

PRESIDENT'S ANNUAL REPORT to the 3rd ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING of the
SHOREHAM COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION Inc.
on 20th July 2014

1. A Committee in Action

During 2013/2014, the Committee held 11 ordinary meetings; and 2 Special Meetings were called to finalise the making of key decisions...

I want to heartily thank members of the Committee for their productive efforts on many fronts.

Ann Heather White was the only new member elected at the last AGM.

In December 2013, **Kathryn Shain** was co-opted by the Committee, and to our great fortune, accepted the vacant Secretary's position.

From July 2013 to the present, the following persons have been Office bearers:

Rob Patrick – Vice-President, Convenor of Strategic Planning, Co-Convenor (with **Lee Collins**) of the "Shared Pathways & Trails Special Project" Barbara Kelly – **Treasurer, & Membership Convenor**; Barb, with Lee, also organises the monthly 'Monday Morning Walks'.

Peter Kelly – Convenor of Facilities & Works, Convenor of "Drainage" & "Triangle Special Projects", Co-convenor (with **Sue Boggan**) of "Road Verges Special Work Projects". **Peter** always welcomes you at the Triangle Working Bees. **Sue** is well known around Shoreham for organising the Howard Street laneway Working Bees.

Steve Dolman – Convenor of Media Relations, Co-convenor (with **Peter Renkin**) of the "Old School Hall Refurbishment & Renovation Special Works Project"

Linda McLeish, Lee Collins, Verity Saunders Ducos, & Maddy Machin – Joint Organisers of Building Community egs. the community dinners, and with **Jean Downing, Verity, & Ann Renkin**, the monthly Friday morning 'Cuppa'. The community dinners are a magnificent show of delicious food & demonstrate the cooking skills & of Shoreham women – may be a few men too? The events are the occasion to interact with Shoreham & Pt Leo folk & visitors. Building social community happens.

Ann Heather did the spadework in producing the April 2014 Newsletter, and with **Linda & Steve** produced the brochure promoting people to use the Shoreham Post Office.

Helen Alcock, assisted by Brian Alcock, set up the BBQ lunch at the AGMs including today's. Thank you.

Verity Saunders Ducos & Peter Renkin – Co-convenors of the "Shoreham Common Development Special Project".

Although not a Committee member, I acknowledge **Linda Patrick's** role as Website Manager, as we are absolutely dependent on her computer skills. Linda's design & editing abilities are first class. **Kathryn, Barb & Verity** have assisted **Linda** too. I want to emphasise how important the Website is for SCA members, organisations, & residents to find out information about things that are happening around Shoreham; Please get your stories to Linda so that she can add them to the Website pages. The website is a major communication resource. Let's use it.

Leo Maher has Convened the Shoreham Village Community Taskforce which reports to the Committee each month. Other members of the Taskforce are: **Rob Patrick, Sue Boggan & Peter Renkin**.

From October to January many of the SCA Committee members participated on the "**Shoreham Secrets Planning Committee**" (ably chaired by Russell Barrett), & on the Shoreham Secrets Day, 26th January 2014, were actively engaged to make this a most successful fundraiser for the new CFA building. SCA congratulates the CFA on reaching their target. Members of the CFA persistently argued their case with success, & with architect Adrian Bonomi's pro bono services, to

get a Shoreham friendly design accepted by CFA Headquarters. They spoke on our behalf as a community to ensure the precinct & building design fitted the character of Shoreham. Look at the website for more information about the progress of the construction.

SCA members join members of the Foreshore Reserve Committee at their working bees. Peter Carroll as Manager organises these; & we all express our gratitude to the Committee for the new pathway from Cliff Road down through 'The Pines' to the beach.

2. Activities

Your Committee is not complacent! We do not accept that our approach should be "business as usual" – sitting back & expecting to be looked after.

With the Flinders District Historical Society members (Ann Lorkin & Ann Renkin), & Barb Kelly & Verity Saunders Ducos of SCA, a successful application was made to the Mornington Peninsula Shire for a \$5,000 grant to devise, design & construct a historical display board on the 'Shoreham Common'.

