treasurer
- 3 Ordinary Members.

Members hold office from 1 Dec. 2014 to 30 Nov. 2015

A nomination form is enclosed; however, nominations will be taken from the floor on the day of the AGM. A financial member who is over 18 years is entitled to vote.

If you cannot assist with the committee, we can always do with more help. If anyone has computer skills in setting up and maintaining a basic website this would be really appreciated.

### *The 2014 report*

Once again 2014 was a busy year for the Association.

The extensive work involved with the Association cannot be underestimated and is indicated by the following which occurred during 2014:

- Over 2000 emails were sent or received on Association matters;
- 100 emails or letters were sent to, or received from, the Shire and Councillors;
- Over 50 emails/letters were sent to the local papers;
- 10 letters were sent to the *Herald Sun* or *The Age*;
- We were asked for comment by the media more than 20 times;

Some of the major issues in 2014 included:

**Southern Peninsula Aquatic Centre.** We worked closely with the Nepean Ratepayers' Association to successfully lobby against the pool on the Rosebud foreshore (see report below).

**Unsustainable Rate Increases.** We made a written submission and gave a presentation at the Shire's 223 Budget Hearing indicating that the current annual rate increases are not sustainable. Our rates have increased 150% over the last 11 years compared with the average of Melbourne's councils of only 118%.

**Complaint to the Government.** A comprehensive (85 page) complaint was made to the Ombudsman and Local Government Inspectorate regarding Shire impropriety.

**Peninsula issues.** Submissions and comments were made

## ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

**2 pm Sunday, 23 November 2014**

### Agenda:

President's report

Election of 2015 Committee

Guest Speakers: Crs Graham Pittock & Hugh Fraser

**Location:** Rosebud Library Meeting Room

Rosebud Central, McDowell Street, Rosebud  
(Melway Map 158 Ref D12)

on: the Government's proposal to introduce regional plans for our coast; various local planning issues: the electoral review for local councils: local issues such as re-appointment of the Shire CEO, CCTVs for Shire townships, and the Shire's waste management strategy

**Red Hill By-election.** We played a minor role by inserting advertisements in the local paper.

**Liaison with other Peninsula organisations.** We regularly liaised with other community organisations on the Peninsula with whom we have a close relationship.

**The work of our members in the community.** I would like to recognise the work of our members who are active in volunteering their time to many local community services. The work of people like Nan & Len Evans, Dee & Barry Robinson, Eunice and John Cain, Margaret Botari, Margaret Wilson, David and Janet Lines, Mal and Doris Campbell, and Gary and Sonia Howard, just to name a few, never ceases to amaze me.

**Involvement of your Committee Members.** Graeme Morrison and Debbie Peters are attending the Shire's forums on waste management, Graeme has also been recently elected onto the Shire's Rosebud Foreshore Committee and Ian Morrison is very active with a number community services for people on the peninsula. Mal & Doris Campbell are actively involved with Norm McKinlay's Friends of Chinaman's Creek and the Friends of Rosebud Foreshore

Finally I would like to thank the Committee for its support during 2014 which has made my task much easier. The Committee worked well together and has ensured that the Association can continue in 2015 with its valuable work of assisting members and making the Council accountable.

## SHIRE CEO NOT REAPPOINTED

The Mayor announced on 30 October 2014 that Dr Michael Kennedy will not be reappointed as Chief Executive Officer and, after 15 years, will conclude his position with the Shire on Friday, 14 November, 2014.

The local papers contacted the Association and asked for comment. Our response included the following comments:

*The Association hopes that a new CEO will be able to introduce harmony within the Council which has been bitterly divided over the last few years, most notably over the Southern Peninsula Aquatic Centre, where over a million dollars had been wasted in ten years attempting to locate the centre on the Rosebud Foreshore without success.*

*It also anticipates that the new administration will be more open and transparent, and there will be more fact and less "spin".*

Rumour is that there were over 100 applicants for the CEO's job and it is expected that an announcement will be made in the near future.

## **SOUTHERN PENINSULA AQUATIC CENTRE Hooray: A Pool Yes – No to Foreshore**

On 13 October 2014 the Council voted not to locate the Southern Peninsula Aquatic Centre of the Rosebud foreshore,

The Mayor, Cr Antonella Celi was directed against her wishes by the Council to write to the Minister for the Environment to withdraw "Consent for Use" of the foreshore. At the time of writing a response had not yet been received from the Minister.

One of the locations being considered for the Aquatic Centre is Rosebud Central in Wannaeue Place. Our past Secretary, Margaret Wilson, brought the potential of this site to the attention of the Committee in early 2012. This resulted in our Association strongly lobbying the Council for this site to be considered for SPA.

Our Association, the Nepean Ratepayers Association, and a large number of Peninsula community groups are looking forward to the officers recommending a more suitable location when they report back to the Council in early December.

