

SHOREHAM COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

President's Report – First Annual General Meeting

Held in the Old Shoreham School Hall, on Sunday 14th October 2012 at 11.00 am

Welcome. Today's first Annual General Meeting is a further demonstration of the vibrant communal spirit of the many people who identify with the place they know as 'Shoreham'...people of various ages and relationships who form a village that is spread across about two kilometres of coastline, and with a hinterland of paddocks, light timbered hills and creek valleys.

Particularly, the existence of this Association is a result of the dedicated work over more than five years, of the Shoreham Village Community Taskforce, created and sustained by a defiant but responsible Shoreham community. I am very pleased to state that the Taskforce, so capably led by Leo Maher and Trevor Sammells, continues to operate with the goal of appropriate development of the Post Office and former General Store sites, but now as a group connected to the Association.

Let me introduce the members of the Committee of Management to you. (I invite Committee members to identify themselves). Rob Patrick (Vice President and Convenor of the Strategic Planning Standing Committee); Barb Kelly (Treasurer and Membership Convenor); Gina McInnis (Secretary, Public Officer, and Newsletter/Website Convenor); Peter Kelly (Convenor, Facilities and Works Standing Committee); Linda McLeish with Lee Collins (Convenor, Building Community Standing Committee involving social and youth activities - Standing Committee); Steve Dolman (Media Convenor); Sue Boggan; Helen Alcock; and Wolf Passauer.

The place 'Shoreham' has a history, and Committee members regard ourselves as custodians of Shoreham's rich heritage. For many, many years this location has been the home of the 'First People', the Boonwurrung clans. The foundations of modern settlement came with the squatters Charles and Frederick Manton, and in 1846, with the first selector, Henry Tuck and his family. The character of Shoreham is unique – because today descendants of the Tuck family and other founding families, enjoy living here. That character is also shaped by many family members, who for generations came, and still come to stay at, and contribute to, Shoreham. The striking natural features of this coastal village continue to bring others to live here permanently, or to make this locale a most enjoyable holiday experience.

Today, Shoreham's people participate in many activities, form networks and belong to organisations – we are families, neighbours, parents and school students, residents of the Nursing Home, and campers; we meet at the beaches to surf and swim, at the Mobile Library, at Book Discussion Groups, as Walkers, as we wait for the school bus, or when playing tennis; we belong to the St Peter's Catholic Church parish, the CFA brigade, Community Fireguard groups, the Foreshore Reserve Committee, Historical Society; and we are Hall users, often together with people from around the region: at Tai Chi and U3A classes, or as members of Friends of Manton and Stony Creek Land Care, or the Red Hill Ward Consultative Group; and there is a private school campsite, ...and of course, our social hub is now at the Post Office.

There is no doubt that people come to Shoreham to experience, share and nurture its distinct physical and social environment.

Let me briefly remind you of the process that saw the arrival of the Association.

- at a community meeting arranged by the Taskforce in February 2010, an Interim Working Group of seven residents was appointed to consider how a representative organization could identify and realise Shoreham's common interests;
- in April 2010, the Interim Working Group called a community meeting to report progress on its task. By then a vital matter of interest had emerged - the future of the Shire-owned land surrounding the CFA building between Stony Creek, Byrnes Road and the Flinders-Hastings Road, zoned Green Wedge. So this meeting focussed on asking the community what ideas it had about the development of the 'Shoreham Triangle'. The meeting sanctioned the Working Group to represent community views to, and liaise with, the CFA, the Shire, VicRoads, and South East Water;
- in conjunction with Shire officers (particularly Simon Thorning) and Cr Frank Martin, the Working Group devised a Questionnaire surveying residents' and property owners' attitudes regarding three alternative options for the development of the "Triangle"; a very good response rate, and a further consultation meeting, secured the Shire's adoption of the majority views expressed by the community; and since then the 'Triangle' has begun to take shape, assisted by two well attended Planting Working Bees of residents, friends and family members arranged by Peter Kelly in conjunction with Shire Officers – Matt Stahmer has especially assisted;
- in April 2011, the Working Group arranged a public meeting so that the community's formal authority was obtained to form a Community Association; at the meeting an Interim Committee, including office bearers, was elected with a mandate to do all work necessary to establish an Association;
- at a later public meeting on 4th June 2011 the Association was officially created with elected office bearers and committee.

