A New Playground at Red Hill...

The Red Hill Memorial preschool’s new playground was officially opened on Friday 23 Oct. In the redevelopment the outdoor room has been renovated, new structures built, old favourites retained and hardy new plants incorporated into the design. The new play equipment is designed to encourage children to explore their environment and to participate in cooperative play. In her address to the gathering of parents and supporters, Erin Taylor, president of the preschool committee, thanked those who were involved in the construction of the playground or had contributed financially to the redevelopment.

Enjoying the new playground

...and a new Piste at Main Ridge

At the official opening of the new petanque piste, from left, Bowls and Petanque Club Secretary, Jonathan O’Sullivan, Merv Prosser, Dromana Rotary, Cr Tim Wood, Bowls and Petanque Club President Jonathan Hodgkin, Martin Dixon, MP, cutting the ribbon and Petanque leader, Sandra Ripper.
TED ORI IS STILL CREATING THE FLAVOUR OF TUSCANY

Sapori Di Casa, translates to ‘the flavour of home’. For Ted Ori the flavour of home is the flavour of Tuscany. So, it is a very apt name for the little Italian restaurant run by Ted and his wife Helen in what was formerly the Whitehill Gallery, in White Hill Road, Dromana.

After operating La Campagna, a vineyard, olive grove and osteria at Cape Schanck for 20 years Ted, now 70, played with the idea of retirement, but only briefly. He soon surrendered to his desire to provide a place where his long standing patrons and friends could continue to gather to enjoy his food and hospitality. Hence his creation of this local venue, seating about 20 in rustic surroundings – including laminated tables - where authentic Italian food like lasagne and focaccia are offered along with wood-fired bread and roasts. A small selection of Italian wine is available as well as his favourite Tuscan red which he generously dispenses along with a good measure of light hearted proprietor-patron interaction.

Ted operates on a very simple philosophy: “I cook what I like the way I like it and that is what I offer. If that’s what the customers like they will come,” he said.

Not surprisingly it’s a family affair. Helen, a talented cook, does a lot of the cooking and their daughter Red comes on the weekends and often changes batons with Helen – Red takes over in the kitchen and Helen adjourns to their home next door and looks after the two young grandchildren.

Ted Ori came to Australia in 1963 when he was 17 years old. Although tempted, he did not join a lot of his young fellow countrymen who travelled north to cut cane in the season, where they could earn big money. “I saw them come back home next door and looks after the two young grandchildren.

Ted Ori loves cooking in his wood-fired oven

RED HILL MOTORS TO CLOSE ITS DOORS

Alan Pittock will close the doors of Red Hill Motors for the last time on Friday afternoon, November 13, ending 66 years of continuous service the garage has given to vehicle owners in Red Hill and district. For 51 of those years Alan has been in that workshop, initially in partnership with his father Elgar until 1998, and since then as the sole proprietor.

“I have been unsuccessful in trying to sell the business and very reluctantly I have decided to close down,” he said.

He nearly sold the whole business in 2007. Then in 2009, not wanting to run a much smaller area, Alan, the eldest of four sons, joined the business at the age of 16 as an apprentice motor mechanic and went on to be a partner with his father.

In 1985-86 the workshop and petrol station was expanded making it the biggest workshop on the Peninsula. Reflecting on his 51 years at Red Hill Motors Alan singles out one thing that gives him pride. “Most of the apprentices that have done their training here have gone on to succeed in their own businesses. So I must have been doing something right,” he said.

“Many well- known local families have been bringing their vehicles here since the 1950s and I thank them most sincerely for their patronage and their loyalty,” he said.

Now 67, Alan is looking forward to seeing what it is like to have a life in retirement.

“I have never had a holiday of more than two weeks in a row and I'm looking forward to some caravanning, pottering around the 20 acre farm and even going overseas,” he said.

It is the end of an era and Red Hill Motors and the personal service given by Alan Pittock will be missed by many locals for a variety of reasons.

–RB.
Red Hill Community Association is proud to receive an award for the construction of Red Hill's new War Memorial in the program run jointly by the National Trust, Mornington Peninsula Branch, and the Mornington Peninsula Shire.

A new category of Creation of a Heritage Place was introduced this year, and we are honoured to be the inaugural recipients of this award. The certificate was presented to RHCA President David Maddocks by the National Trust, Mornington Peninsula Branch, President Judy Walsh.

The appeal for funds to complete Stage 2 of constructing the War Memorial is still open and we are only $15,000 short of our target. This stage includes finishing off the concrete slab and providing seating on the edge of the slab. Information on how to send your donation can be found on our website: www.redhillcommunityassociation.com or phone Felicity Jackson on 0438 425 815. Please dig into your pockets so we can finish the job properly! Passers-by will have noticed that a great amount of planting has been done on the periphery of the community park and around the War Memorial. This has been mainly of grasses and sedges, with some eucalypts included as well. We are looking forward to watching the park develop and becoming a drawcard for locals and visitors alike over the summer months.

