



WTKCA AGM 13 July 2020

President's Report Michael J. Allsop

These are unusual times. This AGM is being held two months later than usual as a result the various health guidelines in relation to community gatherings, and we are pleased that our timing gamble paid off to enable us to meet in person.

While the formal part of our AGM covers our financial year specifically (Year Ending 29 February this year), it makes more sense for the purposes of community matters to cover items subsequent to that date as well. This is especially so since our Financial Year ended over 4 months ago. A lot has happened since then.

During the Financial Year, both of our major events (Trash & Treasure 2019, Australia Day 2020) were carried out in the usual fashion with strong community support. Other community events were held in Wagstaffe Hall supported both by WTKCA volunteers and others. Indeed it is a feature of this community that so many community members are members of a number of different groups, all cross-pollinating their enthusiasm.

Trash & Treasure 2019 was again a triumph of community participation. We all got to share in a mountain of items which could fall into either category, and as usual were able to fill a skip with items for which no future could be found. Fortunately many "good" items were left to council cleanup in a prominent place, which ensured they found a home before the trucks came.

The year gone saw its share of sadness also, with the passing of Helen Ferguson who among other things was our irreplaceable Hall convener. Our community once again came together in this hall in her memory and in support of her family and dearest friends.

Australia Day 2020 was held to a format very similar to previous years, making use of our own facilities and volunteers to recognize the day and to raise funds for the Killcare RFS. This was towards the end of the bushfire crisis locally, with smoke all but cleared, but our thoughts were with those suffering on the NSW South Coast and elsewhere. Indeed our own RFS volunteers were rostered on a number of duty cycles on the South Coast. This year we took a different funding and collection approach to Australia Day. We sought and obtained Grant Funding from Central Coast Council to cover all costs imposed by Council, plus a contribution to our catering costs. We did not seek community donations for the Association, rather leaving all donations to the benefit of our local RFS.

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. We were pleased to support community activity led by KillyCares to look after the welfare of many in our community who were in need of assistance. 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.

In accordance with emerging guidelines from the NSW Government and Tennis NSW, we slowly recommenced tennis operations with various hygiene measures and other restrictions being closely followed by regular players, with no casual play permitted. Singles first, then doubles after a number of weeks. The court is now available for all categories of hire but the various hygiene practices are still required.

The Wagstaffe Hall is now available for our regular weekly hirers, and advance bookings are being taken for weekend event hire. Event size restrictions are still in force, so many of these bookings are conditional at this stage. Of course there are some uses which do not permit appropriate distancing, and these are still on hold.

In addition to the services and activities which the Association provides directly, during the Financial Year we were able to focus on three categories of matter which align with our charter:

- Working in close concert with other community groups where mutual support was beneficial. This includes KillyCares, Killcare RFS, Killcare SLSC, Hardys Bay Residents Group, Killcare Wagstaffe Trust, Pretty Beach Public School and the Pre-School.
- Lending a formal voice to matters of community concern in a considered fashion. In particular we were very active in relation to the fence on Wards Hill Road and in relation to poor mobile telephone service in our area. Both of these matters have yet to show a result. We were also active in response to the CCC Draft Local Environment Plan and Development Control Plan, and latterly the Strategic Planning Statement for the whole LGA. Fortunately, the Character Statement provisions so dear to us look to be continued into the various updates to these instruments during 2020, which is good news.
- Advocating for projects to improve our local amenity, covering services, infrastructure and community facilities. We are able to co-fund various works where appropriate and have had traction on several fronts. Others labour under the weight of Council or State funding and approvals. This is a major focus for us this year, and fortunately we have developed a good relationship with our councillors and with our other political representatives in addition to various senior officers in Council who actually get things done.

As always, we have found it very useful to be seen as a voice working towards solutions rather than complaint, and we will continue in this fashion.

In closing, I would like to extend a huge vote of thanks to the individual members of the WTKCA Committee for their various contributions as volunteers over the Financial Year and to date this year. We are very fortunate in having these members of our community offering their time and talents selflessly, even through regular Zoom Meetings during lockdown.

And lastly to our community volunteers. 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. We are pleased to have you as the glue which brings everything together for the benefit of our wonderful community.

Thank you.