

RWAHS Affiliates group: Annual Activity Report 2024

Maylands Historical and Peninsula Association: maylandshs@gmail.com

1: Engagement with Members

Once again, we can report encouraging growth: Membership now stands at 60 and we have 1,130 followers on Facebook. We continue to actively engage with our membership throughout the year with special member events and social functions. Members and visitors enjoy talks on a range of topics related to Maylands or beyond and average attendances are around 35-45. This year we held 15 such talks: 6 presented by guest speakers and 9 presented by our Members. Members receive a Newsletter (via e-mail or hard copy) as well as regular postings on social media and articles in the local newspapers.

2: Engagement with the local and wider community

MHPA was part of the steering group for the Maylands Street Festival in November 2023. Our “Maylands History and Heritage Festival” was designed to align with, and support the Street Festival and included four different guided walks, themed exhibitions, Open House days at our premises and public talks in Maylands Library. In addition to our normal pattern of Public Talks we also gave an ANZAC Day themed presentation at the local Library and a talk on the Peninsula Hotel for a patient support group at a local hospital. Printed cards for the local walks enable visitors to take a self-guided walk and QR codes link to information on the website relating to the points of interest on each walk.

In May 2024 we launched a major new project “Putting Maylands on the Map!” involving the use of a very large touch-screen displaying a digital map of the suburb, upon which we are loading a number of ‘pins’ to identify specific buildings or locations. Visitors can manipulate the map and clicking on any of the pins brings up a display box with relevant images, a short description of the place and a link to our website. Currently the map is accessed through the screen but we also plan to make this map available through the web to enable interaction remotely. We are using this map as a vehicle to engage with different groups within the suburb and to identify opportunities for further research – thus enriching the information on our website. This project was made possible by a Grant from LotteryWest and we also won grants from the City of Bayswater and Bendigo Community Bank which enabled us to initiate other improvement projects. Substantial work has also taken place to build the quality and reliability of our new website and our active social media profile engages with a broader cross-section of the community. We continued our efforts to engage with local First Nations Elders by working with the Reconciliation Officer of the City. MHPA was represented on the Ratepayers and Residents Association and MHPA President Keith Cundale took part in various Community Reference Groups and undertook training arranged for Community Groups by the City of Bayswater. We continue to enjoy close working relationships with our local Councillors, with the Mayor and CEO of the City and our local elected representatives are also great supporters. We engaged a new sponsor during the year: bringing us to a total of 8 local businesses providing financial support or support-in-kind.

We undertook some major reorganisation of our premises to increase the area available for displays of our information and images and we launched a major new display on the history of Maylands Brickworks at a Members’ social event. A smaller display on local Street Art was developed by a young person on a work experience project from a local High School. These new displays were promoted on social media and through our regular newsletters to encourage new visitors on our regular Open Days.

3: Research activities

We continued to capture the lived experiences of local residents through our Oral Histories project and two members of the Association undertook training in creating oral histories. Several members became involved in undertaking research in addition to our usual team and they are now pursuing their fields of interest with a view to developing further new displays and materials for the website. Our Secretary, Sue Cundale, facilitated two workshops on “Researching the History of your House” for interested local residents and once again any materials that are developed in the coming months will be added to our digital map.

VALE Terry Gaunt (1933 – 2024)

Although Terry was no longer active in MHPA, he played a vital role in setting up the Peninsula Association in the 1990s to help save the Old Peninsula Hotel and later helped create the merged organisation which he led for many years. Terry contributed a huge amount to our local community and is sadly missed.