



NEPEAN CONSERVATION GROUP INC

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NCG April 2022 Newsheet

Dear NCG members,

Welcome to our April 2022 Newsheet. There is much to update you on and a request to respond to the Mornington Peninsula Shire Council Amendment C270morn by 8 April 2022 which seeks to protect the Mornington Peninsula Green Wedge from inappropriate development by rezoning several sites across Portsea, Shoreham, Mt Martha and Mt Eliza (refer to attached).

It was wonderful to meet many of you in person, and others via zoom, at our hybrid AGM in February 2022 (summary report attached). Attendance figures including in person (42) and Zoom (20+) were excellent, especially in consideration of the impacts due to the pandemic. It was pleasing to see five MPS Councillors and the MPS CEO present. Both PowerPoint presentations given by the President (President's Report) and the Fostering Biodiversity and Habitat Corridors) are attached here for your convenience.

Please note as flagged in the AGM, the NCG committee is reviewing the NCG Incorporated Rules. Members will be advised of a Special Resolution General Meeting to address the revision of the Incorporation rules of the NCG as specified in the rules. This meeting will take place in mid 2022 – you will be notified 21 days prior, together with relevant papers. Please note you must be a current paid up member to vote. Our membership officer Peter Walker will be in contact with you, to advise your status. As always, we are very grateful for your support and donations, and thank those who are up to date.

We would like to welcome three new members: Helen Vidler, Jen Scott and Anne Monichon.

The committee elected at the AGM is as follows:

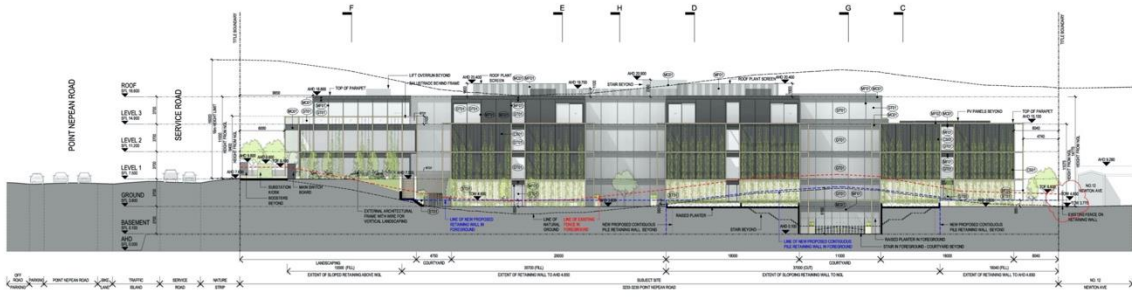
Ursula de Jong (President), John Atchison (Vice President), Ian Gray (Vice President), Catherine Walker (Treasurer), Eddy de Jong (Secretary); General committee members: Judith Brown, Priscilla Donald, Barend Frielink, Lisa Howard, Shannon Richards, John Trewarne, and Peter Walker.

The first three months of 2022 have been a busy, productive time.

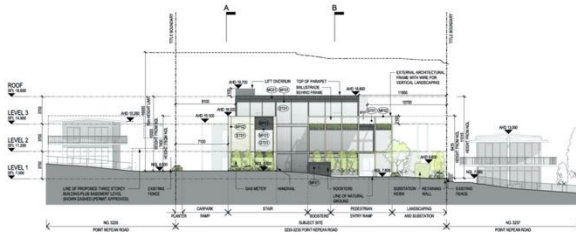
Planning:

NCG met with Senior Planners and the MPS to discuss the NCG C219 Planning Amendment submission on 5 January 2022; we were advised that the proposed amendments are to be reviewed by an independent planning Consultant, presented to the MPSC in June 2022, then to a Planning Panel in July/August 2022. MPS advised some 310 submissions on the amendments were received. The Senior Planning Officer did not directly address the expressed concerns around registered building surveyors taking on further responsibilities or other issues raised by the NCG. However, the NCG learned much from the discussion.

Registered Aged Care Facility: the VCAT seven-day compulsory hearing re proposed Aged Care Facility at 3235 Pt Nepean Road, Sorrento, was held 2-10 February 2022. Ursula de Jong, John Atchison and Ian Gray attended the hearing. The two VCAT members visited Sorrento in late February. The extended hearing continues this week, 6-8 April 2022.



