

# Transport Solutions for the Mornington Peninsula

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### Special points of interest:

- 25 youth became members of the club in January 2011. We have 42 friends on Facebook as of the end of March.
- Surveys were sent out to members in February. 16 were returned with 100% telling us they want to bus to continue!

## Red Hill Lions Bus Club – School holiday transport for Red Hill and Arthurs Seat

At their meeting on 7<sup>th</sup> March 2011 the Red Hill District Lions Club voted to fund and run this service again during the April school holidays. It will follow the same format as January with the mini bus “Your Shuttle” running every Monday, Wednesday and Friday on the following dates:

Monday 11<sup>th</sup> April and 18<sup>th</sup> April  
Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> April and 20<sup>th</sup> April  
Friday 15<sup>th</sup> April and 22<sup>nd</sup> April (Good Friday)

A Facebook page has also been setup to communicate effectively with members, as they told us this was their preferred method of communication. We have 42 friends already!

Become our friend by following this link:

<http://www.facebook.com/redhill.lionsbusclub>

The dedicated website for the booking service will be updated and used again for April. Electronic applications for new members are also available on this site. (See page extract on right)

[www.redhill-lions-bus-club.net.au](http://www.redhill-lions-bus-club.net.au)

Denille and Sophie, two of the original members accompanied myself and Terry Sedgwick, president of the Red Hill and District Lions Club, to the Rye Youth Foundations grant giving night, and were thoroughly excited at the prospect of applying for a grant to continue the running of this service. Transport Connections and the Lions Club are always on the lookout for funding to

continue this service, as the Lions Club in Red Hill are relatively small and their fundraising capacity is limited.

Wellington Shire Council, Transport Connections, is looking at adopting our transport model for a project being run in partnership with the Hayfield Lions Club. We wish them every success and will be available to assist them in any way they require.

Dedicated website for 'Red Hill Lions Bus Club'

## Community Transport Forum – 8<sup>th</sup> June 2011

Work is well underway toward holding a community transport forum in the Mornington Council Chambers on the 8<sup>th</sup> of June.

In partnership with the FMPPCP, Brotherhood of St Laurence, Peninsula Support Services and TransAccess, our aim will be to show agencies how resource sharing can make a difference to community transport service provision.

An eight minute DVD is under production and guest speakers will attend to explain how their experiences have benefited their communities.

TransAccess maintains a database [transport](#)

[register](#) within its current service area that community organisations make available for other community organisations to use on a contribution to cost basis. Organisations must become members of the register to access these vehicles through the TransAccess central booking service. Additional insurance cover is also provided through the register.

Attendance to the forum will be through invitation only. If you feel that you would like to attend contact me as soon as possible. My contact details are on the last page of this newsletter.



## Rosebud West Neighbour Day Celebrations

Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> March, saw Vern Wright Reserve spring to life, with approximately 650 residents in attendance, to celebrate 'Neighbour Day'.

### A little about how 'Neighbour Day' started.

Neighbour Day was founded in Melbourne, in March 2003 by Andrew Heslop after the remains of an elderly woman were found inside her suburban home.

Mrs Elsie Brown had been dead for 2 years - forgotten by her neighbours, her friends and her family.

It was not until a neighbour eventually realised she had not seen Mrs Brown for an extended period of time that Victoria Police were notified. Sadly when officers broke into her home they found Mrs Brown's skeletal remains still wrapped in a blanket on her sofa.

It is estimated Mrs Brown had died sometime in January 2001. Remarkably the gas, electricity, telephone and water all remained connected.

While Andrew didn't know Mrs Brown he was appalled by the apparent ease in which the world had left her behind. Neighbours had watched piles of mail, store catalogues and newspapers build up at her front door but they did nothing.

Widespread local and national media interest followed and it was this coverage that prompted Andrew to suggest a 'National Check on Your Neighbour Day' in a Letter to the Editor of The Age published on 17th March 2003. (<http://www.neighbourday.org/>)

Transport Connections helped to transport 19 people to and from Vern Wright Reserve, and the patrons were extremely thankful with comments like *"I have wanted to go to Neighbour Day for the last two years but have not been able to until now. Thank you so much."*

## Melbourne Medical Companion Project Launch

A successful launch of the project was seen on the 8<sup>th</sup> of March at the Municipal Association of Victoria in Melbourne. Travellers Aid have recruited volunteers and a Project Coordinator, Fran Henry, to run the project until the end of 2011, where it is hoped that Government funding will be made available to continue beyond that time.

This service is available to everybody, however bookings are essential and can be made by ringing 1300 700 399 at least 24 hours prior to use.



Fran Henry (centre), with some of the volunteers at the launch.