## **PRO FORESHORE MIS-INFORMATION**

There has been a lot of misinformation circulated by the "Pro-Foreshore" group regarding the benefit of a foreshore location. The facts are:

1. Our Association has never opposed a pool – only its location on the foreshore.
2. The Shire's expert pool consultants clearly state that the patronage at Wannaeue Place would be the same as the foreshore location. That is, building the pool on the foreshore **will not** attract more users.
3. After ten years, the Shire is still no closer to getting Government permission to building the pool on the foreshore.
4. After three years the Shire had still not provided the Minister with any information on the seven items he required to be considered before he could give approval for the pool to be built on the foreshore.
5. The claim by the pro-foreshore group that the Government would pay for the pool is wrong. The Government only guarantees a contribution of \$3 million. The Shire has to find the other \$37 million.
6. To build a pool on the foreshore it would be necessary for the proposal to be passed by VCAT or an independent Government Planning Panel. This process would delay the project by about 18-24 months.

7. As the development on the foreshore does not comply with the Shire's own Planning Scheme or the Government's recently updated *Victorian Coastal Strategy 2014* then there is a very high risk that the development would not be approved by VCAT or a Planning Panel. (This is also the opinion of Cr Hugh Fraser who is a barrister and Cr Tim Woods who is a retired County Court Judge and past Vice President of VCAT with 40 years of experience in law.)

8. Before appearing at VCAT or a Planning Panel the Shire Administration proposed that another \$1.5-2 million would be spent on preparing detailed designs. There is a very high risk that this money would be wasted.

9. The rebuilding of the Memorial Hall which is an integral part of SPA Complex does not comply with the Liberal Government's *Victorian Coastal Strategy 2014*. In addition, both the Labor and Greens have opposed the foreshore.

10. The building of the pool on the foreshore is not consistent with the statements and policy of Premier Denis Napthine and Planning Minister Matthew Guy which oppose the use of open space for developments such as SPA.

11. Extra foundations would be required on the foreshore as special engineering is required because of the difficult geological ground conditions on the foreshore and this is estimated to cost an extra \$3-5 million.

12. The Port Phillip Bay foreshore does not belong to the Shire and is not for the exclusive use of a few noisy parochial Rosebud residents. It is Crown land which belongs to all Victorians. Over 50 Victorian community and environmental organisations have indicated their opposition to a foreshore location for the Aquatic Centre.

## **NEW MAYOR**

The new mayor for 2014 will be elected at the Council AGM on the 10 November 2014. The current Mayor had the casting vote on the Southern Peninsula Aquatic Centre because Cr Graham Pittock could not vote owing to Conflict of Interest with his gym in Dromana.

Depending on who is elected mayor the previous ruling group in Council may no longer have the casting vote on SPA.

## **SHIRE SALARIES**

Did you know that Shire senior officers receive the following salaries?

- 1 (CEO) is paid \$350,000 pa
- 3 are paid \$250,000 pa
- 1 is paid \$190,000 pa
- 6 are paid \$170,000 pa
- 13 are paid \$160,000 pa

That is, the top 24 senior staff earn a total of \$4.39 m. per annum.

## **SHIRE COMMUNITY SURVEYS**

Over the last few years the Shire has consulted the community on rates, and comment on the designs for SPA. However the Shire has not published in full the results of these surveys. Perhaps the answers they received were not what they expected. Hopefully, with a change in mayor and new CEO the full information will be presented on the website rather than the Shire's administration putting its own interpretation on the results.

Similarly, the Shire administration précis the public submissions to the 223 budget hearings. A number of

submitters have claimed that the précis do not fully reflect the thrust of their submissions. The additional cost to publish the submissions in full would probably be less than the cost for the staff to précis them.

## REPORTING A HAZARD TO THE SHIRE

The advertisement below appeared in our local paper recently. Unfortunately it did not give us time to bring it to your attention so we are printing this for your information. We believe ratepayers and residents should be able to report these issues at any time.

### WORKING TOGETHER FOR A SAFER SHIRE

October marks community safety month and the Shire has dedicated October 20-24 to Injury Prevention. During this week, community members are invited to advise the Shire of any safety hazards that require attention.

The Shire's Risk & Insurance Co-Ordinator, Jacqui Farquar, said hazards may include footpath defects, signage issues, dangerous intersections and other road safety issues such as line marking or vegetation encroachment.

To report a hazard:

- Use the Shire's Free App by downloading Mornington Peninsula Shire Community App. On your smartphone
- In person or in writing:  
90 Besgrove Street, Rosebud, Vic. 3939
- By email: [risk@mornpen.vic.gov.au](mailto:risk@mornpen.vic.gov.au)
- By fax: 5950 1430

## MEETING WITH THE LABOR CANDIDATE

Our Association is not party political but we were pleased to respond when Carolyn Gleixner, the Labor candidate for Nepean asked to meet the Association to familiarise herself with our issues. We met on two occasions and were able to advise her of issues on the Peninsula which had come to her attention. Ms Gleixner is opposed to the location SPA on the foreshore.

## SHIRE MANAGEMENT OF OUR WASTE

Committee members Debbie Peters and Graeme Morrison are representing our Association at the Shire's forum on waste management.