Felicity Jackson RHCA

Red Hill Scouts at the 4 day Pioneer Camp

Three scouts, Nat, Chloe and Jemiah, also completed a 2 day Blue Cord Hike from Rosebud to Cape Schanck, camping overnight in Greens Bush. They carried all their food, water and camping gear, which is a great effort. Our cubs have also been out camping with a camp at Mt Martha’s Bay Park. Our Venturers headed up by Jessie Jones went on a interstate transport hike from Melbourne to Sydney, Canberra and back to Melbourne using as many different modes of transport as they could. Investing one of our scouts into the Venturer section in Sydney harbour, Our Scout section with Andrew Millar in charge just completed a four day pioneer camp with preparation of the 2016 Jamboree coming up in Sydney at the beginning of January.

The Red Hill Community Park on the corner of Point Leo and Shoreham Roads is forging ahead and should almost be complete in time for a grand opening day celebration on the Australia Day long-weekend in January.

The last of the pine trees in the carpark area at Callanans Road have now been removed. This means we will have access to a large parking area devoid of hard surfaces, and the Shire will formalise the locations for cars and horse floats. The process is under review with the Shire. There will be a rural style ‘playspace’ with swings and a carousel, an interactive play area, climbing logs and balancing course plus an undercover shelter with tables and chairs and an outdoor barbeque area. This will be complemented with Indigenous landscaping that is in harmony with the local area. An information shelter is also planned that details the history of the area and the rail trail, as well as information on the Indigenous flora, fauna and custom.

The Red Hill Community Association has been driving the development of the community park and will be organising the opening day celebrations for all to enjoy. Funding efforts for the Red Hill war memorial continue. "RHCA is still seeking donations from the community and the public to complete the memorial," said RHCA President David Maddocks.

“We don't have so very far to go to reach our target, and we’d welcome donations from people who have not yet contributed to this very worthwhile project”. RCHA gives thanks to all those, whether named or anonymous, who have donated to date.

Felicity Jackson RHCA

Red Hill Community Association has been working on the Indigenous flora, fauna and custom. and the rail trail, as well as information on the Indigenous flora, fauna and custom. An information shelter is also under review with the Shire, along with a woodchip path and seating areas. The park is forging ahead and should almost be complete in time for a grand opening day celebration on the Australia Day long-weekend in January.

The staff at the park are looking ahead to watching the park develop and becoming a drawcard for locals and visitors alike over the summer months.

Felicity Jackson RHCA

OP SHOP DONATIONS MEET LOCAL NEEDS

Red Hill Op Shop was proud make donations to two worthy local causes recently. The first was to Rosebud Hospital, which needed funds to purchase two very specific types of bed for patients whose mobility is limited. The hospital relies on donations for this sort of purchase and was delighted to receive a cheque for $7,580 from the Op Shop.

The second donation went to Red Hill Consolidated School, which had a pressing need for a 6’ x 3’ portable awning that would provide shade to the children when they are at a sports day or similar events. The Op Shop gladly responded to the request, and the awning has been purchased just in time for what is forecast to be a hot summer ahead.

… and special openings for the festive season

The Op Shop will hold two Twilight Openings before Christmas. Mums, Dads and children who can’t get to us during our normal opening hours can come along to do their Christmas shopping, get together for a chat and enjoy the party atmosphere. The two dates are Wednesday 2nd December from 4-7 pm and Saturday 19th December from 5-8 pm. As well as tempting items to buy as Christmas gifts, there will be music and refreshments available on each evening. Do come along – we’d love to see you!

Marion Trevellyan (Op Shop) presenting the cheque to a representative of Rosebud hospital

HILL 'N' RIDGE PAGE 3
Social Entrepreneurs
Design Arthurs Seat Eco Adventure Park

A world class community eco-adventure park has been designed for the Mornington Peninsula by a group of intrepid social entrepreneurs. A large block of land on Boundary Road, Dromana known locally as ‘The OT Paddocks’ has been ear marked for a land swap between Parks Victoria and Mornington Shire for the ‘purposes of recreation’.

Key stakeholders and community representatives have been involved in an intense period of consultation and discussion to create a design that responds to the site’s natural sloped topography and proximity to Arthur’s Seat State Park.

The Red Hill Riders Mountain Bike Club’s President, Mark Gardner, recently travelled to Valmont Bike Park in Colorado, USA to see first hand the fantastic community energy generated by similar adventure parks.