1 - NORTH-WEST ELEVATION



2 - NORTH-EAST ELEVATION

MORNINGTON PENINSULA SHIRE
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NOTE: REVISED LANDSCAPE DESIGN REFER TO SURBAN DRAWINGS FOR DETAIL

PRELIMINARY

Revised	1	10/11/2020	Top Planning Application
Revised	2	03/11/2020	Response to Council 01
Revised	3	03/03/2021	Response to Council 02

01	ARCHITECTURAL ELEVATION DATA	01	LANDSCAPE
02	CONSTRUCTION DETAIL	02	MECHANICAL
03	CONSTRUCTION DETAIL	03	ELECTRICAL
04	CONSTRUCTION DETAIL	04	PLUMBING
05	CONSTRUCTION DETAIL	05	MECHANICAL
06	CONSTRUCTION DETAIL	06	ELECTRICAL
07	CONSTRUCTION DETAIL	07	PLUMBING
08	CONSTRUCTION DETAIL	08	MECHANICAL
09	CONSTRUCTION DETAIL	09	ELECTRICAL
10	CONSTRUCTION DETAIL	10	PLUMBING

NOTE: MORNINGTON PENINSULA SHIRE PROJECT
WITH REFERENCE TO THE
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Sorrento On The Bay

Elevations

Project No: 220001

Date: 28/01/20

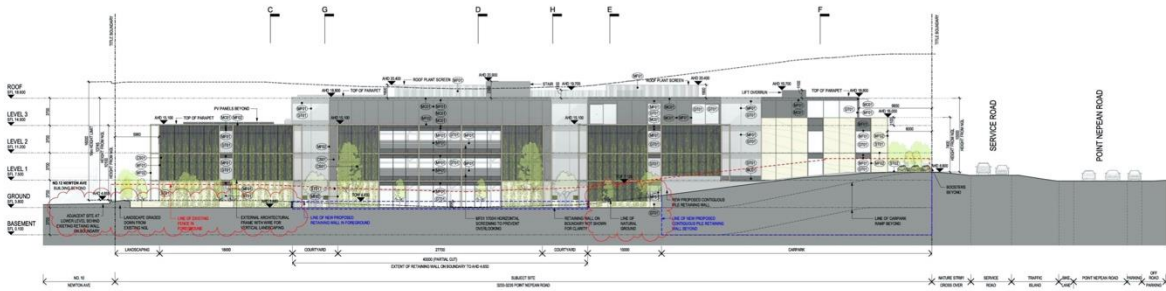
Author: BW

Scale: 1:200

Drawing No: TP02.01 B

rothelwman

Bendigo, Melbourne, Sydney
www.rothelwman.com.au



3 - SOUTH-EAST ELEVATION

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Date: 27/02/20

Author: BW

Scale: 1:200

Drawing No: TP02.02 B

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Bendigo, Melbourne, Sydney
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Architects elevations of the proposed Registered Aged Care Facility at 3235 Pt Nepean Road, Sorrento



Looking at site of proposed Registered Aged Care Facility. Aerial view above; Bottom L from Sorrento; R towards Sorrento. VCAT hearing 7 days in February 2022; 3 more days 6-8 April 2022.



The Continental Hotel Sorrento

A “soft opening” was held on Saturday 5 March 2022. 1000 people were invited as guests of the InterContinental Hotel.

While the NCG is pleased that the Conti is edging towards full operations this month, we have a number of concerns.

Over the past few weeks of construction, it has become clearer that the outdoor dining area is to be a permanent structure – the parties agreed and the VCAT compulsory conference in December 2020 made it quite clear that this was to be a temporary demountable structure.

Secondly, the lease and licence over the public footpath and carparks have not yet been agreed with the MPS. Thirdly, the outdoor structure conceals much of the historic building.



Artist impression of the InterContinental Hotel upon completion, with outdoor dining area to the right.

Planning vigilance continues week by week, as more and more residential blocks are cleared. Thank you especially to John Atchison. He has been joined by Peter Walker to review applications. We invite any NCG member who has some time on their hands to volunteer to help with this critical task (it can be done online).

