

## **STAYING IN PORTARLINGTON November 2017**

### **Annual SiP outing to The Heights Geelong**

SiP's senior festival outing was once again a great success with a nostalgic visit to The Heights House and Gardens in Geelong and a scrumptious morning tea of French pastries. After an overview of the site's history by a National Trust staff member we explored the prefabricated house (built in Germany and assembled in Geelong in 1855), original outbuildings, and beautiful heritage listed gardens. Geelong couple Annette and David Chisholm, married at The Heights and celebrating their 30th wedding anniversary, joined us for the visit and a delicious lunch at the Grovedale Hotel. The annual SiP raffle was a great success especially with Portarlington resident and artist, Anne Prendergast, contributing extra prizes of limited edition prints of three of her paintings.

### **End of this year's SiP and BACA forums on the new aged care in the home packages**

SiP and BACA have continued the program of information forums with very well attended October forums at Portarlington and Point Lonsdale. SiP and BACA acknowledge the invaluable contribution of Portarlington resident and keynote speaker, Deb Warren, who as former public servant and aged care expert has guided attendees through the key changes to home based care. Deb emphasises the important goal of consumer directed care and the wellness approach underpinning the Commonwealth reforms. With the conclusion of the forums at Ocean Grove in early 2018, SiP and BACA will be taking the issues raised to provider agencies to help ensure service providers' responsiveness to residents' needs.

SiP President Jenny Wills recently participated in a COTA Australia workshop looking at possible next stages in promoting self-management for home care packages. COTA is working with **RMIT** University on a two year project which will produce toolkits for service providers and consumers and the project will explore the use of a direct debit card to give consumers greater choice and control of services. SiP will provide updates as information becomes available.

### **Good news on the banning of plastic bags!**

SiP, which has campaigned over many years, congratulates Coles and Woolworths and now the State Government for agreeing to a ban on single use plastic bags scheduled to commence in 2018. SiP replacement bags will be available free of charge to assist local shoppers make the transition to reusable more environmentally friendly bags.

### **Annual General Meeting**

The following office bearers were elected - Jenny Wills President, Robyn Hope Vice-president, Chris Kelly Secretary, Annette Colley-Allerton Treasurer and three committee members Bruce Homes, John Moug, and Jenny Tilleard.

*Chris Kelly*