What has the Committee achieved over the 12 months?

- Incorporation – thank you Gina McInnis for overseeing this task, including obtaining an ABN number. Cr Frank Martin assisted financially with an establishment grant. Barb Kelly arranged our public liability insurance policy too.
- One of the initial tasks undertaken by the newly elected Committee of Management in June 2011 was to apply for legal incorporation of the Shoreham Community Association. The application required the Committee to determine the Purpose of the Association. You will have read the list of Purposes on the Association's excellent website. The list encapsulates the community mood that underpinned the Association's formation. Five of the nine purposes listed in our Constitution illustrate this:
 - + "to build on the unique character of Shoreham"
 - + "to create and facilitate an informed and active community"
 - + "to investigate concerns of community members and advocate in their interest about matters that may affect their well being or lifestyles"
 - + "to identify and define the future character and essential services for Shoreham, including natural environment, through community consultation"
 - + "to identify community needs, develop strategies, and facilitate actions to address these needs"
- The Committee has met on a monthly basis. The executive has met on a

number of occasions too. Remember - the Minutes of meetings are available on the website, or on the SCA's noticeboard located in the Post Office foyer. Also - Remember Committee meetings are open to members and interested persons to attend.

- Membership during the year has grown to 258. Rob Patrick analysed the addresses of the members (excluding those with a PO Box address) and discovered that all parts of Shoreham are represented – although Beach Road and Coryule Estate were relatively low in numbers. It's time to renew your membership now!

- Communication with members has been taken seriously and consequently newsletters, emails, and website entries and updates, have been ways to inform and make contact. Thanks to Gina McInnis and Linda Patrick for your work in setting up and maintaining the website).

- Attention has been given to effective organization. The Committee has formed a number of Standing Committees with Convenors. Each of these Standing Committees has an approved 'Terms of Reference'. Importantly, the Committee has prepared a list of SCA's short, medium and long term Objectives, which gives it a program to work on. Obviously, continuing the development of the 'Triangle', is a 'short term' Objectives; others are: relating to, and supporting, the CFA and Foreshore Reserve Committee, holding community building activities such as the Community Dinners, getting appropriate results at the Post office and general store sites, development of the 'Common' and refurbishment of, and improved facilities including paths and lighting, at the Hall. Medium Objectives include: improving and maintaining road and road reserve verges, better road speed limits; while 'long term Objectives' include: a new Hall, and walking and bike tracks linking Shoreham with Pt Leo alongside the Flinders-Hastings Road and, after effective consultation with residents, Foreshore Reserve Committees, Shire, DSE and land owners, the construction of a path along the perimeter of the coastline, but behind the dunes.

- Steve Dolman, with photos often taken by Rob Patrick, has written numerous local newspaper articles concerning Shoreham issues and activities. We appreciate the support we have received from WesternPort News, Keith Platt its Editor, and Mike Hast, journalist.

- In conjunction with Flinders Community Association, SCA has sought the establishment of an Ambulance Station located at a Westernport village. We have collected data from Ambulance Victoria, invited support from local schools, medical centres, etc., and continue to lobby the State Government.

- SCA in May 2011 joined with Flinders Community Association, Red Hill Community Action, Somers Residents Association, Merricks Beach Residents Association, Balnarring Beach Ratepayers and Cr Frank Martin, Red Hill Ward, Mornington Peninsula Shire to form the Red Hill Ward Consultative Group. Meeting monthly, the Associations have direct access to Shire personnel and the Council, as well as voicing matters of common interest across the Ward and taking joint action.

- Sue Boggan and Rob Patrick prepared a submission, and with myself, spoke to it at a Planning Panel Hearing in July 2011 regarding an extended Heritage Overlay proposed for the precinct including Byrnes Road, the Post Office, the Common, the Avenue of Honour, and Old School Hall. SCA argues against the extension. The Panel determined likewise.

