



Ranelagh Estate Summer Newsletter

The Newsletter of The Ranelagh Residents' Association (A0007234H)

PO Box 618 Mount Eliza. Vic 3930

www.ranelaghestate.org.au

Inside this issue:

- Pleasures of Ranelagh 1
- Resident's Story 2
- Ranelagh Restoration 3
- Old Photographs 4
- Membership Form 4

PLEASURES OF RANELAGH

Our wonderful estate is blessed with generous public spaces as a glance at the accompanying graphic will quickly reveal. In addition to these areas the planners of the estate (Walter Burley Griffin in association with Marion Mahony Griffin and Saxil Tuxen) have given us public footpaths and rights-of-way which are well worth exploring, for those who have not already done so. These access ways make navigation on foot through the estate both easier and more delightful, facilitating walks that include off-road areas, bringing renewal to both human and beast.

Many people enjoy these lovely spaces and we frequently encounter others whose faces become known to us, leading to chat and sometimes friendship. Walking through Ranelagh is one of the joys of this remarkable place and it is no surprise that so many take advantage of it.

On the map shown above, the publicly accessible areas are shown in green and connecting access paths in red. Enjoy your precious Ranelagh Estate, and do your bit to keep it special.



Pedestrian nature trails shown red



One of the two entrances into Lot L off Redbourne Avenue

Our resident's story: Suzi Wratten

Suzi Wratten (formerly Suzi Bartlett) had an instrumental role in saving Ranelagh's internal parkland reserves from becoming multi-unit housing estates.

Suzi comes from a farming background. Her family, the Bartletts, were sheep and flower farmers over the hill near Baxter. Suzi's entire life has been focussed around Mount Eliza: after her school years at Toorak College she worked for Crowders Real Estate, then Stan Fisher Real Estate (now the Woolworths complex) then later with Terry Sparks, before settling permanently in Ranelagh Estate.

In 1978 Suzi and her husband Jeff Wratten took up residence at 25 Roehampton Crescent where they lived for 25 years raising a family. Two years after Suzi's move to Ranelagh Estate her parents Barty and Nancy Bartlett also moved to Ranelagh, into a rambling house on a densely vegetated block at 134 Wimbledon Avenue where Barty lovingly restored and improved the simple single-storey cottage. Once Suzi and Jeff's children had grown up they sold their Roehampton house and down-sized to Suzi's parents' house at 134 Wimbledon Avenue in 2002. Suzi has a deep and lasting attachment to this lovely rambling cottage and named it BAHITI in honour of her father and his love of tropical Tahiti.

In Suzi's own words:

I have seen many changes in the area as you could imagine. When we lived at 25 Roehampton Crescent (where now a new house has been built), from 1978 to 2002, we of course backed onto the Lot D reserve and passionately looked after it, so my reason for fighting for these precious areas was my agenda to do whatever I could to save them for future generations.

I was treasurer on the Ranelagh Residents' Association committee for a couple of years in the 1980s and was responsible for alerting all the residents about a proposal by the Ranelagh Club to sell Lot D for a housing development. When I heard about the proposal I quickly went to Estelle Bridgeford (President of the RRA at that time, and also President of the Ranelagh Club) and she and I drafted a letter alerting everyone, and inviting anyone who was interested to attend the local hall for a conference to discuss this proposal. With the help of Estelle, the RRA committee and local residents we managed to raise enough funds to engage a pair of local solicitors, Jenelle and Dick Curtin, to represent us at the Administrative Appeals Tribunal to prevent this proposal from proceeding. Fortunately, WE WON and we managed to save the reserves.

Postscript

The proposal to sell the whole of Lot D for a multi-unit 'cluster housing' development brought together the Shire, the National Trust of Australia's Victorian branch and many Ranelagh residents who all joined to oppose any such development. The AAT hearing was held on 7 December 1987. A group of 24 residents abutting Lot D had formed the Lot D Preservation Group, which became an incorporated non-profit association in 1990 with the aim of preserving Lot D as parkland for passive recreation for the benefit of Ranelagh residents. In July 2001, after a decade of negotiations with the Ranelagh Club, the Group secured a transfer of Lot D to the Lot D Preservation Group Incorporated. Ranelagh Estate's parkland reserves, traffic islands and road reserves were finally listed on the Victorian Heritage Register in 2005.

If you would like to know more of the intriguing history of Ranelagh Estate and read about some of its famous residents, there is now a book available from Ranelagh Publishing House: *RANELAGH - A Special Place*.

