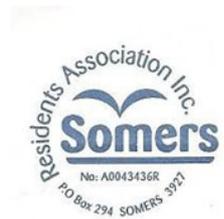# SRA members update June 2019

SRA to offer community cash grants

The SRA will establish a grants program which will make amounts of up to $500 available to local community groups and organisations. There will be one grant of $500 and four of $250 available each year for local not-for-profit organisations. The recipients must show in no more than 150 words why they should receive a grant, how the money will be spent and how it will benefit the community.

SRA President Gerry Lewis said the initiative was part of the SRA's community involvement.

"While we monitor issues that might impact on our community through lobbying and our well-established contacts at the shire, we felt that we needed to do more hence the creation of these grants," he said.

The names of the successful recipients will be announced in November. Details and entry forms will be available in the coming weeks.

*SRA liaises with Mornington Shire Council Officers and State and Federal Members, regarding issues concerning our community.

New committee members

The SRA welcomes two new committee members to its ranks - Debbie Lever and Liz Charpentier - who will add a new perspective to the association.

Debbie Lever has worked in the music and television industries, IT consulting and now as a trainer and assessor (financial services) for the vocational educational and training (VET) system. She is also a member of the Somers Yacht Club.

Liz Charpentier and Debbie Lever

*SRA is a member of RAM, giving it direct access to our local councillor.

She and her husband, John, bought their first property in Somers in 2006 originally as a holiday home. In 2013, they moved permanently from Melbourne to make Somers their home.

Liz Charpentier becomes the second commercial lawyer along with Ross Millen to join the SRA committee. She moved from Melbourne to Somers with her family in early 2016. Liz has since become a member of the Somers Pre-School parent working group, and now supports Somers Primary School as well as local sporting clubs with her family. Liz works as a management consultant for her family firm. She previously served in various legal positions, in education, research, and on sporting committees.

*SRA has a good working relationship with DELWP and Parks Victoria.

*SRA encourages members to raise or discuss their concerns.

Have your say

The SRA is encouraging members and residents to raise issues of concern with the association and are invited to attend before regular monthly committee meetings to discuss their concerns.

All that is asked is they provide details a week before the scheduled meeting so that the committee can prepare answers. Members are also encouraged to suggest agenda items for consideration by the committee via email a week ahead of the regular monthly meetings. Check our website for monthly meeting dates.

*SRA attends shire Council meetings to ensure it is aware of issues relating to Somers.

*SRA donates to our local school & community groups.

Membership extended

The SRA committee has decided to bring the membership year into line with the financial year – July to June. As a result members will get six months free membership.

Until now the SRA membership year followed the calendar year. Under the new system members who have renewed until December 2019 will have their membership extended until 30 June 2020.

Renewal notices will be sent out at the end January 2020 reminding members to pay before 30 June 2020 covering the next 12 months.

If you have not renewed your membership it is still not too late to pay up and get six months free membership and help us monitor issues that might impact on our community.

Help to save Coolart

The Friends of Coolart have launched an appeal to raise $500,000 to help restore many of the rooms in the homestead that are closed because they need restoration. The historic outbuildings are also vulnerable.

Like so many who love Coolart, the Friends of Coolart would like to see this beautiful estate restored, maintained and thriving in the future.

That's why they have launched the **Coolart Conservation Appeal.** Funds raised will allow this grand old treasure to show off its fascinating past, and ensure a secure, healthy future.

Putting Somers on the map

The SRA will hold a competition with a prize of $500 for the design of "Welcome to Somers" signage to be placed on the two roads leading into the village.

The initiative will be open to Somers residents and there will be the major open prize and a special prize for juniors – under 16 years of age.

The entries will be judged by an independent panel of local residents and the winner will be announced in March 2020.

SRA President Gerry Lewis said that the SRA felt it was important to add to the sense of identity that locally-produced signs should welcome visitors to our community.

More details will be revealed in the coming weeks.

Neighbourhood study

The SRA is urging all members to have their say on the draft neighbourhood character study which could have a vital impact on Somers and the Westernport side of the Peninsula.

The SRA has worked closely with the shire on this document and now it is your turn to Have Your Say. It is an opportunity to help shape the future look of our community so your views are most important.

Members can attend the drop-in session at the Stone Pavilion on **<u>Saturday, 29 June between 10am and 12noon</u>** and make their feelings known. You can also lodge a written submission with your thoughts on the draft document by 7 July online at mornpen.vic.gov.au/haveyoursay or by post Attention Peninsula Wide Team, Re: Draft Neighbourhood Character Study, Mornington Peninsula Shire, Private Bag 1000, Rosebud, Vic 3929.

Dog poo bags

In an SRA initiative, we have installed dog poo bag dispensers and bags at three locations around the village to help keep our community clean. The SRA will also pay for supplies of the special biodegradable bags. You will find the dispensers and bags located at:

- **South Beach Road,**
- **The Koala Reserve**
- **The Promenade.**