



WTKCA AGM 12 May 2025

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 2024 to 28 February 2025. For the sake of interest we include additional commentary covering the period subsequent to the close of our financial year bringing us up to AGM date.

Activities and Achievements

We had a full program of activities during the FY. The standard weekday activities in the Hall continued strongly, tennis court usage was good, the court itself kept in good order, while hire of the Hall for weekend events was bolstered by some concerts with strong community attendance. The WTKCA events of Trash and Treasure and Book Fair both provided record levels of income for the association and could not have happened without the massive efforts put in by community volunteers. Trash and Treasure 2025 continued this successful formula subsequent to the end of our FY. The last event in the FY was Australia Day 2025 which followed the recent format at the rear of the Hall. This was very well attended and received several comments praising its format and the messages of the speakers. The Breakfast BBQ collection this year was to the benefit of the Pretty Beach Public School P&C.

In addition to these “operational” activities, the Association continued its advocacy for the amenity of the community more broadly. We continued to advocate for the approval of the proposed mobile comms tower at Killcare Heights, the improvement of the Empire Bay Drive / Wards Hill Road intersection. We are hopeful of a positive outcome on the mobile comms tower later this year after mediation in the Land and Environment Court. We are hopeful of a commitment from NPWS to progress from design to construction of the Half Tide Rocks “overlook” Track. Consideration of the intersection has been confirmed as part of a wider Federally funded review of Empire Bay Drive. All positive in our view, but fingers still crossed.

Another perennial advocacy matter is the clearance of the Ettalong Channel to permit uninterrupted ferry services and general safety of navigation. We have been in regular touch with the Dept of Transport during the year to confirm that all channel design, approvals and contract letting work has been completed. The works are yet to start as at AGM date, but we are assured this is imminent. Shuttle arrangements have just been put in place in advance.

We continue to lead the development of a Hardys Bay Foreshore Masterplan as a co-operative effort with our volunteer urban design, planning, architecture and landscape architecture professionals. The scope of this plan now extends to the Pretty Beach foreshore and a pathway along Wagstaffe Ave following community consultation by Council. Council will hold additional community consultation on the full plan and are developing materials for public display mid-year based on our project work. Once adopted, the Association will continue to advocate for the execution of the various projects implicit in the plan in years to come, along with the support of our political representatives.

In terms of visible project results, we finally saw the completion of the Surf Club pathway (“Fays Way”), funded largely through the estate of the late Fay Gunther. We also completed the renovation of the kitchen in Wagstaffe Hall, funded 50% through a State Government grant.

As to political engagement, we have developed good working relationships with our State Member Adam Crouch and our Federal Member Gordon Reid. We hosted events to meet the candidates for the Council election in 2024 and the Federal election recently. The Association has now forged relationships with our 3 Ward representatives in Council, including the Mayor. We will continue to use these channels for advocacy on priority matters for the Association.

Financial Position

We continued our sound approach to management of the finances of the Association. Our successful fundraising activity, both through regular operations and events (eg Trash & Treasure), enabled expenditure on community projects which closely matched funds raised. Through improved interest rates we also saw a good contribution to reserves from interest on our term deposits. We maintain sound reserves for maintenance of Wagstaffe Hall, Turo Park Tennis Court and future Half Tide Rocks contribution to NPWS. It was pleasing to receive the NSW Government grant to contribute to our kitchen project and to facilitate the estate funding of the Fay’s Way project, both of which are treated as a “pass through” rather than revenue.

In lieu of a formal audit, we now have a less onerous “audit review” to assure the integrity of our financial management process and representation of results.

Special Resolutions

The AGM passed 2 Special Resolutions. Firstly, and very importantly, the proposal to amalgamate with the Hardys Bay Residents Group was approved. This will take effect on July 1. Our two groups have been working very closely for some time. We both agreed that we would have more gravitas in our external dealings if we were as one, while not differing on any matters of community importance. The second resolution allows us more members on our committee to help cover the increasing load of activities we are pursuing for the community, raising from 9 members to 12.

Incoming Committee

We had re-nominations from all 8 of the prior year committee members. We received nominations for the 4 remaining positions (one vacancy plus the positions resolved by special resolution #2), being members of the outgoing committee for the Hardys Bay Residents Group as well as being members of the Association. All nominations were duly recorded by the Secretary in advance and in accordance with our Constitution. As all positions were filled with nominations, there was no requirement for election, and all nominees were duly appointed. The committee as appointed comprises: Mike Allsop (President), Susan Johnston (Vice President), Ian Bull (Secretary), Richard Urquhart (Treasurer), Robyn Warburton, Martin Sieper, Bill Gregor, Noelene Brasche, Debbie Watson, Jenni Neary, Martien Coucke and John McKenzie.

Please feel free to contact any of them if there are matters you would like to discuss. I would like to personally thank all returning members of the committee for their work and dedication to the community and look forward to working with our new members in our jointly expanded capacity.

In Closing

WTKCA maintains relationships with all community groups in our area with a view to providing mutual support wherever possible. Many of our members are also involved in these other groups, and our focus can be applied to specific issues as they arise in conjunction with the efforts of others. We will continue this position in community advocacy to the benefit of all.