



Mornington Peninsula Branch Newsletter Spring – 2007

The ambient setting of the historic Edwardian Room, with log fire and soft lighting, was the perfect background for our winter luncheons at The Briars. In July Dr Celestina Sagazio gave a talk on one of her favourite subjects *Grave stories of the Queen Victoria Market* and in August senior guide from The Briars, Shirley Murley, presented a fascinating history of the Balcombe Family. Both events were very well attended.

As the warm days of spring arrive the committee is turning its attention to the outdoors for activities. With gardens commencing to bloom and the landscape soothing the viewer's eye with its lush verdancy the Branch presents the following opportunities for members and friends. Catch up on the latest Branch news by reading the 'Of Interest' segment at the end of the newsletter.

3rd October commencing at **10.30am** at The Briars Homestead, **Dr Juliet Bird, Chair of the National Trust's Landscape Committee** will conduct a workshop and field exploration involving participants in the finer points of Landscape Classification. Basket luncheon and glass of wine will be provided together with tea and coffee. Trust members \$18 non members \$20 **Bookings** Marg Nichols 5973 4502



Greens Bush NT Classified Landscape



Gwen Jordan at work in her studio

31st October committee member **Gwen Jordan**, renowned **Peninsula Spinner and Weaver** will open her cottage and charming garden in Mornington. Gwen will have on show some of her interesting looms, including one from Kent USA and a Harris spinning wheel, made from home grown oak on the island of Harris, Scotland Gwen has woven all the curtains and soft furnishings throughout her home and studio. Refreshments available. Open 1.00pm to 4.00pm Trust members \$5 non members \$7 Gwen Jordan at work in her studio. **Bookings** Judy Walsh 5988 9853

21st November BRANCH AGM. 10.30am The Edwardian Room, The Briars, Nepean Highway, Mt Martha. Following elections, Dr Sue Wesson will comment on the present position of the Pt Nepean Community Trust which is in place to oversee the transition to Victorian State Government's administration of the area from the Commonwealth Government. Morning Tea provided. All Welcome. Enquiries Gillian Tolley 5989 2550.

Of Interest

The Branch recently welcomed and accepted the invitation for representation on the MPSC **Shire-wide Thematic Environmental History Project**. This is a six month project which proposes to look at some 800 entries in the Australian Government Themes with a view to categorising relevant shire properties into these themes for legislation in the MPSC Planning scheme.

The **Collins Settlement** Advisory Group representative reports that the tender for the Information Pavilion at the site of First Settlement, Sorrento, has been let and building should commence soon.

Other local issues being monitored by the branch are: Endeavour Fern Gully, Local History Network, Ranelagh, Devil Bend, Mt Eliza Woodlands and Gunyong Creek.

Committee meets at The Hutch 2nd Wednesday of month, except December and January, at 2.30pm
Enquiries President: 5989 2550, Secretary 5988 9853.