Mark was blown away by the range of people using the park from young kids learning from their parents up to vintage riders keeping fit. He also saw three Summer Camp groups taking advantage of the facilities with young people being exposed to physical and social skill development. What a great way to promote healthy living for all the community.

The Peninsula offers a fabulous destination, this new park will provide a massive boost for the staycation and visitor sector.

Parks Victoria has taken the lead by endorsing an extensive network of mountain bike trails in the State Park. The proposed adventure park links directly into this trail network allowing visitors to explore Arthur’s Seat and beyond. The existing roadside network caters for travellers who explore the many tourist destinations around the Peninsula.

Using examples of successful adventure parks from around the world, the design team have produced a concept plan combining the very best mountain bike park elements with adventure play, fitness circuits, assault courses as well as catering for the more relaxing pastimes of yoga, dog walking and jogging.

The very latest in technology has been employed as part of the ‘Indigenous Heritage Interpretative Trail’. Augmented reality points around the trail network will promote interactive video engagement on visitor’s smart devices. These interactions can be tailored to the individual needs of the visitor, whether they are school children learning about cultural history or ornithologists observing birds. Variable experiences and discovery are what make Arthur’s Seat Adventure Park really special.

A multi-purpose community hall which doubles as a visitor centre complete with changing rooms and event centre has also been incorporated. The design allows for adaption to whatever user group is taking advantage of the facility. Using solar panels and battery storage the community hub echoes the ‘eco-activity’ ethos of the proposed adventure park development.

Activity tourism is a substantial resource for the Mornington Peninsula with its extensive tourism infrastructure. Examples of recreational developments from around the world have demonstrated the exponential financial benefits to the wider business community as well as providing exceptional facilities for the local community at large. The proposed adventure park taps into the explosion in interest in mountain biking and active living.

Finance for the project will be through a combination of legacy and fund raising initiatives.

To find out more about this exciting project or to have your say please visit www.arthursseatadventurepark.com

Landcare – Looking after our Backyard

The second year of the Sheepwash Creek Catchment Landcare Group has been one of progress on many fronts.

Firstly there has been the involvement with the Green Army in an extensive woody weed eradication within the Arthurs Seat State Park. Parks Victoria were successful with a Good Neighbour Grant last year and have also been working along the boundary of the state park.

Secondly the group has undertaken several working bees to continue the woody weed eradication (again in the State Park) that was commenced in the first year, this has seen regrowth stopped in its tracks and indications of native species regeneration.

The other exciting project is that of the Biolink for properties within the Sheepwash Creek Catchment. The support from property owners has been extensive and I’m sure that this project will continue to create a lot of interest.

We’ve asked our members what they think of landcare and here’s what they’ve said:

"I enjoy being part of the land care group because it has given me the opportunity to connect with a local community. We share the responsibility of maintaining a corner of the Peninsula that we feel passionate about. We learn what is a weed and what is not, how to remove unwanted species whilst encouraging native flora & fauna."

"I enjoy being part of the community and giving back to the area I love. It's wonderful to see how much we've achieved."

"It gives people an opportunity to give back to the environment. We all get so much out of the environment that it’s nice to put something back into it to improve it."

"I enjoy Landcare membership, even though I am not a rural landholder, because I hear about rural issues and can contribute in a small way to improving a specific ecology - Sheepwash Creek. It is a chance to put beliefs into action and because it is an Australia wide organisation, it has achieved great results over the years. There is a sense of hope in difficult times."

"For us landcare is just that—caring for the land. Conservation is not about doing nothing, it is about taking action that will have a long term beneficial result for this fabulous earth and environment that we live in."

Much of the Peninsula is spoiled due to weed infestation. Being a part of Landcare enables us to at least act to clean up our "Backyard".

If you would like to be a part of our Landcare group please contact Michelle de la Coeur, our secretary, on 0419 579 277

Andrew Duncan
President

Sheepwash Creek Catchment Landcare Group

Landcare Group for properties within the Sheepwash Creek Catchment.
Campaigning to give a voice to the Red Hill and Red Hill South communities

- to protect and preserve the rural character
- to create an informed and active community
- to provide a forum for community engagement
- to advocate on behalf of the community

Join RHCA today
Help preserve and protect your community
5989 2116
redhillcommunityassociation@gmail.com

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SWEET PITTOSPORUM CAN BE REMOVED WITHOUT PERMIT

At last the Shire has changed the rules to allow landowners to remove Sweet Pittosporum from their land without a permit. This effectively recognises that this Australian plant has become a serious invasive weed on the Mornington Peninsula. Sweet Pittosporum, of the family pittosporaceae, is a vigorous evergreen tree which grows about 14-15m high and lives for about 40 years. It is sometimes called native daphne because of its sweet perfume and is indigenous to SE Victoria where it grows in the moist rainforests between the Great Dividing Range and the Pacific.

