

# Wagstaffe to Killcare Community Association Inc.

## PRESIDENT'S REPORT 2017-18

*I would like to acknowledge the Traditional Custodians of the Land on which we meet and pay my respects to the Elders past and present.*

As I said last year, 'After all these years, I have little more to say.' So this year's report is brief. But there are still three key themes: 1) thank you to the community which supports us when needed, which rallies round long and hard at our various events, the people who donate their time and effort, and to those of you who attend our meetings. We try to do your will as best as we can, and we cannot do it without you. 2) We need new blood, new people and younger ones to look to the future and to take over from our 'old' blood! There are many of you who have worked hard and long before, who have been on the Committee in the past, but who still continue to do enormous work both behind and in front of the scenes, and in this I am thinking of Graeme Anderson and Robyn Warburton in particular, who continue their efforts when some of us are slumped in a heap!! So thank you for the past, and now we look to the future. And 3) This year was a year of transition, with some new people joining us in our efforts, with a new way of running Australia Day without Council, and with continued uncertainty about the new directions of Council and how they treat us. But we live in hope that we will overcome the difficulties, and that we can continue to forge a positive way ahead.

Again, there were challenges this year. After the saga of the Hall licence the previous year there was the uncertainty about Council support for Australia Day, but in the end we held what some said was the best ever Australia Day, with a home-made stage by Ken Tough, our local Coast Opera singers, and a heart-felt speech on what it means to live in this beautiful area, by Terry Baker. The Council challenges continued and we were fortunate that the James' provided a skip for Trash and Treasure and our usual bevy of supporters was swelled by some newcomers so that while the day proved exhausting, as we all were one year older, it was again a big success with over \$5400 raised.

The Half Tide Rocks track saga continues as constant National Parks staffing changes has meant that despite constant follow-ups, the Department's lack of staff and the changes in organisation meant that no progress was made. And the Turo Park extension developments continue to take longer than hoped, with the detailed engineering reports and costings for the foot bridge over the creek taking time and the need for soil in the back area still waiting on Council. However, the Association was able to continue to erect a number of seats along the walking track and at the Wagstaffe Wharf. And after all the planning and effort, the fitness equipment was installed at Turo Park and is being well used. And an additional fitness pole with three items of equipment was placed near the parking area at the surf club at Killcare, much to the delight of many at that end of the Peninsula.

Improvements have continued at the Hall, as has Jan Whiteley's cleaning efforts! The garden beds have been improved, bike racks installed, and the central bed in the Square flourishes with the attention by Bill Gregor, Ray Bass and Robyn Warburton and others. And the resplendent large whale table was unveiled and celebrated at the Big Band jazz performance on 27 January, and subsequently Ken Tough again performed miracles, installing pavers underneath the table to replace the tired and decayed grass! A number of housekeeping matters have been improved, with repairs around the Hall and the area, a soccer net installed in Turo Park, and tennis court letting fees were raised so that we can continue to set aside a sinking fund for a new court surface, fence and related costs. And a similar sinking fund has been put in place for the Hall, so that it maintains its high state of care to attract all those who use it. Wedding reservations have increased, and in February the Hall hosted its first gay wedding with rainbow bunting, a rainbow cake, superb flowers and suitably attired husbands: the scene was one of joy.

We supported the work of others who work to improve the general character and appearance of this area, distributing and collating responses to the Hardy's Bay Foreshore Plan, prepared by highly experienced

local landscape architects. And we are now working with them to urge the Council to take the necessary action – but again, with scant response from Council. A wonderful jazz picnic was held at the Hall in November, initiated by Virginia Henderson AM, and on the Saturday after Australia Day a lively crowd attended the Big Bouddi band, who turned on a great show for us. And the new large whale table was unveiled, to much acclaim and thanks to all the carvers. We continued to give support to the community carols in December, and the Hall remains the venue of choice for many local groups and their fundraising activities, as well as the regular fitness, social and health activities.

However, as with the slow progress on the Turo Park extension and the HTR track, progress remains slow on improvements to the mobile dead spots, though mobile towers were announced at the end of the year (and more recently, we were told one single tower would be erected, rather than our preferred five mini towers). The issue of jet skis continues, the noise and potential danger annoying many, while the stalwarts of bushcare removed the weeds at Turo Park extension and continued their work along the Dog Track. Channel dredging took place last year, but was ineffective, so our waterways continue to be blocked. (And from 8 May ferry services were diverted to Patonga, and Council is considering an urgent motion tonight.)

Thank you to all of you, to all the Committee and everyone working on our various activities, and to all who do so much to make this a wonderful place to live. We all do this for the good of the community, not for individual benefit or praise, and we need to look to the future. Over the next few years, ways of doing things will change. Technology is having an impact, and we need to rethink. We need to continue to work with other community groups. But we need to recognise the pressures on everyone; younger members with jobs and young families, and older ones who may suffer health decline. We need to think again about Trash and Treasure, and how it functions. We need great community events like this, but perhaps we need a new kind of community event: hold a writers' festival, local plays and displays, a comedy show, a discovery tour, have some other approaches that join us all together. So thank you, and let's rethink how we do things in future. And let's continue to work for the good of all, not for narrow self interest. Thank you to everyone who has worked so hard for so long in so many ways, to make this community what it is.

*Peta Colebatch, President, 14 May 2018*