Phillip Island to party through 2018

Phillip Island is set for a year-long party, with planning underway to celebrate our 150th birthday throughout 2018. The celebrations will culminate on the official centenary birthday, Friday November 2, but events throughout 2018 will include a Wooden Boat Festival in May, a possible community hall in late November and events held by many of the island's groups and associations in between.

The 150th marks the first sale of land on Phillip Island on November 2, 1868, in a ballot held at Schapelle Point (now Mornington). According to the Phillip Island and District Historical Societies' John Jannasch, while the Ballarat brothers were the first settlers in 1848, and settlers were known to inhabit the island in the early 1840s, the 1868 date is being celebrated because it is the year of the first island-wide European settlement.

The historical society had big celebrations in 1942 to celebrate the McCallum's, who settled in the early 1860s.

But this is about celebrating the sub-Antarctic European settlement across the whole island.

Celebrations

The 2018 celebrations will culminate on the official centenary birthday, Friday November 2, 2018, with a re-enactment of the original land ballot.

So far, other events currently being planned will include:

• The first weekend in March will see a Wood Boat Festival, including a planning committee and boat building, centring around a boat and boatomaine day, childrens' pirate treasure hunt, model boat competition, and sea shanties being sung in several locations along the foreshore throughout the weekend. There will also be food stalls along Beach Road and ferry rides around Rhyll channel, according to organiser Judy Lawrence. "This certainly seems appropriate as Rhyll is known as the site of the earliest boat building industry in Victoria," Judy said.

• The Phillip Island Cemetery Trust will launch a new book on November 5, alongside an open day. The book will cover the first 50 years of the cemetery, which covers about 150 burial plots, from 1870 until 1924, with a story on each burial. The Trust's Pam Rothfield said in the last five years there were 111 interviews, eight of which were infants or children. "The book will be an illustration as to how many times our pioneers opened," Pam said.

• The Phillip Island and District Genealogical Society hopes to produce a book and hold an event with the descendants of the original settlers.

• Friends of Churchill Island will hold an old-fashioned picnic at Churchill Island in February.

• The Action Society of Phillip Island will hold exhibitions at Easter and Melbourne Cup weekends.

History

The sub-division of the island started in 1868 with a ballot for the sale of the eastern half, with the western half sold through ballot the following year.

According to a report in The Australian on November 7, 1868, up to that time "...without the exception of the McCallum's, there is no settled European settlement across the whole island."

That is to be regretted that they have departed from that determination," the article states.

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Love the doughnut

Sharing a story with Maggie the pup is part of the fun of reading for Prep graders, Erya Cottens.

Maggie is the latest addition to Cowes Primary School and has already stolen the hearts of everyone she meets. As well as being a class favourite, Maggie is also having lesson's of her own in being a therapeutic dog for the school's Welfare Program.

It's a busy day at school for this little pop as she listens to children read, comforts children in need, or brightens the day for those who have been in the sick bay.

"Maggie's a real hit with everyone," said school principal Sue Beckett.

"It's wonderful to see the smiles on their faces when they are not feeling well or happy." Maggie also leads a friendly ear for anyone who wants a quiet moment in a stressful environment or who can keep a four-footed secret. Whatever she does and wherever she goes, Maggie is never alone, and as you can imagine, is in great demand with everyone.

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EXCELLENT LOCATION

Plated in the quiet quarter of Cowes, this is the extremly well maintained home. With a very easy walk to one of Cowes quietest beaches. The north facing aspects create a warm and inviting living area. The second living area has views over the extensive rear yard.

8 Rossebay Street, Warragul Heights $725,000

QUIET COURT LOCATION

This well presented property is perfect for those looking for low maintenance. Comprises 3 spacious BR's all with B/R's, master with ensuite and W/R, open plan living area and 2 bedrooms. This property represents great value for money and would be perfect for permanent or holiday living.

10 Hayley Avenue, Ventnor $475,000

QUIET TREE LINED STREET

This lovely home is tucked in a sought after location and with the added bonus having a north aspect at the end of the road. Complete with 4 spacious BR's, ensuite and W/R to main, 2 additional bedrooms plus study, polished hardwood flooring.