Why then do we regard this Australian plant as a weed? Although this species prefers moist shaded sites such as riparian environments and damp forests, it is rapidly invading and radically changing the diverse ecological vegetation communities (EVCs) around us. In so doing it is changing the ecology of the region and impacting local indigenous fauna and flora.

What characteristics have contributed to Sweet Pittosporum becoming a weed on the Mornington Peninsula?

Abundant reproduction. The fragrant bell-shaped five-petalled flowers are creamy white and about 2 cm long. They occur in clusters of 4-5 at the ends of stems in spring. Male and female flowers almost always occur on separate plants. Fruits are globular hard berries about 10-15mm across, which start green, turn yellow and then orange when ripe when they split to reveal 20-30 sticky reddish or brown seeds within. These plentiful seeds are mainly bird-dispersed, either in their droppings or by adhering to feathers.

Clusters of seedlings under perch trees testify to the success of this method, but seeds can also be carried on the fur of mammals such as possums, or adhering to human footware. Seeds germinate in spring or autumn and the new plants flower when 4-5 years old and when 1m tall or less. This species can also spread by suckering.

Noxious foliage. Sweet pittosporum has smooth shiny dark green leaves (paler or glabrous beneath), which are resinous and aromatic when crushed. The leaf margins are smooth and wavy (hence "undulatum") with a small hooked point. New leaves emerge in winter-spring and form in whorls at the end of twigs. But have you noticed that nothing eats them? Neither grubs nor beetles predate their stems and glossy foliage; not even rabbits, wallabies or possums will nibble on them. The tree creates a dense canopy which shades the ground and starves other species of sunlight. As if this was not enough, the tree drops leaves and because these contain a chemical inhibitor this process prevents local indigenous vegetation from growing beneath it, thus assisting the species to dominate an area quickly. This feature, combined with Sweet Pittosporum’s capacity to establish itself very quickly, starving surrounding plants of nutrients, water and sunlight, works to create a virtual monoculture.

Adaptability. This species is very adaptable. It is tolerant of shade, frost and drought, very prolific, and can establish itself quickly in a wide variety of situations. In every respect it is built for survival, so its removal is a challenge.

How to remove Sweet Pittosporum?

Winter to summer is the recommended time for removal by all methods except for hand-pulling which can be done all year round.

Hand pulling is only recommended for small seedlings, because it is important that all root material is removed to prevent re-shooting. A mattock gives excellent leverage for removing larger seedlings when the ground is slightly moist.

Cut and paint. Plants should be cut off close to ground level and the stump immediately (within 30 seconds) painted with undiluted glyphosate-based product. A dabber is good for this. This technique works well for larger seedlings, but should not be used on trunks greater than 50mm as they are likely to reshoot. Drill & Fill (a) or Frill & Fill (b). a) Drill holes 2-3 cm deep and about 5 cm apart at the base of the tree and immediately fill the holes with undiluted glyphosate-based product OR (b) chop downwards vertically all around the base of the tree with a small hatchet and immediately fill the holes with undiluted glyphosate-based product. This is best done during the active growth stage (late spring to mid-autumn). This technique is suited to larger trees. Preference should be given to dealing first with female fruiting trees. Fire? Kate Blood (2001) has remarked that sweet pittosporum are susceptible to intense bushfires because of their thin bark but she also states that they will usually survive low intensity burns and are likely to coppice vigorously. The foliage is extremely flammable even when green, and will flare and spit and we are advised not to allow them to grow close to our homes.

So Pittosporum Undulatum is not so "sweet". It is not declared "noxious" in Victoria, but it is "invasive" and should be eradicated on your property if at all possible. This may be an ongoing battle where pittosporum persists on adjoining properties or in nearby bushland, but if we want to retain the diversity characteristic of local EVCs and the creatures which inhabit them it is an effort worth making.

A note of caution: Watch out for "look-alikes" such as indigenous muttonwood (r a p a n e a howittiana) - which is a "goodie". The image of Muttonwood below was created by Iain Harrison (2005). See Swinburne Image Bank.

Further reading:

Bernie Schedvin
Main Creek Landcare

A WONDERFUL PLANTING DAY WITH MANTON & STONY CREEKS LANDCARE

Saturday September 26th saw more planting on the biolinks corridor from Manton Creek to Stony Creek. An enthusiastic group of members took part. As we were working close to Stony Creek we had to install wallaby guards to protect the plants. The local wildlife have a tendency to eat their corridor after a drink in the creek. We put up 10 wire cage-10 guards each large enough to hold two or three plants. Soon we will not have to do much more planting as the indigenous plants will self seed and the whole corridor will thicken. This will provide safe passage for the small marsupials to travel.

