



NEPEAN RATEPAYERS ASSOCIATION INC.

Engaging the Nepean Ward in supporting a sustainable community

NEWSLETTER – December 2017

Dear Members

Another year has almost past us by and we have continued advocating on behalf of the ratepayers of the Nepean Ward in an effort to look after this beautiful part of the world.

This year has seen the completion of two projects that the NRA has been involved in for several years:

- The public toilets in George Street, Sorrento have finally been replaced with six modern, fully automated toilet cubicles and the new tourist information kiosk has been completed. We believe these two new pieces of infrastructure are a significant improvement to the amenity of Sorrento.
- The coastal pathway and seawall around the Eastern Sister Headland, Sorrento, has been completed. This pathway provides coastal access between Camerons Bight Beach and Sullivan Bay. It also protects the headland cliffs from further erosion by the sea.

Weekly Collection of Recyclables

The weekly collection of recyclables is back for the summer. This initiative was proposed by the NRA some time ago and trialled last summer. It really made a big difference by significantly reducing the amount of recyclable rubbish that was left beside bins and blown around due to overflowing bins. The weekly collections will commence on Monday 18 December and run until February 4.

White Cliffs to Camerons Bight Foreshore Reserve

The NRA has been advocating for improvements to the bay trail for many years and commends the White Cliffs to Camerons Bight Foreshore Committee of Management (WCCBFCM) and the MPS for recent resurfacing work undertaken on sections of the trail.

The path between Tyrone Boat Ramp and Flinders Street has been resurfaced and work is now underway on the sections of the trail between Flinders Street and the Tyrone Foreshore Reserve.

The entire reserve is looking really good at the moment and well worth a visit.

Blairgowrie 3942

This group has continued its great work this year lobbying the MPS and State Government for improvements around the Blairgowrie area. Their focus has been on traffic and pedestrian movement and safety as well as fuel reduction to lessen the fire risk.

This group has been chaired by Judy Walsh for several years. Judy is not nominating to be Chair for 2018 as she is moving to Rosebud. She will be greatly missed, as will her knowledge, experience and commitment to the Blairgowrie area. I would like to thank her very much on behalf of the Nepean Ratepayers for her years of voluntary service.

The Continental Hotel

As you are probably aware (there has been plenty of publicity), the Owner/Developer has been granted a permit to develop the hotel and has secured the finances to commence the project. The NRA remains concerned about the impact this development will have on traffic and parking in the vicinity and ensuring that the integrity of this iconic building is maintained. The NRA will continue to monitor progress to ensure that all protections included as conditions to the permit are adhered to.

Rye

MPS is currently completing the missing link footpath along Point Nepean Road in Rye.

Stage 1 works include the construction of a path along the inland side of Point Nepean Road between Canterbury Jetty Road and the Tyrone Boat Ramp carpark.

Stage 2 will include a new footpath to connect the new Stage 1 footpath and the existing footpath at Minnamurra Road in Rye.

Stage 3 Heritage Review

The Mornington Peninsula Shire (MPS) is currently undertaking a project to list and evaluate/revaluate all properties that are on a Heritage List. The NRA together with Nepean Conservation Group (NCG) and Nepean Historical Society (NHS) are represented on the community group which meets with Shire Officers and the Heritage Consultants who have commenced listing and rating properties. These include buildings and dwellings that are Post World War that are of significant architectural value.

The consultants are required to:

- Review all places within the existing HO1 (Sorrento Historic Precinct) and specifically assess properties within this area for individual heritage protection. For any remaining features or places in HO1 (not identified as having individual status) the consultants were required to provide ratings of either 'contributory' or 'non-contributory' to the overall heritage character and integrity of the precinct.
- Review all places along the bay side of Point Nepean Road between the Sorrento Historic Precinct and Point Nepean.

The outcome will be to ensure that all properties of Heritage value or significant architectural value are protected by relevant zoning and/or Overlays.

Portsea Beach

The NRA remains strongly opposed to the Victorian Government's decision to replace the sandbag wall with a permanent rock revetment wall at the Portsea Beach. We believe that this option is a short term "fix" which will not restore this iconic beach. We also believe that this decision was made considering the cost of various options and not the effectiveness of each of the options identified.

As most of you will be aware the NRA together with the Portsea Foreshore Advisory Group (PFAAG) have commenced a campaign to encourage the Government to rethink its decision and reconsider our preferred option which is to have the waves diverted from the front beach. This involves reshaping a section of the south boundary of the South Channel, to extend westwards the "sand trap" installed in the same area in the Channel Deepening Project, and approximately due south of Queenscliff. The result is the deflection of the ocean swells in a new direction, which is more directly east along the south channel, where the incoming swells have historically travelled.

We have appointed lobbyists and public relations experts to persuade the Government to alter their decision.

We have received many donations to fund this campaign and we hope to have more positive news to share regarding this matter in the New Year.

You're Feedback

As you know we rely on you, our members, to keep us informed regarding your views on matters of concern including the performance of the MPS and ideas for improvement. We will work closely with our Nepean Ward councillors Hugh Fraser and Bryan Payne to ensure that all relevant authorities are aware of our views, and decision making is influenced where possible.

I would like to thank the members of our committee who volunteer their time to get involved in local projects, planning matters and discussions with our councillors, the MPS and State Government Departments. It is worth reminding members of the purpose of the NRA.

1. To represent the interests of the Nepean Ward Ratepayers on appropriate issues which reflect the opinion of the majority.
2. To safeguard the natural environment and improve the residential amenities and unique recreational facilities of the Nepean Ward.
3. To cater for the needs of visitors within the Nepean Ward with Ratepayers' paramount interests.
4. To lobby for and financially assist if appropriate candidates who may wish to stand for Council and who have satisfied the Association that the candidate's aims and objectives are consistent with those of the Association.
5. To arrange as far as possible that the Councillors for the Nepean Ward comprise equitable representation of the areas within the Ward.
6. To ensure in the Nepean Ward equitable expenditure of the funds comparable with that in other Ward.

Have a very safe and festive holiday season.

Yours sincerely

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