



WTKCA AGM 9 May 2022

President's Report

Michael J. Allsop

The Wagstaffe to Killcare Community Association ends its financial year at the end of February. This report covers our activities from 1 March 2021 to 28 February 2022, but for the sake of interest we include additional commentary covering the last 2 months bringing us up to AGM date.

Throughout the last year we were all relieved to work our way through the various COVID concerns and associated measures and pleased to see most aspects of our lives now back to a semblance of normal, although still appropriately cautious. These measures and concerns still had an impact on Association activities during the year, but fortunately not to as great an extent as the previous year.

Events were off and now on again

We did not hold Trash & Treasure 2021 in the usual format, rather changing it into a Book Bazaar, focused on books, records, DVDs etc only. This proved very successful and enabled wider spacing of patrons and helpers. We were actually surprised at the volume of items donated – far greater than seen at any Trash & Treasure in those categories. More recently, and subsequent to the end of our Financial Year, we held Trash & Treasure 2022 without books etc to give us more space. We intend to hold a Book Bazaar as its own event later in the year, probably late October. There seems to be no shortage of quality items hidden away in spare rooms and garages and we are grateful both to those donating to these events as well as to the buyers snapping them up.

Tennis at Turo Park was conducted largely free of restrictions over the last year. Indeed court hire proved more popular than ever. We are very fortunate in having a dedicated band of volunteers maintaining the court to an exceptional standard, while the Association has maintained a sound reserve of funds to address any substantial issues that may affect the playing surface in future.

Wagstaffe Hall regained the majority of its weekday usage through regular hirers and saw weekend hire gradually return. Over the year this grew to around 70% of typical usage despite ups and downs with Delta and Omicron. As we move through 2022 the enquiries and bookings are continuing at a solid pace. We have every expectation that this source of Association income will have returned in full by the end of 2022.

Our traditional Australia Day breakfast event was still a COVID casualty however. This event takes a bit of planning with singers, speakers and lead times on approvals etc so it was disappointing to have to cancel for a second year in a row. We hope 2023 may enable us to enjoy this community event again.

Financially sound

The Financial Report for the year is covered separately, but in summary we are keeping the Association finances in good order. Despite softer income and pretty steady expenses (at a low level), we have managed to add to our retained earnings through operating activities, then applied some of our funds and dedicated reserves to community projects. These reduce our cash, but that is the whole idea of generating and then applying funds rather than hoarding for no purpose. We still have substantial reserves to allocate in future.

We spent money on facilities for the community

The funds earned through the various activities of the Association are held exclusively for the benefit of the community, whether through grants, services or provision of small infrastructure, often co-funded with Council. We also look to receive grant funding ourselves from time to time through programs offered by Council, State or Federal Government.

Over the last year we worked with the Bouddi Society to apply their grant funding for an upgrade to the AV facilities in Wagstaffe Hall. Their grant was under a Federal Government Arts program which WTKCA topped up to provide internet connectivity, advanced sound equipment and new projection facilities. The hall can now be set up for anything from the most basic PA and microphone to streamed audio/video or multiple microphones and instruments driving theatre type speakers.

We were also successful in obtaining grant funding for provision of solar panels to Wagstaffe Hall under a Federal Government program to power community facilities. The hall now effectively powers itself during the day. Once battery technology becomes more cost effective we will look to upgrade the system accordingly, again seeing if grants may be obtained to assist.

To help us keep in touch both with our members and the wider local community we have enhanced our means of electronic communication while retaining our Talking Turkey newsletter and member email facilities. In particular our website <https://www.wagstaffetokillcare.org.au/> has been totally re-vamped and maintains links for all sorts of useful things in the community, including emergency information, as well as latest news etc. Hall booking enquiries are now online and we hope to introduce electronic booking for the tennis court this coming year. We are also making use of the local Facebook page to stay aware of local happenings as well as to advise the community about matters of interest.

During the year the Association applied funds towards a number of projects to benefit the community, many with the assistance of volunteer labour:

- A new shelter and BBQ in the park adjacent to Killcare Surf Club (with Council)
- Repairs and improvements to the retaining wall and seating near Wagstaffe Wharf
- Clearing and beautification of John Menton Reserve in Blythe St Killcare

In addition the Association supports the activities of the local Bushcare group through funding for materials and planting from time to time when Council funding is not available.

Council have a project currently underway to upgrade the play space in Turo Park Pretty Beach. WTKCA took on board feedback from the community and is providing additional funds to Council for a small perimeter pathway to the play space for kids on scooters etc.

We are very active in support of local issues

The Association has also spent a lot of time over the last year in advocating for improved infrastructure. There now over 20 items on our "list", some on Council, some on other authorities. The Council items are of greatest concern as basic services are affected. These include :

- The water main along Araluen drive (north) which now has had 35 breaks
- Road alignment, parking and traffic along the Araluen waterfront
- Condition of parklands and parkland drainage
- Sea walls to parkland and Pretty Beach Rd
- Sealing and drainage of Albert St Wagstaffe
- And most recently, the awful condition of our sealed roads after rain damage

Matters on the State Government include :

- Half Tide Rocks Track refurbishment (with NPWS)
- Ettalong Channel dredging and maintenance (Transport for NSW)

A lot of these matters are moving, but slowly. We will continue to push on these and others through 2022, and make representations in a professional manner.

While on "everyone" we have been advocating for improved mobile communications, including representations to Council and the Land & Environment Court as well as through the carriers themselves. The only solution presented as viable is a tower on Wards Hill Rd on Council land. All parties want the project to proceed, however it remains stalled in court after a challenge.

We have also been advocating for upgraded NBN line speeds and line reliability after approaches from several residents working from home have gone nowhere individually.

Working together

A very important consideration in the approaches we take to the various authorities in relation to our requests and concerns is that we speak in common with other community groups in our area who may share an interest in the matter. We are very pleased to be supported by and offer our support to the Bouddi Society, Killcare RFS, Killcare SLSC, Hardys Bay Residents Group, Killy Cares, HB Community Club, HB Community Church and Killcare Wagstaffe Trust. You will find links to all of these on our website. We are also an active participant in the local Community Resilience Plan in planning in advance various responses to community emergency situations.

In closing, I would like to extend a huge vote of thanks to the individual members of the WTKCA Committee for their efforts over the year, including many unseen but time-consuming and important contributions. Our community volunteers also continue to provide the glue for all our activities, and we are so lucky to have such a strong spirit of positive co-operation behind everything we do. A great thank you for all efforts on behalf of the Association.

We also acknowledge the sad loss during the year of Fay Gunther, a committee stalwart and indeed a shaper of the Association and its events over the past two decades. Her legacy lives on.

The Association is here for the community and will continue to assist in keeping our beautiful beach, bay and bush home as a supportive and welcoming environment for all.

Thank you.