



PENINSULA VOICE

News

**Welcome to the
Peninsula Voice
Newsletter.**

Learning • Conversation • Engagement

Peninsula Voice works to help build a more resilient community on the Mornington Peninsula. We shine a light on the issues that impact us, bring together experts to share evidence, knowledge and lived experiences, and we support conversations that promote positive, community-led solutions.



Season's Greetings to All.

Celebrate the spirit of Christmas in our community!

As the holiday season approaches, our community begins to sparkle with the warmth and joy that Christmas brings. It's that special time of year when our streets light up, homes are adorned with twinkling lights, and the spirit of giving and togetherness fills the air. This Christmas let's come together as a community to celebrate the true meaning of the season: love, kindness, and goodwill to all.

Here are some wonderful ways you can participate and spread holiday cheer:

Decorate and Share the Joy

Brighten up your homes and spread some holiday magic for everyone to enjoy. Whether you go all out with festive decorations or keep it simple and classic, every effort helps make our neighbourhood feel merry and bright.

Giving Back to Those in Need

Christmas is the season of giving for local families in need. You can drop off non-perishable food items, new toys, and clothing at the designated donation box located at various dedicated locations.

Christmas Eve Service

For those looking to reflect on the spiritual meaning of Christmas, check your local church for the times of Christmas services.

Spread Kindness and Compassion

Let's not forget the simplest way to celebrate this holiday season: by showing kindness to those around us. Whether it's lending a hand to a neighbour, sending a thoughtful card, or offering a smile to a passerby, small acts of kindness have the power to brighten someone's day and create a ripple of positivity in our community.

This Christmas let's make it a time of connection, generosity, and gratitude. Together, we can create a holiday season full of cherished memories and shared joy.

Peninsula Voice take this opportunity to wish all our readers a safe, peaceful and fulfilling festive season and a positively good 2025.

Christmas Giving Program 2024



Community members are encouraged to donate toys to support local individuals and families this Christmas.

Toys are needed for children aged 0-13 years.

Closing date for donations is Monday 10 December.

Drop your toy donation under one of the Christmas trees at our three Shire offices - Hastings, Mornington or Rosebud.

Toy ideas:

- Sporting goods / bags
- Lego
- Board games
- Stationery / art & craft
- Movie tickets
- Beach toys / towels
- Fishing gear
- Make-up / cosmetics
- Small electrical items
- Gift cards for 10 to 13-year-olds

Your toy must be new and unwrapped. No stuffed toys.

Donations will be passed on to our local Community Support organisations.

For more information:

Contact Kate Hills, Team Leader, Community Wellbeing
Kate.Hills@mornpen.vic.gov.au



MORNINGTON
PENINSULA
Shire



Take a stand.

It was Hayleigh’s wedding day, the oldest of my five daughters. As the mother of the bride, I had memorized every note of the processional song, knowing each cue by heart. Understandably, it was one continuous song - there was no pause or traditional wedding march.

When the music swelled to the moment of her entrance, I instinctively rose and turned. But I found myself alone - no one else had stood. Doubt crept in, and I quickly sat back down.

The ceremony continued beautifully, but that moment has stayed with me. **Why didn’t I trust my instincts?** Why didn’t I signal the other guests to stand?

Reflecting on this experience, I’ve come to see it as a valuable lesson about trusting our inner voice, even when we seem to be the only ones

hearing it. **How often do we second-guess ourselves, letting the inaction of others influence our own actions?**

Sometimes, we need the courage to stand up - literally and figuratively - for what we believe is right, even if we’re standing alone.

Sometimes, all it takes is one person’s small action to set a big change in motion.

Whether standing up at a wedding, speaking up in a meeting, or reaching out to a friend in need - your instincts might just be onto something. And who knows? Your small act of courage might be exactly what others are waiting for.

So here’s to **trusting ourselves a little more**, embracing those awkward moments, and always standing for the bride.

(Courtesy of Jess Radpavar)



MCSC Christmas Appeal 2024

As we launch our Annual Christmas Appeal, we are once again turning to our community to help lighten the load this Christmas.

