



MORNINGTON PENINSULA RATEPAYERS' & RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION INC.

Reg. No. A0034245B.

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President: John Cain 5986 7449

Secretary: Alan Nelsen 5982 3821 Treasurer: Debbie Peters 5982 2528

Committee Member: Jane Clarke 0478 605 81

NEWSLETTER - MARCH 2018

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

May I offer my belated best wishes for 2018. As Dr. Spock would say "May you live long and prosper". I became President of this long established organisation because I did not want to see the demise of an Association that has a fine record in fighting for the ratepayers of the Southern Peninsula.

My late wife, Eunice, was part of the original committee back in 1997 when it was started over a rubbish collection issue. Your current committee of Alan Nelsen, Debbie Peters, Jane Clarke and I will, as always, be strong advocates on your behalf. This Association can only function as a group as long as we have a strong committee, so please, I would be very happy if, come next election, to see a few more hands up to nominate for a job.

Barry Robinson, Nancy and Alan Nelsen and I attended the funeral of Joy McDonald. Joy was a long time staunch supporter of this Association and will be sadly missed. Our deepest sympathy is extended to her family.

You may have read of my encounter with an unscrupulous stone mason. That has happily been resolved with the help of Stan Harris of Cameo Memorials. His main establishment is opposite the Fawcner cemetery in Melbourne, but, he also has a showroom next door to Bunurong Cemetery on Frankston-Dandenong road. I cannot speak too highly of him or his staff.

John Cain, President

NEXT YEAR'S RATE INCREASE

The rate cap for 2018-19 has been set by the Government at 2.25%.

The Council has until 31 March 2018 to apply for an increase greater than 2.25% but unless there are exceptional circumstances it will not be approved.

In addition you will be required to pay a waste service charge still to be determined but it was \$197 for 2017-18. If you had a green waste bin you had to pay a further \$135

We will be watching to see if the Council try and increase rates and its waste collection charge by than 2.25%.

RUBBISH BIN COLLECTION – Are we being ripped off?

On the Government's website the Shire says that the cost to collect a garbage bin is **\$61.65** yet we pay **\$197**. The website also says that the cost to similar councils to the Shire is \$96.95 and for all Victorian councils is \$102.30.

The Sunday Herald Sun (11 March 2018) said that there

NEXT PUBLIC MEETING

2 pm Monday, 26 March 2018

Guest Speaker: Tootgarook Swamp Update

**Location: Rosebud Library Meeting Room
McDowell St, Rosebud
(Melway Map 158 Ref D12)**

are seven metropolitan councils - which do not charge separately for rubbish – will be forced to apply for an increase to the Essential Services Commission because of the ban China has announced on importing low quality recyclable material. What will our Council do?

UPDATE ON THREE STOREY HOUSING

A big thank you to the members of our Association who letterboxed the petition opposing the increase by the Government in the Shire from two to three storeys up to 11 metres high.

Peninsula Speaks estimates that over 10,000 petitions have been delivered to Parliament and reports "The Shire has now completed the Housing and Settlement Strategy which demonstrates that the Peninsula can cope with our appropriate share of growth without 3 storeys and incursions into Green Wedge. Much "advocacy" is going on quietly and we need to keep focussed on achieving the appropriate results."

The Shire will now write to the Minister asking that he formally approve implementation of an Amendment to the Planning Scheme. This is the start of a long winded process which can take up to 18 months and involves putting the new height limits out for public exhibition and comment.

However if the Minister does give approval to exhibit the change, the Shire can refuse applications for 3 storey. If developers appeal to VCAT generally accepts the proposed Amendment as being "substantially entertained" and will not overturn the Council's decision.

THAT POOL

The Shire decided to conduct a poll from December to February on whether the community wanted a 10-lane, 50 metre or 10-lane, 25-metre pool for Rosebud.

Despite an independent report and the officers recommending only a 25 metre pool, the Council voted under pressure from the pool lobby group on 13 March to construct the 50 metre pool but with a maximum cost of \$41.6 million.

The pool has 10 lanes, a learn to swim pool, hydrotherapy pool, children's' splash pool, a gymnasium and a fitness and wellness centre. The report indicated

that on average there would only be 2 extra people swimming in the 50 metre pool compared to the 25 metre pool.

The pool will not pay for itself and we estimate that it will require \$5-6.5 million a year subsidy from rates for at least 15 years. We will be opposing any increase in our rates to pay for it.