NCG submissions

The NCG made a submission to the **Victorian Legislative Council Environment and Planning Committee** (VLCEPC) in relation to the protections within the Victorian Planning Framework, and we thank Ian Gray for this work. Unfortunately, we have been advised by the Committee undertaking the Inquiry that they have made a decision not to undertake hearings due to the high number of submissions received (260) and insufficient time remaining in the current term of Parliament. The Committee has resolved to review the submissions and prepare an interim report, and to make a recommendation to the government that the full inquiry be undertaken in the next term of Parliament.

The NCG will monitor Victorian Parliamentary enquiries announcements to allow timely submissions to be developed as relevant.

NCG calls for Temporary Halt on Installation of (artificial) King Fish Reef at Point Nepean

VFA kingfish recreational reefs: a letter from the NCG addressed to Chris Brayne, MP in relation to the recreational reefs was sent on 27 February 2022. Neither Parks Victoria nor the MPS were aware of these artificial reefs being erected off Point Nepean National Park.

The NCG together with local community groups has deep concern over the Point Nepean location for the installation by the Victorian Fisheries Authority (VFA) of the 'largest artificial reef' in Victoria. The purpose of the reef is solely for recreational fishers wanting to catch yellow fin king fish. VFA are calling it the 'King Fish Reef'. Without a local SPN newspaper article the public and local community would not have been aware of this VFA project.

See: <https://www.mpnews.com.au/2022/02/21/artificial-reef-off-point-nepean/>

The installation is to start this month! There has been zero community consultation and scant information about what VFA intends to do.

The proposed location is currently a pristine and sensitive marine environment. The protection or enhancement of which, must be the key driver of any proposed development within that area. We don't believe DELWP has taken account of the environmental impact the King Fish Reef and subsequent boating and fishing activities will have on the surrounding marine area.

Saturday's Age (2 April 2022) featured an article: "Reef grief: Mornington locals wary of underwater installations at Point Nepean". It is a disappointing light weight article.

In the article, David Kramer is quoted as saying: *Victorian Fisheries [Authority] have already obtained all the permissions needed – they don't need to ask permission of loud-mouth so-called environmentalists down on the Mornington Peninsula," he said.*

https://www.theage.com.au/environment/conservation/reef-grief-mornington-locals-wary-of-underwater-installations-at-point-nepean-20220331-p5a9oe.html?utm_content=top_stories&list_name=3C1D28D0-7E1E-4DC0-9DD3-A961CC5360DB&promote_channel=edmail&utm_campaign=am-theage-weekend&utm_medium=email&utm_source=newsletter&utm_term=2022-04-02&mbnr=MzA5MzlyMzY&instance=2022-04-02-06-44-AEDT&jobid=29375385

Perhaps you would like to write a brief letter to the editor of The Age?

Disbandment of the Nepean Coalition Group

The Nepean Coalition Group has been disbanded due to the withdrawal of support from the MPSC. Members met in March and advise of the subsequent creation of a new Group called Nepean Advocacy Group (NAG) which will be run independently by the Nepean Community Groups. MPS CEO, strategic planners and officers and Councillors will be invited to these meetings. The first will be scheduled in May 2022.

NCG Seasonal ramble

A successful day was held at Tootgarook on World Wetlands Day, Sunday 30 January 2022. The NCG committee were in attendance from 7.00 am till 1.00 pm. A great networking day.

Our next ramble is scheduled on SATURDAY 7 MAY 2022

Sorrento, Ocean Beach Road walk

We will walk from the ferry terminal through to the national park! The walk will feature briefings on issues with which the NCG is involved, including:

- Ferry terminal development
- Ocean Beach Road – changes
- Continental Hotel
- Heritage buildings falling into disrepair (demolition by neglect)
- New surf lifesaving club for Sorrento Back Beach
- Mornington Peninsula National Park, Sorrento

We look forward to seeing many of you there – you are welcome to bring family and friends – lots of places for morning tea/coffee along the way and lunch afterwards, should you so desire.

Meet on the pier at the Ferry Terminal at 9.00 am.

Please check the weather and come appropriately attired and shoed!!

The following JUNE ramble will be focussed on our Friends Groups – so good to see work underway again. Please keep in touch with us – photos of your working bees very welcome:

info@nepeanconservationgroup.org.au

NCG GRANT APPLICATIONS – WORKING WITH OUR FRIENDS GROUPS

South East Water: Habitat rehabilitation on the Nepean Peninsula

Targets 4 small bushland reserves in the Bridgewater Bay area under the Mornington Peninsula Shire's jurisdiction: Dana Ave, Cnr Sinclair and Summoner Streets, Jack Ritchie track off Dana Ave, and St JohnsWood Road adjacent to the car park, top end. 2 adjacent areas (abutting St JohnsWood and Jack Ritchie) in the Mornington Peninsula National Park under Parks Victoria's jurisdiction. New and serious sustained follow up work is required following Covid restrictions. Weed spraying; woody weed removal/disposal; hand weeding and mulching required before planting for biodiversity regeneration.