In earlier 2013, SCA presented at a Planning Panel Hearing, in conjunction with the Flinders District Historical Society, opposing the attempt to remove a Historical Overlay on the 'Alavina' property at 16-18 Beach Road. We learned in December last year that the Panel upheld our argument & the Minister for Planning approved retention of the Overlay.

The SCA is an active participant on the Red Hill Ward Consultative Group, a group consisting of Westernport coastal village associations from Flinders, Merricks Beach, Balnarring, Somers, Cape Schanck & Red Hill, & Peninsula Speaks. The Group provides the opportunity for combined approaches to watch what is happening in the Ward (especially how seriously the Mornington Peninsula Shire relates to the Ward), & to promote the interests & needs of the Ward's ratepayers & residents. Rob Patrick & Peter Renkin represent the SCA at the meetings. The Red Hill Ward Consultative Group's contributions to the well being of the Ward & the whole Shire are significant. Let me illustrate this point by telling you the matters raised with the former Ward Councillor & the Mayor over the last year:

- coastal villages study progress
- list the capital works & projects relating specifically to the Ward receiving funds in 2013/2014; are those to get committed funds in the 2014/2015 Shire Budget
- What Safer Place' designation decision has been made for Red Hill?
- What is being done to redesign the intersection of Warrawee Road, Stanleys Road & the Flinders-Hastings Road?
- What has been decided about the 5 way intersection at Balnarring?
- What can be done by the Shire with VicRoads to improve the condition of the highways?
- What can be done to improve mobile phone & TV reception?
- What is planned to provide cyclist safety with 1 metre wide road aprons?
- What plans are in place to upgrade drainage works in each coastal village?
- How can the Rosebud SPA be economically justified on the foreshore?
- The need to improve ambulance service facilities on the Peninsula.
- What is the Shire's strategic plan with reference to the development of the container at the Port of Hastings?
- How can parking facilities at Red Hill Consolidated School be improved?

As you will recall, SCA has made submissions to the Peninsula Council's Budget preparations for the past two financial years, & invited the Ward Councillor and senior staff of the Shire to our

Committee meetings. We proposed “7 Special Priority Projects” for the Shire’s adoption. We have been well supported by the senior staff. Evidence of progress, albeit slow, is seen as the ‘Triangle re-vegetation’; drainage works undertaken at May Street; & the renovations inside the Old School Hall – the kitchen, the fire place & hearth, the screen, & the entry lights. Planning processes, including discussions with Pt Leo people, are underway for the ‘Shared Trails & Pathways’; the interim development of the ‘Common’ - with additions to the playground, a pathway to the toilets from the Hall & seats & picnic tables; extension of parking facilities in Cliff & Byrnes Roads; & structural renovation to the Old School Hall. In particular, we have requested the Shire to undertake a comprehensive MasterPlan exercise for the “Common’, one that engages all of Shoreham’s interested parties.

Our local Nepean Member of the State Lower House, the Honourable Martin Dixon, attended a Committee meeting and heard our advocacy of Shoreham’s needs. Maybe we influenced the reduction of the speed limit to 80kmph on the Hastings-Flinders road through Shoreham, as the change occurred after our representations. Obtaining a public bus service for Shoreham travellers at weekends has not brought results....well not yet!

Building our neighbourhood’s social networks is vital to community development. That is why the SCA affords the ‘community dinners’. Please invite your neighbour to the next dinner.

Towards the close of the term, the SCA has discussed our inability so far to adequately attend to the interests of Shoreham’s young people. Take note – engagement with Shoreham’s youth is on the agenda of the new committee.

3. Dealing with Change and Securing what is best for Shoreham

I’m sure I do not need to advise you that Shoreham and district is experiencing change? And you know more change is on the cards too!

Historical coverage of the ongoing change that has occurred in Shoreham and district is amply evidenced in each Newsletter published by the Flinders District Historical Society.

