



Cyril Young Memorial Chapel Association

Recent news about the project to restore the Bush Chapel in Buxton Reserve

A lot has happened since our report to Members and Friends last August -

Annual General meeting

Our first AGM was held in November last year and was well attended thanks to some helpful publicity in the local newspapers. Some former campers at YMCA Camp Buxton showed up and shared their stories of the camp and the Chapel. Committee member, Barry Furness, gave a very interesting talk about life at the camp during his time there as the last Camp Manager. It was obvious from Barry's stories that the Chapel played an integral role in the camp experience.

A new CYMCA committee was appointed, with just one change from last year's committee:

- Andrew Young, Shoreham resident, joined the committee replacing Ann Lazzaro who resigned due to increased family commitments. We thank Ann for her enthusiasm and articulate insights in our first year.

Committee members for 2019/2020:

- Bill Genat - Shoreham resident, former camper (President)
- Barry Furness - former YMCA Camp Buxton Manager, YMAC Liaison (Assistant President)
- Carol McIvor - cousin of Cyril and Ivan Young (Vice-President)
- Ann Renkin - Shoreham resident, FDHS Liaison (assistant Vice-President)
- Viola McMahan - Shoreham resident (Secretary)
- Alison Bunting - Shoreham resident, former camper (assistant Secretary)
- Kate Young - Shoreham resident (Treasurer)
- Sue Boggan - Shoreham resident, MPS Liaison (including Shoreham Bushland and Road Reserves Working Group)
- John McMahan - Shoreham resident, SCA Liaison
- Bill Clancy - Shoreham resident, RSL Liaison
- Ian Young - cousin of Cyril and Ivan Young
- Lois Young - cousin of Cyril and Ivan Young
- Tom McIvor - cousin by marriage of Cyril and Ivan Young
- Annie Barrow - friend of the Young family
- Andrew Young – Shoreham resident

Cyril Young Memorial Chapel Association Logo

As you see at the beginning of the newsletter, we now have a logo to represent the CYMCA. We were very fortunate to have the design services of digital artist, Dr Rebecca Young, to develop the design which incorporates the various elements of the Chapel so well. Rebecca is the daughter of Committee member Ian Young. Our thanks go to the Young family for this initiative.

Conservation Management Plan

Last year we told you about the Conservation Management Plan (CMP) which Mornington Peninsula Shire Council (MPSC) had commissioned for the project. The plan was developed by consultants from Landmark Heritage and sets down detailed guidelines for restoration and on-going maintenance of the Chapel.

The CMP discusses the Chapel's origins as part of the YMCA Camp Buxton and its role as a war memorial, as well as its dedication to the two Young brothers, YMCA members who were killed in WWII. The plan also recognises the importance of the site to the wider Shoreham community. It goes on to outline in detail the strategies, materials and methods necessary for restoring and maintaining the site. On this basis, we have consulted with the MPSC Natural Systems Unit officers in charge of Buxton Woodland Reserve, the MPSC Property Officers regarding acquisition of the portion of the site currently held in private hands, with stonemasons, landscapers and arborists regarding site restoration.

The plan has now been completed, with considerable input from the CYMCA Committee. It was presented to Council earlier this year and accepted unanimously by Council's Planning Services Committee. This is very good news indeed for the Chapel project. The plan will provide a valuable blueprint for our undertakings for many years to come. It is now available at:

<https://www.mornpen.vic.gov.au/Building-Planning/Heritage/Heritage-Studies-and-Conservation-Management-Plans>

Acquisition of the part of the Chapel site in private ownership

Most of the Chapel is within the Buxton Reserve. A small portion is in private ownership at 39 Marine Parade (due to a subdivision glitch in the 1990s). As mentioned in the last CYMCA report, Council agreed to negotiate the purchase of this small piece of land.

What's happened since?

- Initial negotiations between Council officers and the land owner focussed on the existing footprint of the Chapel stonework with a two metre buffer on the southern side and a four metre buffer on the western end.
- In light of recommendations set out in the Conservation Management Plan, and after discussion with the CYMCA Committee, Council officers supported the purchase of a slightly larger area which would enable appropriate screening of the Chapel from the surrounding private properties.

- The Council recognized that negotiating with the land owner to purchase the larger amount of land may be more difficult but agreed that it would be prepared to consider compulsorily acquiring the land if necessary.
- Unfortunately, the second round of negotiations with the landowner were not productive and have concluded.
- We have now been informed by Council that, due to the current difficult financial situation, Council has not any funds allocated to proceed with the compulsory acquisition.
- The CYMCA Committee will discuss further options at its meeting next month.

Funding proposals

The Committee has applied for several grants from Federal, State and Local governments for funding the restoration project. Since our last newsletter in August 2019, we have applied to:

- the Federal Government's *Stronger Communities Program* grant program (\$20,000);
- the Federal Government's *Communities Environment Program* grant program (\$23,859)
- the State Government's *Restoring Community War Memorials and Avenues of Honour* grant program" (\$30,000)
- the Mornington Peninsula Shire Community Budget Programme 20/21 (\$81,335)
- the Federal Government's *Saluting their Service* grant program (\$32,670)

We have been supported in these applications unstintingly by :

- local Mornington Peninsula Shire councillor, David Gill
- local Member for Nepean in the Victorian Parliament, Chris Brayne and his electoral officer, Josh Sinclair
- MPSC Property Officer Jonathan Chivers
- MPSC Cultural Heritage Officer Anne Grogan
- Natica Schmeder from Landmark Heritage who wrote the CMP
- the Young Family
- the YMCA
- local organizations - the Flinders RSL Sub-branch, the Shoreham Community Association, the Flinders District Historical Society and the Shoreham Roads and Reserves Working Group

Unfortunately none of our applications has been successful so far, although we still await the outcome of the *Saluting their Service* program.

We were particularly disappointed to miss out on the Victorian Government's *Restoring Community War Memorials* grant. We appealed the decision to no avail. Chris Brayne has encouraged us to apply again next year with assistance from his office staff.

As you can see from the photos below, the Chapel, in particular the stonework in the platform area, continues to deteriorate. We are therefore keen to obtain finances to begin repair work as soon as possible. We welcome any suggestions from our Friends and Members in this regard.

Working bees at the Chapel

The proposed working bee roster for monthly maintenance of the Chapel has been deferred at the present time given the Covid-19 restrictions. Fortunately, at this time of year, not a lot of maintenance is needed at the site.

Membership of the Cyril Young Memorial Chapel Association Inc.

At the AGM in November, it was decided to maintain the annual membership fee at \$10 per person. If you joined our Association last year, it would be much appreciated if you could renew your subscription please - see the attached membership form, which includes bank account details.

If you are yet to become a member, please consider joining us to help restore this important part of Shoreham's heritage. We really need your support!

Contact details

If you would like to contact the CYMCA committee, with any questions, comments or suggestions, please email us at

ShorehamBushChapel@gmail.com

or you can write to us at

CYMCA
PO Box 307
Shoreham Vic 3916

You can also find out more about the history of the Chapel and news of the project on the Shoreham Community website:

<http://shoreham.vic.au/cyril-young-memorial-chapel>

These photos, taken recently, show the damage to the lectern over the last two years