Free delivery on orders placed before Christmas.



Suzi Wratten

Ranelagh Restoration – towards the next 100 years

“A society grows great when old men plant trees whose shade they know they shall never sit in.” So goes the age-old quote. These words do feel like an apt summation of the work being undertaken by the Ranelagh Residents’ Association committee to bring the Ranelagh Vegetation Management Plan into reality.

Residents around Wimbledon Avenue, Ravenscourt Crescent and the John Butler Reserve may have noticed the recent planting of a number of Tuart saplings (*Eucalyptus gomphocephala*) over the last few months. Your RRA has been working closely in partnership with Mornington Peninsula Shire officers to begin the replanting scheme. This task dates back to the Shire’s commissioning and publication in 2011 of the *Vegetation Management Plan for Ranelagh Estate*.

The Tuart saplings were grown from seed carefully collected from the existing ageing Tuart trees on the Estate. After successful germination the seedlings were then nurtured for 18 months at The Briars nursery in Mount Martha before being strong enough to take their place on the Estate where they have been planted to replace missing Tuart trees from the original plantations.

Many of the saplings can be seen on the traffic islands, the edge of the ‘dog park’ (John Butler Reserve) and around the Camborne/Wimbledon intersection. A number have also been planted alongside established trees on the wide Heritage Victoria protected nature strips.

The plantings follow the original garden estate vision set out by Walter Burley Griffin in the 1920s. If taking a walk along Wimbledon Avenue see if you can spot the planting pattern of alternate Tuart and Monterey Cypress lining both sides of this wide road. These magnificent trees have long given the estate the grand shaded boulevard ambience that marks the area for special significance and makes Ranelagh such a wonderful place to live and visit.



Tuart saplings on road reserve

Over the next year, replacing elderly and lost trees along Wimbledon Avenue will continue, preserving our garden estate for the next 100 years and beyond.

A copy of the full *Vegetation Management Plan for Ranelagh Estate* can be found on the Shire’s website. If you wish to discuss any aspect of the plan please email us so that we can assist you towards the people who can best explain it.

Ranelagh Residents' Association

PO Box 618
Mt Eliza 3930

Secretary: Leigh Eustace
Phone: 0401 737 154

E-mail:
mail@ranelaghestate.org.au

www.ranelaghestate.org.au

Old photographs?

We are seeking photographs of life on Ranelagh Estate over the decades. Anything from 1920s through the 1990s. We would love to collate a pictorial archive to sit alongside our popular featured stories of people who have enjoyed golden summers, stormy winters, or anything else that reflects life in Ranelagh.

If you have any photographs that you'd be happy for us to share please contact us via the RRA email address: mail@ranelaghestate.org.au



Mt Eliza village 70 years ago

If you would like to support the RRA please contact the President on the email address above.

Maps for sale



Looking for the perfect gift? Original Ranelagh 1924 Sales posters are available in two sizes - A3 and Full Size.

Contact RRA to purchase yours.

Membership Application



RANELAGH
RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION INC. (A0007234H)
PO Box 618, Mount Eliza, Vic, 3930

Website: www.ranelaghestate.org.au Email: mail@ranelaghestate.org.au

APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP OF RANELAGH RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION INC. (RRA)

To: The Treasurer – Karena Mitchell,
Ranelagh Residents' Association Inc.,
PO Box 618,
Mount Eliza, VIC 3930

I/We being residents or owners of property on Ranelagh Estate wish to join the RRA

Name(s): _____

Address: _____

Telephone number(s): _____

Email address: _____

Note that email is the preferred means of communication in order to reduce operating costs and increase productivity of the group.

I/We agree to abide by the Articles of Association of the RRA and to make payment of any joining fee or subscription as required under the said Articles of Association.

\$20 entitles us/me to membership until 30th June 2020.

Payment ~~method~~:

- (1) Make cheque payable to 'Ranelagh Residents' Association' and forward to Treasurer, Ranelagh Residents' Association, PO Box 618, Mount Eliza, 3930
- OR
- (2) Make a direct deposit to our account: BSB 633-000 Account 157716606
Please use your surname plus your house number as the remitter. In the description area enter "Sub 1920" if subscription only or "Composite 1920" if including a donation.

Signed:

Date: _____

Privacy Policy

We are committed to protecting the privacy of any personal information that you provide to us, and we only collect personal information from you that is necessary for our membership records. Any personal information that we collect will not be disclosed to any person who is not a member of our Committee of Management.

*Wishing everyone a
happy Christmas
and a safe
New Year.*