## What role does Transport Connections have in the “Big Picture” for the Mornington Peninsula?

As a result of our partnership evaluation, one of our members approached me to discuss the relevance of Transport Connections and its ability to make a ‘real’ difference in the broader scope of transport on the Peninsula.

It was suggested that because Transport Connections cannot instigate public transport trials, or advocate for improved public transport services, the role is inappropriately located within the **Infrastructure Strategy** area of the Shire, and perhaps should move under **Sustainable Communities**.

### I disagree. Here is my argument.

All areas of the Shire (and beyond), are moving toward doing things in an environmentally friendly and sustainable way. Rightly so! This has meant a move toward the “warm and fuzzy” aspect of achieving a goal, whilst being respectful of the impact that is made to the land and people in the community.

Just as other engineering disciplines have made this move, so does the traffic engineering area. For instance; how many drainage engineers knew what ‘Water Sensitive Urban Design’ was 15 years ago? From experience, I would say not many, and yet, now all new drainage infrastructure must comply with new government legislation to incorporate rain gardens and other bio filtration systems into their design, which ultimately benefit our environment.

The Department of Transport has within it, a Social Transit Unit which looks at minimising barriers to access so that the transport system is accessible to as many people as wish to use it. The old Transport Act commenced in 1983, and apart from many other problems within it, community expectations have changed immensely since this time. In 2010 the Transport Integration Act was legislated, and for the first time, social and economic inclusion were enshrined into it making it clear that all transport agencies must have regard to social considerations such as social inclusion and equity of access to transport services. So; has the Department of Transport embraced “warm and fuzzy” themes into its act? Yes. I would actually like to think of it as a social responsibility, that government agencies (and private industry), have finally accepted. Will we see immediate change? No. It will take time, for the social principles of this new act to translate into actual tangible change.

However, getting back to Transport Connections, and it’s relevance to being situated within the Infrastructure Strategy area of the Shire. I think that if the Department of Transport

can see the benefit of incorporating social considerations into its’ previously rigid environment, then so too can the traffic engineers and others, embrace the fact that change is inevitable. Change is good. And there is no need to fear the “warm and fuzzy” direction, which Transport Connections has moved toward in phase 3 of its framework.

Where else can I be in a position to make a difference to the strategic thinking and direction of transport planning within the Shire? Where else, can I be in a position to hear about other transport initiatives being developed, so that I can contribute, however possible, no matter how small that contribution may be?

With the number of residents in the Mornington Peninsula over the age of 65, expected to reach 29% by the year 2026 (compared to Melbourne 18%), community transport, no matter how insignificant you may think it is now, will play a major role in supporting the community. With this increase in age, will come increased numbers of the population that need disability support and accessible transport options. There will be an increased burden on public transport, which we know is inadequate on the Peninsula in its current form.

One of the projects that Transport Connections is undertaking on the Peninsula is to bring together agencies and organisations, to share their transport assets, which if successful, will pave the way to provide a better system of support when needed in years to come.

In addition, the work that Transport Connections is doing to get to the root of education and employment transport issues on the Peninsula is ambitious. Can we solve these issues? Let’s see! Why do we have to shy away from the difficult problems, and leave them for someone else to tackle? Even if we manage to address SOME of these concerns, it’s better than doing nothing at all.

Are we going to move hundreds of thousands of people?  
NO.

Are we going to make a difference to many people’s lives and empower our communities?  
YES.

“Warm and fuzzy” – Social Responsibility – Call it what you will.

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Connecting People with Places



Transport Solutions for the Mornington Peninsula



Transport Connections is an initiative of the State Government of Victoria.

What relevance does this picture have to Transport Connections? None. But I liked it so much I just had to use it! Funny hey.

Transport Connections is a Victorian Government initiative that looks at supporting communities to work together to improve local transport and access. It plays an important role in improving social and economic participation through the identification of access and transport needs and responding accordingly. It does so by finding innovative options to bridge the gaps between private vehicle ownership, and local community and public transport provision.

Through forming local partnerships and harnessing existing assets and services in the community, Transport Connections projects have already demonstrated that communities are able to develop innovative approaches that can make participation in community life easier, for people with limited access.

### Partnership Group Meeting Dates for 2011 as below.

February	- Wednesday 9 <sup>th</sup>
April	- Wednesday 6 <sup>th</sup>
June	- Thursday 9 <sup>th</sup>
August	- Wednesday 10 <sup>th</sup>
October	- Wednesday 12 <sup>th</sup>
December	- Wednesday 7 <sup>th</sup>

### Abbreviations

FMPPCP – Frankston & Mornington Peninsula Primary Care Partnership.