The NCG have been short listed – fingers crossed!

MPS Biolinks Support Grant 2022: Biolinks for a Bridgewater Bay habitat corridor

Bridgewater Bay (BB) is a distinct existing unmade roads precinct, with a designated neighbourhood character and vegetation overlay, adjoining the Mornington Peninsula National Park. In the past two years there has been a large turnover of properties. The project aims to protect, rehabilitate, enhance and nurture biodiversity through the establishment of habitat corridors. For this grant, the NCG is targeting the area contiguous with the Mornington Peninsula National Park, from the Jack Ritchie Track to Kirwood Street. This will link existing reserves managed by the NCG (with the MPS) via public and private land (backyards), to establish a habitat corridor.

MPS Community Placemaking grant 2021-2022: Guide to Indigenous Plants and Problem Weeds on the Nepean Peninsula

The NCG has run out of the Guide to Indigenous Plants and Problem Weeds on the Nepean Peninsula, which aids materially in the flora education of all people: through identification of indigenous plants and recognition of problem weeds. Since the first print in c.2003 the NCG has distributed 25,000 brochures free!

2021 Port Philip Bay Fund Progress report: Stewardship of the Bay: conserving coastal habitat - Portsea to Rye

Our aim: Addressing environmental threats by removing invasive species - woody weeds (such as sweet pittosporum, polygala, and scramblers (including dolichos, blue periwinkle, and cape ivy), and sea spurge (Euphorbia paralias) which displaces local species, colonises open sandy areas favoured by certain nesting birds. Our plan: The Nepean Conservation Group will work with the Mornington Peninsula Shire, volunteers and contractors will conduct on-ground coastal bushland management works to remove woody weeds and scramblers and hand-weed ground flora weed plots. Our outcome: The improvement of the overall extent and condition of the Bay's natural ecosystems by restoring habitat and replanting.

NCG letters of support

Climate Grant Application (Mornington Peninsula Shire Council): Cool Changes

The Cool Changes program will be delivered by the Canopy of Care, the education division of Polperro. This program is based on our mantra that "Education + Inspiration (from nature) = Action (at a community level)". The Nepean Conservation Group is very pleased to support the proposed "Cool Changes" program which is aimed at supporting and encouraging climate change action at a community level within the Mornington Peninsula Shire. Climate change is a significant threat to our current and future world. Action to slow down our rising temperatures needs not only to be immediate, but take place at a global, national and, equally significantly, local/community scale.

St Joseph's Primary School Indigenous plant propagation and planting program.

The Nepean Conservation Group is very pleased to support the students from St. Joseph's Primary School in their Indigenous plant propagation and planting program. The students from St. Joseph's

Primary School will be assisting the Nepean Conservation Group in vital work to renourish bushland reserves by propagating plants, making seed bombs, germinating seeds and growing indigenous plants for some of the 20+ bushland reserves that the Nepean Conservation Friends Groups look after on the Mornington Peninsula.

In Spring, the students from St. Joseph's Primary School will be involved in planting out in selected reserves some of the indigenous plants they have nurtured and grown.

The Nepean Conservation Group cannot stress enough how critical it is that our young children experience the joys of propagating, nurturing and planting indigenous plants in bushland reserves. After all, it will be these very children who will be the custodians of our bushland reserves in the future.

"... hope you have enjoyed your read!!!"



Gannet, Port Philip Bay. Photo credit Parks Victoria 2021

We would love to hear from you: questions, responses, articles, ability to help; donations; etc etc info@nepeanconservationgroup.org.au and president@nepeanconservationgroup.org.au

The NCG cares because we wish to protect, nurture and enhance this extraordinary place we are privileged to live in – we ask for your vigilance and need your continued support to do the work we do. Thank you to Rob Varney for these wonderful photos of the nautilus shell and its occupant!



Warm good wishes, Ursula, Dr Ursula de Jong, president@nepeanconservationgroup.org.au