



## WTKCA AGM 10 May 2021

### President's Report

Michael J. Allsop

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The Wagstaffe to Killcare Community Association ends its financial year at the end of February and we traditionally hold our AGM as soon as possible after all the financials are settled and audited. Last year because of COVID matters we held the AGM somewhat later but we are pleased to be able to return to our usual reporting schedule this year. This report covers our activities from 1 March 2020 to 28 February 2021, but for the sake of interest we include additional commentary covering the last 2 months bringing us up to AGM date.

None of us have experienced a year quite like it.

Trash & Treasure 2020 was the first casualty of the COVID Crisis, and we took a decision early in March to cancel our preparations. Hall bookings were progressively suspended or cancelled as well, as was usage of the Pretty Beach Tennis Court. At this point in time the Association was receiving zero income but still covering various standing expenses, so we were very fortunate in being in a sound financial position to absorb this impact.

As 2020 progressed and various COVID controls proved effective, the NSW Government relaxed some of the stringent restrictions which enabled us to make facilities available in a limited way.

We had a step-wise reintroduction of tennis at Turo Park, regular players, no casual play permitted, singles first, then doubles after a number of weeks. The court became available for all categories of hire by October, but the various hygiene practices are still required.

The Wagstaffe Hall was made available for our regular weekly hirers on a limited basis from July, and weekend hire became possible once more under the various square metre rules. Understandably many weekend hire functions were cancelled or deferred, with advance bookings being made on the assumption of further relaxation of limits on gatherings. Our own WTKCA meetings resumed in July with appropriate distancing and other hygiene measures in place.

Overall we have been very fortunate on the Central Coast to have seen very limited COVID cases. WTKCA have maintained appropriate caution throughout the pandemic in complying with Government advice and communicating that to the community in a positive way. Many in our community have felt vulnerable and their concerns were respected.

And then the Northern Beaches outbreak hit. Limited restrictions were re-imposed and many viewed the ferry with suspicion. A direct casualty of that outbreak and the new prevalence of the UK strain was that our Australia Day preparations had to be cancelled. We had all the necessary

approvals, plans, QR code etc in place. Far better to be safe than sorry and we look forward to holding this community breakfast event once more in 2022.

The various lingering COVID health concerns required us this year to change the format of our Easter Trash and Treasure 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. We received many positive comments as to how great it was to actually "have something" again.

Throughout the year the Association has continued to progress a wide variety of initiatives in the background. Among these has been the revision of our constitution to make consistent with the model rules provided by the Department of Fair Trading. There is no change to the overall purpose and focus of the organization, rather a tightening up of language and section alignment to enable future changes stipulated by the Department to be incorporated with minimal effort. This is put to the AGM as a Special Resolution for adoption with the full support of the committee.

The Association continues to engage with Central Coast Council in various consultation programs, the most recent being the Draft Operating Plan 2021/22. We also have standing requests on Council for about 15 specific bodies of work we would like them to undertake for the benefit of our community. Among these are traffic, parking, pedestrian and parkland concerns along the Araluen waterfront, the Araluen water main, Pretty Beach waterfront and various matters concerning the Wagstaffe Hall and surrounds. We recognize the financial issues for Council and the low likelihood of substantial works happening soon, but we continue to engage with the Administrator and senior managers to ensure our matters are on the planning agenda. The Association is willing to co-fund smaller projects for community benefit and CCC have agreed to construct a BBQ and shelter adjacent to the Killcare SLSC this winter, with our assistance.

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. Whether this be delivering Talking Turkey, turning up to help organize events, keeping things running smoothly for Tennis and the Hall, or offering specific help to keep our facilities in top shape.

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.