Our AGM is on Saturday Nov. 7th at 11.30 in the Shoreham Hall and you are more than welcome to attend. The speaker this year is Malcolm Legg of Mals Ecological & Environmental Services. He will be talking about the different types of creeks on the Peninsula and the aquatic life they support.

Ann-Heather White
Manton & Stony Creeks Landcare

H I L L ' N ' R I D G E  P A G E  6
A new season begins. . .

The bowling season has kicked off and once again Main Ridge Bowlers will be fielding a Division 1 and Division 5 team. The greens have awoken from their winter hibernation and are in the best condition they have been for some time.

Club President, Jonathan Hodgkin, puts down the first bowl of the new season.

The Petanque players are also in full swing with their regular Friday night competitions and are now also playing on the second and fourth Sundays of the month either side of a very civilised BBQ lunch.

The summer promises much. Come and join us every Friday afternoon for either Social Bowls or Petanque followed by drinks and tapas in the bar afterwards.

Hasta Luego!

Jonathan O’Sullivan

St George’s Church marks Feast day of St Francis

On 4th October, the church came alive not only to the sound of music, but also the occasional bark, when members of the congregation and visitors brought their pets to a special service to mark the Feast Day of St Francis which included the Blessing of the Animals. It was a joyful occasion and all the animals were extremely well-behaved. All enjoyed chats and pats with refreshments on the verandah after the service.

An All Souls Service of Remembering will be held at St. George’s on Wed 4th November. It provides a quiet time to reflect on significant people in our lives who have died. Candles will be lit in their memory.

Christmas Services - A warm invitation is extended to everyone to attend the following services:
• Sunday 6th December at 9.30am: Feast Day of St. Nicholas (children and the young at heart especially welcome)
• Saturday 12th December at 5pm: Blessing of the Animals
• Friday 18th December at 8pm: Nine Lessons and Carols
• Christmas Eve, 24th December at 11.30pm: Midnight Mass
• Christmas Day, 25th December: 8am – Intergenerational Celebratory Service
• 10am – Intergenerational Celebratory Service with Children’s Nativity Tableau

NEW PETANQUE PISTE OPENED AT MAIN RIDGE

A French flag flying outside the Main Ridge Bowls and Petanque Club on Sunday, October 25, partly recognised that petanque is a French game, but mainly signalled the opening of a new petanque piste that day. About 90 people witnessed the official opening by the Hon. Martin Dixon, local MP, who congratulated the Club on achieving the new piste and praised the initiative of leaders of Main Ridge Bowls Club and Red Hill Petanque Club for seeing the reality of their respective situations and taking the opportunity to merge into one club. Thanking everyone concerned both Jonathan Hodgkin, President of the Bowls Club and Sandra Ripper, President of the Petanque Club acknowledged that the merging of the two clubs into one and building the new piste had taken a lot of effort over the last two years. However, they agreed the result was worth it - an improved facility for petanque players and improved viability for a Bowls Club that was declining in membership. Red Hill ward councillor Tim Wood added his congratulations before Martin Dixon cut the ribbon and the gathering adjourned to enjoy a delicious afternoon tea, organised by Sam Hamilton. Later some petanque players gave a demonstration on the new piste. Martin Dixon also opened the Red Hill Petanque Club in March 2011 constructed by the Red Hill Lions Club at the Red Hill Recreation Reserve. Lions has also played a key role in the building of the new piste at Main Ridge with Rob Connor chairing the construction committee.

The new piste was funded with a substantial Government grant together with funds from the Bowls Club, Petanque Club, Red Hill Lions and Dromana Rotary. Council officers presided over the construction. The combined Club now boasts 123 members - 30 lawn bowlers, 56 petanque players and 37 social members. Social members are attracted to the Club to participate in the Friday evening Happy Hour where members of the local community are being welcomed. --RB.
Formal education on the south eastern section of the Mornington Peninsula commenced prior to December 9th 1869 – the first verifiable date from an entry in the Inspector’s Book for the Flinders Common School. At about the same time, a non-vested school was opened in Arkwell’s Lane Red Hill which eventually was to become SS1301 Red Hill in 1874. In 1875, a school was opened in Main Ridge operating a branch of Flinders State School and sharing teachers with Cape Schank and Boneo. As the population increased there became a need for another school in the Red Hill area but was not until 1932 that the Red Hill South School was officially opened in Point Leo Road.