Christmas can be a challenging time particularly if you’re doing it tough, and the increase in demand we’re seeing tells us there are many people in our community who are really struggling.

This year, MCSC is setting an ambitious target of \$50k to help fund a range of Christmas Programs.

For every \$1 donated we can turn that into \$3 worth of emergency relief value, making your hard-earned donation, work even harder.

‘Community Supporting Community’ has been at the heart of what we do at MCSC.

[CONTACT US HERE](#)

[DONATE HERE TO OUR CHRISTMAS APPEAL 2024](#)



The Christmas Glow: A Community Story

In the small town of Harmony, Christmas had always been a magical time.

The streets, lined with twinkling lights, smelled of pine and fresh-baked cookies. Each year, the townsfolk worked together to transform the town square into a winter wonderland. But this Christmas was different.

The town's beloved resident, Mrs. Clara, who had spent decades organizing the festivities, had fallen ill. Her absence left a void not only in the planning but also in the hearts of the people. Clara had always said, "Christmas isn't about decorations or gifts; it's about the love we share and the hope we kindle."

Determined to honor her words, the community came together in a way it never had before. At the town hall meeting, 10-year-old Sophie suggested something new: a *Light of Love Parade*. She proposed that everyone make their own lanterns, not for themselves, but for someone in the community who had made a difference in their lives. Each lantern would represent gratitude, kindness, and connection.

The idea caught fire, and soon families, neighbors, and friends were crafting lanterns in garages, kitchens, and schoolrooms. One by one, people brought their creations to the square. Lanterns of all shapes and

colors began to fill the space, each glowing with stories of love and appreciation.

On Christmas Eve, the town gathered for the parade. As the procession began, the square sparkled with the soft, warm glow of hundreds of lanterns. Mrs. Clara, wrapped in a blanket and seated near the church steps, was overwhelmed as she watched her beloved community come alive with light and joy.

But the most touching moment came when Sophie approached Clara with her lantern. "This is for you," Sophie said. "Because you've taught us all what Christmas really means."

As the crowd cheered, Clara's eyes filled with tears. "You've given me the greatest gift," she whispered. "You've reminded me that the spirit of Christmas shines brightest in our love for one another."

The Light of Love Parade became a cherished tradition in Harmony, but more importantly, it became a symbol of the true meaning of Christmas—a celebration of hope, generosity, and the strength of community.

And as the final lantern was set afloat that night, Clara's words resonated through the chilly air: "*When we light the way for others, we find our own path to joy.*"

This story captures the spirit of Christmas for us all—let's carry the Light of Love in our hearts this holiday season.



Something to Consider...?

Your editor is the proud grandfather of seven children.

Every Christmas our grandchildren are reminded that there are many children who are not so fortunate to receive presents from Father Christmas.

Our grandkids are encouraged to use their pocket money to visit a toy shop to buy a present for someone in their age group. Those not old enough for pocket money are given \$10-\$20 to spend.

We started this with our three children when they were young. It was inspired by my father back in the day when myself and two brothers would visit a local orphanage with presents.

The collective determination to maximise the purchasing power of their money by our grandkids is a sight to behold. They fully understand what the whole process is about, and the activity is rounded-off with a visit to the Mornington Community & Support Centre or the giving tree at the Shire offices to leave the presents.

It has become a powerful activity and a very valuable learning experience for all.

Worth a thought?

Keep it loose

Our recycling top tip for this month is: Don't put plastic bags in your recycling bin.

Plastic bags are a 'soft' plastic and can't be placed in your recycling bin. So please don't collect your recyclables in a plastic bag, just throw them loose into the recycling bin. This avoids contaminating the truck, which sends the whole load to landfill, costing more money and losing resources that could be remade into new products.

mornpen.vic.gov.au/recycling



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Christmas is a bridge. We need bridges as the river of time flows past. Today's Christmas should mean creating happy hours for tomorrow and reliving those of yesterday.

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