GREEN WEDGE MANAGEMENT PLAN

The Shire is able to retain its "country feel" and avoid over development because much of the Peninsula is zoned "Green Wedge". This limits subdivision in areas such as Red Hill, Main Ridge, Cape Schanck, Moorooduc, Boneo, Flinders and parts of Mt Martha, Mornington, Rosebud and Mt Eliza.

The Shire says: "The Green Wedge is seen as an area with a role that is different from other parts of the Melbourne metropolitan region, particularly the residential Growth Areas, but one that is critical to the future quality of life enjoyed by all Melbourne's residents. Equally, Council's vision seeks to value, protect and improve the unique characteristics and way of life on our Peninsula, and the Green Wedge is a critical part of this vision."

Anyone wishing to make an initial verbal submission to Council may do so at a Forward Planning Committee meeting to be held on the 21 March 2018, at the Rosebud Offices.

The Plan can be viewed on the Council's website and initial comments/submissions are invited until Thursday 5 April 2018.

TOOTGAROOK SWAMP UPDATE

Cameron Brown will report on the latest developments for the Tootgarook Swamp at our next meeting. The Shire is in the process of negotiating to purchase the land at 92 Elizabeth Avenue. Our Association supported Tootgarook Swamp Inc at VCAT opposing the 99 lot subdivision

PUBLIC TRANSPORT

On 25 February 2018 the Association wrote to the Minister for Public Transport asking for consideration to:

- extend the existing 781 and 785 buses along Bungower Road, Mornington to include the retirement village, school, and residential area;
- extend the 782 and 783 bus along High Street, Hastings to Western Port Secondary College and Hastings Community Health Centre;
- increase the frequency of the 788 bus from 45 minutes during peak hours to 30 minutes during week days and on Saturdays, Sundays and public holidays from 75 minutes to 60 minutes; and
- ensure that any changes to planning provisions do not prevent the extension of the electrified train service in the longer term to Baxter.

A commitment to full consultative review on the Mornington Peninsula with all recommendations enacted in a timely manner.

STONY POINT TO COWES CAR FERRY

The Stony Point to Cowes car ferry, like a bridge across the Heads, surfaces every few years and dies. A car ferry, like the one to Queenscliff, busses and trains are a State

Government responsibility and the Shire has no right to get involved in contributing to the cost of construction or operation. The only way it will be viable is if the State Government is prepared to heavily fund it.

The Shire has previously advised that Shire will not be contributing to any of the infrastructure, operation or maintenance costs of a car ferry service between Stony Point and Cowes.

You can have your say on:

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/ZGJX768>

CALL TO BAN JET SKIS

Michelle Cheers, Chair of the Rye Community Group Alliance called for support to ban jet skis from Rye to Point Nepean National Park. Over 3,000 people signed a petition.

The petition says: "No one who lives in or visits Rye to Portsea or anywhere else on the Mornington Peninsula wants their peaceful holiday or day at the beach ruined by the continual noise of jet skis".

REVIEW OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT

A review is being undertaken of the Local Government Act which sets out the rules for how Councils are to operate including, rating, budgeting, financial reporting, election of Councillors, and how Council and staff behave

Our Association assisted Ratepayers Victoria to prepare a submission on the review of the Local Government Act which sets out the rules which Councils must follow.

We made the following points

- In our view the proposed Act is still over complicated and almost impossible to follow unless you are lawyer.
- Previously complaining about a Council or a Councillor has been a complete waste of time. (There are over 3,000 complaints a year about Councils.) **We suggested that a special Local Government Ombudsman should be established to hear complaints**
- The Government wants to change how many Councillors represent a Ward. **We do not want to return to the past where we only had one Councillor representing a Ward.**
- The general assessment of the new Act is that the officers and staff will have more control. **We believe Councillors are elected to run the Council and they are clearly responsible.**
- The Minister is going to appoint 5 Mayors to form an Advisory Committee. **We believe the Minister should also appoint and meet with an Advisory Committee made up of Ratepayers' Groups.**

TREASURER'S REPORT 31/1/18

Balance 31/10 2017	\$2,164.71
Income	\$ 195.00\
Expenses	\$ 256.30
Funds Available	\$2,103.4

ANNUAL FEES

The Annual Fees of \$5 per person for 2018 are now due if you have not already paid.



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

Registered No. A0034245B ABN 68 237 052 699

*PO Box 4087
Rosebud Vic 3939*

ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTION 2018

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 ratepayers and residents.

TITLE.....FAMILY NAME..... OTHER
NAMES.....

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

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

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

I enclose my remittance to **MPRRA** covering:

Annual Subscription (\$5 per person)	\$.....
Donation	\$.....
Total	\$.....

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

Date.....

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