- Last year, with initiative from Steve Dolman, Shoreham residents were able to join a bulk buying electricity purchasing scheme enabling lower power costs.

- Together with residents of the neighbourhood around the Pine Grove Reserve, in September 2011, SCA successfully lobbied the Shire with its objection to a proposed 'Leash-free' area for dog owners. A victory to report!

- Another win! Initiated by parent agitation for a reconstructed Bus Shelter in Byrnes Road, the Working Group lobbied Shire officers during 2011, until eventually a new shelter was built. A fun 'Opening Ceremony' was held in October 2011;

- Towards the close of 2011 the Shire took over direct administration of the Old School Hall from the local Hall Committee. Thank you to Ann and John Lorkin, and earlier Peter Carroll, (no doubt others), who maintained the business of the Hall. How the new arrangement will proceed, including fees treatment, is slowly unfolding. The condition of the Hall is not good, and has been reported to Cr Martin and Shire Officers. A new local advisory committee is promised too.

- An application to the Shire for a Community Grant was prepared by Linda McLeish and Barb Kelly. They successfully argued the case of Shoreham needing funds to build community through community dinners (held about every four months) and social events, such as the tremendous Cabaret with the Perch Creek Family Jug Band – together with young musicians in May this year. The grant received from the Shire = \$1,990. A very special thanks go to Linda McLeish as Cabaret and Community Dinner organiser...assisted by Lee Collins, Maddy and Alan Machin, Michael Stephens, Dave...??, Brian and Helen Alcock and the CFA, young people and Committee members.

- Personal water craft are a concern to beach users. At the Committee meeting in May 2012 Wayne Hill, Manager Local Port Programs, Parks Victoria discussed the law and who has power to administer it. Cooperation with the Foreshore Reserve Committee has been arranged.

- In June this year Rob Patrick and I attended a public outline of the Shire's Proposed Budget 2012/13. After Committee discussion, the SCA made a submission to Council firmly articulating the need for next year's Budget to satisfy Shoreham needs and interests. In July, Rob and I emphasised highlights of our submission at a special Council Committee hearing.

- SCA made a submission to the Shire's consultation in July 2012 concerning a 'Mornington Peninsula Planning Statement', after members attended a number of the local conversation sessions.

- SCA has responded to the 'Planning Zone Reform' proposal of Matthew Guy, State Minister for Planning. In September just passed, Rob Patrick and I wrote a submission that requests a separate Planning Statement for the Peninsula, and tackles the threats to Shoreham's and the Peninsula's character on economic, environmental and planning grounds.

- One of SCA's items submitted at the Shire's Budget hearing was the need for a new Community Hall. Achieving a new Hall with Council finance is one of SCA's important goals; and in partnership with the Shire, drawing up a landscape design for the development of the Common. Rob Patrick and Peter Kelly have represented SCA's interests.

- Everyone knows of the regular rain fall throughout most of this year and its bad effect on roads, gutters and drainage. With the Foreshore Reserve Committee and of our own accord (eg. in our Budget submission), SCA has made a number of requests to the Shire/Council to assess the damage and undertake a works program to rectify the situation. Again Peter Kelly, Rob Patrick and I have expressed a need for urgent attention on these matters.

- The Taskforce's latest news on Post Office site – now that the fuel tank has been removed, and it has been clarified that there are no signs of soil contamination, it is understood that the developer is now preparing a design plan to submit to the Shire for a Planning Permit.. a general store incorporating a post office, a few other small retail outlets and some first floor accommodation. Remember DDO 15 conditions apply. The General Store site is not expected to be developed at this stage.

- Thanks to retiring Committee member Wolf Passauer for his enthusiastic contribution. We will miss seeing Wolf around Shoreham.

- Finally, I want to heartily thank Committee members (and their family

members) for sharing the fun of applying their knowledge and experience, and giving a considerable amount of their time, shaping a vision for Shoreham and working towards its realisation.

Peter Renkin

President, Shoreham Community Association

14th October 2012