The idea of consolidating rural schools was a feature of Victorian Education in the middle of 1940s. The concept was put to the Red Hill community. Members of the Education Department spoke at public meetings at the Red Hill Hall and films were shown of the successful Area schools already set up in Tasmania.

In 1944 the Education Department decided to acquire land for the future establishment of a Consolidated School at Red Hill. Mr. Woodward was approached to sell 10 acres of his property for the purpose. He was offered £22/10 per acre for the land along the road to Arthurs Seat and the Main Ridge road. He refused to sell. That was until he was notified that school land would be compulsorily acquired. After several deputations to him he agreed to sell but at only £17.0.0 per acre. He complained about the reduced price. A further 2 acres on the eastern side was compulsorily acquired from the Blakeley family.

The corner block of ½ acre still had to be purchased. This land belonged to Myrtle May Prossor. She agreed to sell for £55,0.0 as long as she could remove the building. The whole site for the proposed school was finally acquired in July 1944. The total cost was £233.16.8

In 1946 the Red Hill Consolidation committee was notified that a Consolidated school would be one of the 12 consolidated schools built by 1948. Plans for the school were received in February 1947. The estimated cost of the building was £39,800. Construction commenced in mid 1948. In June 1948 members of the Ministry and P.W.D. inspected the initial excavation of the site works. A model of the school to be built by P.W.D. was made by the architecture students of Melbourne Tech. This model toured the Inspectorate. In November 1948 a list of schools to take part in consolidation included Flinders, Shoreham (then called Stony Creek), Merricks, Merricks North, Red Hill South, Red Hill, Main Ridge and possibly Balnarring. By this time Balmarring had decided to join the consolidation.

The school was finally occupied – 289 pupils - on February 6th 1951. Ted Bowley was the first Headmaster. Two more classrooms were added soon after and on May 6th 1952 the buildings from Red Hill South and Main Ridge were shifted on site followed by Merricks a week later.

At the time, the Education Department proudly labelled the school “The Showpiece Of Victoria”.

In April 2000, a reunion of ex students and staff members of all schools involved in the consolidation provided some wonderful anecdotes, memories and photos, many of which were reproduced in a booklet which was made available to the attendees.

Rod Blair

---

RDA - Not Just Pony Rides

Riding for the Disabled (RDA) Peninsula Centre has settled into its new home in Moorooduc where our volunteers and horses are continuing the wonderful work helping our riders enjoy the therapy of horse riding. There have been games, celebrations and a dressage competition with ribbons galore, which all the kids enjoyed. And one rider from our Tuesday program, Brooke, competed and placed second in the Newcomer’s competition and took the trophy home.

Successful Red Hill Spring Garden Festival

A huge thank you again this year to our many local Festival sponsors and the Red Hill District Lions Club, for your contribution to this successful event. It was a huge effort with the community and our volunteers pulling together to host the day. Congratulations to all involved.

The patrons seem to have a grand time. The Lion’s Club will be able to reproduce in a booklet, which will be available to the attendees.

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MAIN RIDGE STATE SCHOOL
NO. 2481
Main Ridge State School 841 operated in 1877 as a branch of Flinders State School 841, which had been a half-time school since early 1875. Probably the Main Ridge branch functioned as early as 1875. School was held near P.G. Adam’s property in Flinders Road, later transferred to the corner of Shands and Roberts Road, then to Main Creek Road, then Barker’s Road in the 1920’s, then to the Main Ridge Hall. Enrolments in June, 1882 were 26 at Flinders and 19 at Main Ridge. In March 1893 one of the Main Ridge buildings was transported to Tyabb to be part of the Tyabb State School.
In September 1892 the following correspondence with the Education Department was reported in the Mornington Standard newspaper
“... the closing of Main Ridge School is not looked upon with favor by the residents interested. Whilst recognizing and admitting the necessity for economizing in various departments it is urged that a half time school at each place (Main Ridge and Flinders) conducted by a classified master would not greatly increase the cost to the state and the gain in efficiency and results might be fairly claimed to compensate for the extra expenditure ...”
Eventually, Main Ridge State School 2481, a one-roomed weatherboard building was constructed at the corner of Main Creek Road and Shand’s Road. There appears to have been no official opening. When the school closed the building was transported to RHCS and the site, as with most of the other sites, was used as an endowment plantation.

Below:: The Old Main Ridge School in Barkers Rd

WHO CRACKED THE WINDOW PANES?
I wonder if any member from St Georges Church could point out a cracked window pane in the former Red Hill School SS 1301? This building is now incorporated in the new complex.

Barry Wright, former local resident was Guest Speaker at the Dromana & District Historical Society on Sept 15. It was most interesting to learn about the generations of Wrights.
In 1928, grandparents Walter and Amy Wright purchased an orchard property on the Arthurs Seat Tourist Road and named it ‘Wildwood’. Their home remained in the family until 2005.

