

Bushfire latest: we look a safe bet



Hibernation issue – Midwinter 2011

RED HILL is all but assured of getting a designated Neighbourhood Safer Place at the recreation reserve before the coming fire season.

Shire Municipal Fire Prevention Officer Damien Taylor has told RHCA: "I don't think it [the reserve] will have a problem getting through" a Country Fire Authority inspection, due to be finished by August 31. The inspection is to ensure the area is clear of vegetation encroachment since the last annual inspection.

Shire officers "seemed comfortable", Mr Taylor said, that one part of the site could be reserved as a safer place for the public and another part could be used as a firefighting staging area for emergency crews. These areas would be mapped and included in the shire's emergency management plan.

Mr Taylor said he would call a meeting of emergency services to consider Red Hill among six Mornington Peninsula sites to be reviewed for designation as Neighbourhood Safer Places. He agreed to invite RHCA to send an observer to the meeting.

By law safer places must be designated by September 30.

Mr Taylor said he was "sure" the reserve would qualify to become a safer place.

A no-show grow

PERHAPS we become prone to carping in the depths of a gloomy wet winter, but we recalled during a recent visit to United Petroleum that its permit required substantial landscaping to be carried out within 60 days of January 31 this year "to the satisfaction of the Responsible

Authority" (aka Mornington Peninsula Shire Council).

Innumerate though one is, one is reasonably sure that the 60 days have expired, and not so much as an indigenous twig is to be seen in the area designated to contain, to name but a few, "at least two large locally indigenous shrubs or small locally indigenous trees".

'Mini-suburb' plan

RHCA plans to approach the shire with a view to setting up a "mini-suburb" aimed at housing locals who want to sell a property but

deal for its members. So is RHCA. We will keep you informed of progress. Let us know if you might consider joining such a scheme.

Back to VCAT

T"GALLANT restaurant is back in VCAT early in September with its latest bid to expand. RHCA will be there, too, hoping to help the shire defeat this latest threat to the Green Wedge.


RHCA has asked VCAT to state whether T'Gallant is running a shop – a prohibited use in GW – in its cellar door area, following VCAT's ruling that Noels Gallery can't sell wine made from grapes not grown on the property.

Most T'Gallant wine is made from grapes grown far away. At T'Gallant, only pinot gris/grigio grapes, are grown, according to its website. It has not made wine there since 2006.

MP interested

An RHCA member puffed and panted alongside Flinders MP Greg Hunt

as he strode into Red Hill recently on his Peninsula Walk, seeking support for the park we propose in the neglected land between the two sets of shops.

Within minutes a detailed email was sent to Mr Hunt's office. A formal response will arrive soon. Mr Hunt appeared supportive of the plan, to be included in the Character Study which, shire CEO Michael Kennedy has promised us, will start soon. 



The things one finds under the Lino ... Red Hill's Reluctant Renovator sent us this. His wife couldn't see the joke.

remain in the area. Quite a few members are expressing interest in creating a co-operative venture.

Interested in being involved? Know anyone with expertise on this topic? Get in touch via the contact points detailed below.

Aim: bulk electricity

You may have heard the Shoreham Community Association (www.shoreham.vic.au) is looking at establishing a group-buy electricity