Just look around you at today’s built environment of Shoreham and its hinterland, and how space is being used differently. You can easily distinguish the old from the new. Post second war holiday bungalows are being remodelled or demolished to suit modern ways and interests. On empty blocks of land within the village area, new houses are being built. Sales of land follow Council approved subdivision of properties, anticipating further construction of accommodation. As a consequence, the permanent population of this coastal village is increasing. As well, the number of people spending their holidays here is expanding too.

Diagonally across Byrnes Road from where we are now, the CFA’s Shoreham Rural Fire Brigade is completing its new building. And the long awaited development of ‘a social-retail hub’ centred at a new general store/post office – a place where residents can enjoy each other’s company over a cup of coffee – promises to fill the land on the corner of Cliff and Byrnes Roads.

In general terms, we all know - Shoreham embodies natural, constructed and social environments. It is a wonderful ‘Place’ for the enjoyment and satisfaction of people of all ages.

Seriously. What policy stand does the Shoreham Community Association take in relation to change? When the State Minister for Planning alters the planning law concerning the types of Zones that control what can be built in the village - what position (if any) should the SCA take on Shoreham’s behalf?

Since its formation, the SCA has played various roles – planning and implementing change reckoned to be desirable – but also working out how to protect and preserve the best features which provide Shoreham’s existing form and ambience - the ones offering its residents their well being.

4. What is a mandate for the Shoreham Community Association?

The creation of the Shoreham Community Association, only three years ago, was based on a core value expressed at foundational public meetings - that Shoreham’s character and amenity should reflect both a ‘communal vision’ of community wants, needs and interests, as well as one that took into account the outlooks of individuals, families, groups or private businesses. From its beginnings, SCA actions have espoused this ethic shaped in discussions; and surveys - such as the one undertaken in relation to the Triangle’s development, or the one mounted late last year/early this year that sought feedback on proposed interim and minimal development of the ‘Shoreham Common’.

The substance of change in the village and its surrounds, SCA believes, should not be left to serendipity or chance, nor permit wanton self-interest to have its sway. Nor should we simply allow ourselves to be ignored or neglected by the various levels of government. At the same time, the SCA has appreciated that change for its own sake, or change promoted in the interest of a few, is not necessarily good for the many.

It should not surprise you that in the past year, the Committee of Management of the SCA has conscientiously grappled with its responsibility to be representative of its membership. How does a local organisation with a membership of over 150 - people who are both permanent residents, or members of families who own properties and regularly stay here – guarantee this? For that matter, How does an association of our size discover the views of the over 450 persons of various ages who were recorded present at Shoreham on the night of the 2011 census?

The website, sponsored by the SCA for the benefit and use of any group or activity, is a very important method of informing interested persons. For example, it gives access to the monthly Minutes of the SCA’s Committee meetings. Occasional e-mails to members; and newsletters are another method of communication. By the way, everyone is welcome to attend a Committee meeting held on the third Monday of each month starting at 7.30pm in this Hall.

5. Conclusion

Obtaining the identified seven ‘Special Projects’ in 2012/2013 will remain important ‘unfinished business’ for the new Committee. Maintaining pressure on the Mornington Peninsula Shire Officers and Council to realise the completion of those seven ‘Special Projects’ is a task that will be fully highlighted.

I wish those elected later this afternoon ‘All the best’. I want to give a ‘big thank you’ to the present Committee. Particularly thanks to retiring member, after 3 years, Steve Dolman, and also to Ann Heather White. We will miss your contributions around the tables & in many other ways.

Finally, thank you to the members of SCA who have supported the Committee. Please keep Committee members on their toes. Speak up. Raise ideas. Tell the Committee what you want whenever you want to. Don’t forget to renew your membership. Remember SCA’s strength is established by the size of its membership.

Let me introduce your new SCA Committee members – Robyn Oswald-Jacobs & Robert Nottle.

There are a number of candidates present here who are standing for the coming Red Hill Ward bi-election. Let me introduce them to you: Kerry Watson, Tim Wood, Peter Holloway & Mark Fancett.

I propose that this Report be accepted.

Peter Renkin
President 18th July 2014