Mr Decker flew outside: ‘Who threw that ball?”
Barry, expecting the worst, ‘I did Sir, but it was an accident.’ Mr Decker dismissed me without punishment which was a huge relief.
67 years later the crack in the pane remains.

JP

Brothers Barry and Peter Wright point out the damaged window.

Kevin Wyatt points out all that remains of the Main Ridge School in Barkers Rd 1920-25

Below:: The Old Main Ridge School in Barkers Rd

”Picnic at Elgee Park
Sunday November 15
11 am—3 pm
Enquiries Jan Kirchner
lemonjam.lj@gmail.com
Proceeds will go towards the construction of a new kitchen at St George’s Anglican Church in Red Hill to complete the work of developing a centre for the Community

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Red Hill students in grade 4 in 1954
**From the Lions’ Den . . .**

**MEET THE LOCALS**

Thirty-five local residents, representatives of business and community groups gathered at the Epicurean for the first evening session of **Meet the Locals** hosted by the Red Hill District Lions Club. The opportunity to meet others in the community and interact with local business people and community groups proved popular with many people meeting someone new.

Several people took the opportunity to tell about their businesses or community group, and encourage involvement.

The Lions Club is indebted to Craig, from the Epicurean, who provided the venue and refreshments for the evening.

“We look forward to holding more of these events and interacting with our broader community,” said Merrin Munroe, coordinator of the **Meet the Locals** program.

If you would like to participate in future events, please contact Merrin (merrin@thesmallbusinessgeeks.com).

**Lions Junior Public Speaking Program**

Red Hill District Lions once again conducted the Junior Public Speaking contest in August. Four representatives from Red Hill Consolidated School presented to forty audience members at the Main ridge Bowls Club. The topics were selected by Lions Australia. The year 3 & 4 topic was OUR HELPERS and the 5&6 topic was A MAJOR NATURAL DISASTER. Winners at the club level were Charlie Macpherson Smith and Tui Dahlenberg Geeves who both progressed to the zone final in Tooradin in October.

**Charlie Tastes Success in Public Speaking**

Charlie Macpherson Smith, a grade 3 Red Hill Consolidated School student, is an accomplished public speaker at the age of 8. Participating in the Lions Junior Public Speaking Competition, Charlie spoke passionately about the animal refuge he helps to run. After success in the local club competition, Charlie represented Red Hill Lions in the zone competition at Tooradin where he competed against other club winners. With success at this level he progressed to the District final held in Lakes Entrance on October 24.

**BERRY STREET CHRISTMAS APPEAL**

The Berry Street Organisation believes every child deserves a good childhood. Red Hill Lions have supported the Berry Street Christmas appeal for a number of years. This year’s appeal commences on November 1 and closes on November 30th.

The goods will be delivered to the Berry Street Organisation in Richmond for distribution to needy families.

A leaflet in this issue details appropriate gifts for a range of age groups. “Our community’s donation to last year’s appeal was exceptional,” said Susanne White, appeal coordinator.

The collection boxes will be placed at the Red Hill General Store, or goods can be collected by emailing lionsnewsletter1@gmail.com.

**October Market proving popular with holiday makers**

Once again, the October market at Red Hill proved to be very popular with holiday makers. The end of the school holidays and the new public holiday ensured there were lots of people in the area for the weekend.

Many people came early and there was a steady flow throughout the morning. “We had a good contingent of volunteers who were extremely valuable on such a busy day,” said market parking coordinator Rob Connor.

Lions always welcome volunteers to help man the parking. No qualifications are required as volunteers are not placed on roads. (Lions’ members have completed traffic management courses to enable them to work on the roads).

If you are able to assist please contact Rob on 0418545125 or email lionsnewsletter1@gmail.com.

**2015 was another monster year for the Red Hill Football Netball Club with on-field/court success for both the guys and girls, milestones games, league level achievements and of course a laugh or two in between. The Reserves and Senior Football teams both made finals while the A-Grade girls also hit the plexi-pave in September. RHFNC won the Most Disciplined Club Award for Netball, A-Grade Netball Coach Lisa Vines won the leagues Coach of the Year Award and we had representatives in both the Football and Netball Team of the Year. But it was Club Legend Shane “Rambo” Ramsay (pictured) who stole the show after he notched up an astonishing 300 club games. While his former teammates celebrated the 20th Anniversary their 1990 Senior Premiership in the social rooms, Rambo was out dominating alongside teammates whose existence had not even been considered in 1990. An incredible effort!**

**RAMBO - A TRUE BLUE HILLMAN**

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Tuesday Tennis at Main Ridge is Full On!