In our last news letter we reported that around 100 people from across the Peninsula met to participate in the Shire's review of the existing Waste Management Strategy.

Subject to the costs being similar 50% of those participating wanted to develop the remaining Rye Tip space and 50% wanted the waste to be trucked off the Peninsula.

At this point in time there has been no further information and the new draft strategy is intended to be released late 2014.

**HILLVIEW QUARRIES**  
**PTY LTD**  
A.B.N. 52 004 723 460

**John Wood**  
SALES MANAGER

P.O. Box 148 Hillview Quarry Drive Dromana Vic 3936	Telephone: 03 5987 2600 Facsimile: 03 5981 0797 Mobile: 0410 567 244 Email: <a href="mailto:john@hvq.com.au">john@hvq.com.au</a>
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## RED ALERT...HANDS OFF...CAMPAIGN LAUNCH

Ian Morrison, Secretary, MPRRA reports:

Kate Baillieu, a prominent Peninsula resident and an active conservationist, and Ursula de Jong, President of the Nepean Conservation Group made it very clear on Sunday 26 October at an afternoon rally in the Point Nepean National Park, that a large number of publicly minded people object to the proposed commercial development in a national park. Hundreds of people heard from a series of concerned speakers that planned luxury tourist destinations of an international standard hotel, spa and function centre would be offered on a 99 year lease.

Committee Members of the MPRRA, including Doris and Mel Campbell and Melbourne Town Crier Ian Morrison, also a member of the South Eastern Centre of Sustainability Inc., were present as was local environmentalist Malcolm Brown and strong supporter of wildlife protection in the well behaved and colourful picnic crowd.

Kate Baillieu spoke passionately about her concerns that the public had waited long enough for previous governments to clear and redesignate this crown land as a public area safely in a national park for all to enjoy.

Not surprisingly there was a notable absence of local politicians especially Environment Minister Ryan Smith, local state MLA Martin Dixon and Federal Minister for the Environment Greg Hunt who continues to cause local concern by his lack of participation and expected support for such an important issue. It was left to the Health Minister David Davis on the GTV 9 News at 6pm to comment upon the government's intention to allow minimal commercial development incorporating the deteriorating quarantine station buildings into modern hotel and spa facilities without providing proper plans or costings.

Martin Dixon claimed that the opponents of this proposal were putting out lies was fairly predictable seeing as it's an election year. He didn't back down from the proposal to use a small part of the national park and lamely justified it by saying without commercial intervention, the existing historical houses would fall down. No mention was made of the existing efforts to keep these buildings in good condition or an appeal to the National Trust for possible maintenance as has happened successfully in several other well known heritage listed properties such as Como, Ripponlea and McCrae Cottage.

It appears that Peninsula residents are proud of this local amenity, must unite to get the message across to our local politicians and Shire councillors included, as it was evident that none of them attended the Sunday Rally either. Conservation groups, historical societies, traditional owners of this land, families, residents and ratepayers must all keep this issue foremost in their thoughts and possible approaches to the relevant state and federal authorities. If we don't, then precious healthy holidaying and recreational grounds will be annexed by non inclusive outside commercial interests that will in reality gain freehold in the form of a 99 year lease, over what is public land for all Australians to have access to.

## FINANCE REPORT

Bank account balance (Nov AGM)	\$1777.40
Income/Expenses to 31 Aug 2014	\$384.13
Bank account balance (31 Aug 2014)	\$2,161.53



**MORNINGTON PENINSULA RATEPAYERS' AND RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION Inc.**

Registered No. A0034245B ABN 68 237 052 699

PO Box 4087  
Rosebud Vic 3939

**MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL 2015**

I wish to renew my membership of the Mornington Peninsula Ratepayers and Residents Association Inc

We appreciate your support and your membership helps us to continue to represent and put forward ratepayers' and residents' views to the Council and other government organisations.

TITLE.....FAMILY NAME..... OTHER AMES.....

RESIDENTIAL ADDRESS.....POST CODE .....

POSTAL ADDRESS.....POST CODE .....  
(If different from above)

TELEPHONE..... EMAIL.....

.I enclose my remittance covering:

Annual Subscription ( <b>\$10 per person</b> )	\$ .....
Donation	\$ .....
Total	\$ .....

I agree to abide by the rules of the Association (Signed) ..... Date.....

Send completed form and remittance payable to: **MPRRA, PO BOX 4087 Rosebud Vic 3939**

**NOMINATION FORM FOR ELECTION TO THE COMMITTEE OF MANAGEMENT 2015**

PLEASE USE BLOCK LETTERS

I, [name] ..... [signature] ..... [date] .....

of, [address] .....

being a financial member of the Mornington Peninsula Ratepayers' and Residents' Association Inc.

nominate [name] .....for the position of .....

and

I, [name] ..... [signature] ..... [date] .....

of [address] .....

accept the nomination for the position of [position nominated for] .....

The completed form must be returned to the Secretary, PO Box 4087, Rosebud 3939 (7) days prior to the date of the AGM