



**National Trust of Australia (Vic)
Mornington Peninsula Branch**

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING NOVEMBER 26 2011

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Another extraordinary year has flown by and I must thank the committee for the support throughout the year.

The branch varied its activities this year by embracing the National Trust Festival and Heritage Awards. These two events represented a huge time commitment but we somehow managed to continue with our other regular projects. Both the festival and the heritage awards have put the image of the National Trust to the forefront in the perspective of the community. A pleasing result from the heritage awards is that the trade skills awardees have gone on to strengthen their particular careers in the heritage area, using the award as their incentive.

Our regular projects Endeavour Fern Gully and the hand painted doors in the Edwardian Room at The Briars have kept us busy. The Gully goes from strength to strength with fencing and an access road recently installed. The areas planted out after the removal of the pine trees astound us with their growth and lushness and are an encouragement to the wonderful volunteers who come to the working bees and to whom I extend the gratitude and thanks of the Branch and the National Trust headquarters. I cannot pass the opportunity now of thanking Gillian Tolley for her indefatigable effort in managing the Gully project.

The branch is now in a position to engage a heritage conservator to carry out the first stage of the restoration process of the doors in the Edwardian Room. This is due to the fund raisers held this year – coffee morning, a sausage sizzle at Bunnings and an open garden day in November. On receipt of the permit application from Heritage Victoria, the conservator can commence work within four weeks.

Other heritage areas we have been involved in were the working bee at Mulberry Hill to clean all the artefacts which had been in storage while renovations took place. Participation in the Shire's Environmental History and in the Heritage Studies for Mornington, Mt Eliza and Mt Martha. Currently preparing for the Dromana/Rosebud/Rye Heritage Study to commence. We were very pleased to see the heritage overlay applied to the former St Macartans convent and school in Mornington, which was the culmination of around four to five years campaigning. We have inspected around twelve applications for building permits on classified landscape and been instrumental in obtaining better outcomes for several applications. Currently we are facing a VCAT mediation session for 42 Barkly Street also in Mornington and have a submission of support in to council for Mt Eliza Woodlands. On our watch list is the development of the proposed aquatic centre in Rosebud because of the proximity of the Soundshell which has been classified by the Trust.

National Trust Branches get together twice a year for a forum to discuss their operations etc. Adrienne Herring and I attended one in July in Geelong and on the 12th November our branch hosted the second forum for the year at St Georges Church Hall in Red Hill. There was lively exchanging of ideas and experiences and we look forward to the next one mid 2012 to be hosted by the Macedon Ranges Branch.

The committee is to be congratulated on their fantastic effort with our big fund raising events. The sausage sizzle saw husbands as well as committee involved. The mid year luncheon with Dr Ray Holmes talking about his successful exploration to find the navigation equipment of Burke and Wills was a sell-out and our final event – a'Beckett's open garden was a triumph.

I acknowledge the support received throughout the year by the management and staff at Tasma Terrace, Trust Headquarters. I have experienced genuine warmth and interest by the staff and a willingness to share knowledge and expertise freely which in turn makes for smooth operation of the branch . Also our continuing co operative relationship with the management and staff at The Briars.

The committee continues as Trust representatives on several Peninsula advisory groups – Adrienne Smith at Devilbend, Penny Carnaby on the Local History Network, Peter Greer on the Ranelagh Estate and Fossil Beach Cement Works CMP and Peter Holloway on the Heritage Studies, with myself at Collins Settlement Historic Site. I wish to thank each and every one of the committee for contributing wherever needed to get the best result for the task at hand, always with a willing attitude. It is only a small committee with one co-opted member who gives invaluable service to our branch and even brings her friends along to work at our events, thank you Elizabeth Saunders. The Secretary Adrienne Herring and Treasurer Penny Carnaby for keeping our records in order and the committee informed – my thanks.

Judy Walsh
President