Tuesday Morning Ladies Tennis is not for the faint hearted. Neither Rain-Ridge nor Main-Fridge stops these “Tennis Tragics” from serving up 3 or 4 sets of ‘full on’ games from 9 am to about noon. You may hear some laughter here and there, but you're more likely to hear, “Yours”, “Mine”, “Go, go, go!” or “I don't do running!” Many of these stalwarts were dangerously good competitors in days gone by and they only get better with ‘maturity’! They have taught the ‘younger’ ones many shots to make opponents cringe … like a ‘RUBY’. If you don't know this move, you'll have to join us and see for yourself.

Membership fees are really good value for money.

Two of us are part of a 6 woman team in Section 2 of P.T.A. Mid-Week Doubles Competition. We play 2 Rubbers each Wednesday. As of the end of round 1 we are neck and neck with the top team. Go Main Ridge!

Speaking of Ruby; think apples and Farnsworth. Around 11:00, or if it REALLY rains, the girls go into the Speaking of Ruby; "Powder Puffs". OMG! Not to be outdone, many of the 19 other “Women of the World” bring THEIR home made sweets or savouries and trade recipes. The table at Christmas-time is sumptuous! We look after one another and celebrate life.

Local Transport Firm recognised for service to the industry

There were hundreds of people at the recent National Road Transport Wall of Fame induction at Alice Springs, in which Ernie Thomas of H.E. Transport (Main Ridge) was nominated by Keith Holmes for recognition of a lifetime of service and contribution to the Australian Road Transport Industry.

Ernie’s son, David, and wife Anne made the trip to Alice Springs to receive the certificate on behalf of his late father. H.E. Thomas transport was founded in 1943 by Ernie and Mary his wife on returning from the War. They acquired 65 acres of bush land on the corner of Purves and Main Creek Roads. In 1949, they purchased Charlie Roberts’ business to expand their own venture and operated as a general carrier in the local area and interstate.

CITATION included … The business expanded and carried fertiliser, fuel, domestic water, apples to Sydney Market, potatoes, juice apples to Tom Piper, stone for Pioneer quarries, meat from Wilson abattoirs, Inghams & Golden Poultry. To keep the wheels turning over many years they purchased up to 20 trucks of all shapes and sizes.

Among other things carried were machinery, timber and steel - anything that needed carting was done by Thomas Transport

Ernie and Mary passed away in 2002, much loved and respected pioneers and community members. The business is carried on by David and his son Dale.

Kim Barker, Anne Thomas, Keith Holmes and Jill Phillips

Do you have children eager for fun and a challenge or are you an adult wanting more winners than “OOPS”? With the return of Amanda Hassett, our official Coach, juniors are thriving with inspired teaching 4 nights a week and our Mid-Week ladies are reaping the benefits of TACTICS! As of the end of round 1 we are neck and neck with the top team.

M-L Hekel

Opening of Ruby Farnsworth’s cakes are the envy of Main Ridge Tennis Club!

Main Ridge Tennis Club is located on Main Creek Road, near the new CFA station and can be seen from the road near the Community Hall, the Oval and the Bowls Club. For this current ‘Winter season’ there are 5 Night teams: 1 Mixed (Mondays); 3 Men’s (Wednesdays); 1 Ladies (Thursdays). Itching to play? Feel free to contact Anne at: 5989-6128 or 0408 382 453. There is much more on our Facebook page so have a look & Like.
A Successful Year for Red Hill Tennis Club Juniors

The Red Hill Tennis Club is proud to report the results of a successful winter season. Five of our six junior teams played in finals this season. Three of our teams played in Grand Finals, and two teams walked away Premiers.

SECTION 5 Grand Finalists

L-R: Byron Scott, Harrison Fox, Kieren Roberts and Kelsie Farrugia

SECTION 6 Premiers

L-R Billy Balcombe, Chris Kelly, Hugo Garde and Tom Gilligan

SECTION 7 Premiers

L-R Charlie Reid, Sebastian Tremayne, Andrew Cowie and Thomas Lewis

SECTION 9 Semi-Finalists

L-R Samuel Gladding, Timothy Gilmour, Emma Robinson and Phoebe Fogarty

SECTION 11 Semi-Finalists

L-R Finn Cracknell, Luke Kelly, Nash Jacob

HILL ‘n’ RIDGE

This newsletter is funded by our generous sponsors and advertisers with any shortfall in meeting the production costs being met by the Red Hill District Lions Club Inc.

Now in its seventh year of publication the Lions Club regards the newsletter as its main community development project, seeking to bring very local news to the community that would otherwise be unreported.

We welcome new sponsorships For further information please contact lionsnewsletter1@gmail.com

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