

FOCS newsletter

No. 4 August 2014

Its winter, its cold rainy and windy, you would expect that not much would be happening in our patch of the world. Nothing is further from the truth. FOCS community is busily engaged with a number of groups including RACV, VicRoads and the Mornington Peninsular Shire. We also have a by-election happening soon. So whether it's a green waste bin service, bus shelters, play ground or something else important to our community we want to hear your opinion. And don't forget to vote for a local councillor who will make your opinion count.

Mornington Peninsula Shire Council, Red Hill Ward by-election

A by-election for Red Hill Ward will be held on Saturday, 23 August. This will be a postal vote election. There are 17 (yes 17!) nominations for this position. FOCS is keen to ensure that all candidates have the opportunity to explain how they intend to represent the ward, and in particular how seriously they consider the needs of the Cape Schanck community. To this end a list of questions has been made available to all candidates and responses, will be posted on FOCS website and Facebook page.

A recent newsletter from the Shire confirmed that there were no projects in the Cape Schanck area listed for funding in the current budget cycle. **We would therefore urge all eligible voters, whether permanent residents or not, to consider the candidate responses and to vote in the election.**

Cape Schanck Community initiatives

Green Waste Bin Service

At the Budget Submission follow up with Shire representatives, we were invited to indicate the level of interest for this service being made available to Cape Schanck residents. There is an annual fee of \$135 associated with the service. If this is something you want then please contact us by email (friendscapeschanck@gmail.com) to register your interest (more detail in the Budget Submission report opposite).

Thursday Tapas and Drinks & meet the candidate(s)

The regular and informal get together, 'Tapas and Drinks' continues to be held the second Thursday of each month, starting at 6pm at the RACV Resort Cape Schanck. All welcome to attend the next one on the 14th August. An invitation has also been sent to Red Hill Ward candidates so there is a chance to meet at an informal event and join in on the conversation and to have your say. To help the RACV with catering could you please let Debbie know by phone 0419 30 2238 or email friendscapeschanck@gmail.com.

Wider Community Initiatives

Boneo Road

FOCS had a meeting with Vicroads and Mornington Peninsula Shire to put the case for improving the condition of Boneo Road. VicRoads advised that funding for capital improvements is extremely limited and a major upgrade of Boneo Rd is not currently a high enough priority for such funding. However they did advise that proposals to resurface a section of Boneo Road between Browns Road and The Cups Drive have now been approved for 2014/15.

The plans do not include widening or provision of a sealed shoulder. VicRoads criteria for bicycle demand considers only bicycle use for commuting to work, not recreational use (or potential use) so again Boneo Road does not get a high priority. However it was an important first step and did achieve the goal of raising our concerns. We need to continue to press for improvement and that clearly with a limited budget and projects like the East-West tunnel it becomes a political process to press our claim for a fair share.

Budget submission follow up with MPS

As a follow up to submissions FOCS made to Mornington Peninsula Shire for funding of key initiatives identified in our "Big Ideas" survey, a meeting was held between FOCS, MPS Mayor and a number of senior MPS officers.

This was clearly just a first step, with very little in terms of funding commitments, but we will keep up the pressure. A few specific items that MPS has committed to at this stage are:

- Plans approved for a playground/meeting area to be provided for Cape Schanck in 2015/16 year, following further community consultation.
- Notional agreement for 1 or 2 bus stops shelters for children waiting for the school bus. FOCS has been asked to nominate potential sites. Two possibilities mentioned included the corner of Bernards Way & Boneo Road and Bass Vista Blvd & Cape Schanck Road. If you have any other suggestions then let us know via Facebook or email.

- The option for a green waste bin (currently only available to MPS "urban growth" residents) could be extended to Cape Schanck if there is sufficient demand. Council representatives were also asked to consider options for dealing with larger volumes of green waste particularly related to reducing fire risk. One option included sharing the cost of hiring a large wood chipper to work 'on-site' locally for significant savings when compared to what residents are currently being charged at the Rye Resource Recovery Centre. As mentioned previously, if you are interested in either of these services please email (friendscapeschanck@gmail.com) to register your interest.
- FOCS asked MPS to confirm previous advice that roads in Cape Schanck had been prioritised for verge clearance in 2014/15. In the meantime if the MPS specification for verge maintenance is available on the FOCS website. If you have instances that do not meet this please call MPS on 1300 850 600.

RACV discussions

FOCS had a successful first meeting with RACV. In particular we used the opportunity to share with them issues and ideas raised in Big Idea survey we thought may be of common interest. RACV, while supportive of our community, consider their primary responsibility is to their membership.

FOCS flagged a number of issues for further discussion in the future.

- In relation to our concerns re the state of Boneo Road, the RACV has encouraged us to register road issues in their Redspot surveys
- Liked idea of cycle paths to Cape Schanck Road and Boneo Road, and walking/cycle path down Cape Schanck Road to the light house.
- Access to facilities at the new development by local residents was unclear but there is possibility of lifestyle memberships available to local community. (People may already have access via their RACV card).
- Other points highlighted for further discussion were extension of reticulated gas, NBN, Community room, potential post box at the resort.

Reaching out to other groups

Red Hill-Flinders Road and Shands Road Intersection

The Flinders Community Association (FCA) has presented a request for VicRoads to address safety concerns at this intersection. FOCS has supported the FCA request for action as a high priority to improve safety.

Southern Peninsula News

There's no better way to keep in touch with what's happening in our local area than via local publications.

If you are interested you can obtain the Southern Peninsula News online version (as well as the Mornington Peninsula Leader and Mornington Peninsula Magazine). Links are available both on our Facebook and webpage.

What's on the horizon

Next few months will see us progressing on our "Big Ideas" initiatives to further build up momentum.

In particular;

- With the upcoming Red Hill by-election and later state election we see an opportunity to present our views and influence policy at state and local level
- Build further connections with neighbouring community groups to pursue common objectives.
- With the Spring and warmer weather (hopefully) around the corner we expect to have further social events to give us all the opportunity to get together. Any suggestions that you may have for these would be welcomed.
- And finally, we expect FOCS AGM to be held in early October.

Feedback and Enquiries

If you have any feedback or questions, or are interested in joining our group, please check our website at

<https://www.facebook.com/pages/Friends-of-Cape-Schanck>

<http://focs.com.au/index.php/focshome>

If you feel passionate about any of our activities and can devote some of your time we are always looking for some help championing some project.

FOCS membership subscriptions due

Just to advise that the FOCS membership annual subscription are due. For \$25.00 individual or \$40.00 a family we hope it's not a big burden if you would like to join our community group. Subscriptions have previously funded the well attended sausage sizzles at the Pines picnic area and other publicity/community activities. Check out the FOCS website for bank account details and don't forget to include your name in the description when making a payment.

Contacts

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