

President's Report for year ending 17 August 2015

This has been another successful year for our Association.

Our Social Activities this year

We have continued with our usual, and by now traditional, events of the Picnic in the Park and the Christmas Carols & Fireworks at Novotel.

Rob Ruskin and his "A" team did a great job last year on the Picnic with all the usual events and a few new ideas. Rob has stepped down from that job this year as he will be travelling overseas at the critical time and Dinah McCulloch has taken over the reins. We thank Rob and all his team for all the work they have put in and the success they have made of the Picnic.

Last year's Carols was again a wondrous occasion. Again the attendance was about 500 people. Great fun was had by all, especially the children. We have to thank Warwick Daniels and his team of helpers for making this event possible. Warwick has also stepped down as organizer and handed over his team to Evan Flower to continue this greatly anticipated function. We thank Warwick and his team for all their efforts but more about Warwick further on.

We have had a number of Dine Outs at various locations during the year which have brought people together in a relaxed atmosphere. We have to thank Ed Berry for organizing these.

Christmas in July was outstanding again this year and is becoming a must event in the Twin Waters calendar. Cynthia and Malcolm Smith do an outstanding job in organizing this function and really do pay great attention to detail. We owe them our thanks. They also organize the sales of the Entertainer Books from which the Association benefits financially.

Our other activities

Our monthly Newsletter is generally very well received in the community. It has been edited by Dinah McCulloch until recently, when she handed over to Sarah Eccersall. Dinah brought her own style to this publication and again we thank her for her contribution. Sarah has made a great start to her editorship and we wish her well and thank her for putting her hand up. We must also thank Meryll and Ed Berry and their group of volunteers who distribute the newsletter throughout the Twin Waters community. We are considering some change in the style and content of the newsletter in the hope of making it more attractive to the community at large. This will be considered by the new committee.

During the year we got involved in a major project of revamping our web site to make it more informative and pertinent to the community and easier to manage and maintain. This project was undertaken by Geoff Billard with considerable assistance and input by Liz Chandler and David Brennan. We were fortunate that Greg Clarke gave us an introduction to Phil Reece and he was able to assist and guide us in putting the site together at what we thought was a very reasonable price. The new site went "live" a few weeks ago and is a vast improvement

on what we had previously. There are further improvements to be made as we go forward which will be carefully handled as we become more adept at managing the site.

We also made an attempt to revamp our mail system but this didn't work for us because we could not send our broadcast emails to our members so we had to revert to our previous gmail system.

A major involvement during the year, which will continue for some time, is our negotiations with Stockland and the Council regarding the new proposal by Stockland to develop the "canelands" into a housing development. We have kept members well informed about the outcome of our discussions to date. This is an opportunity for us to preserve the nature and ambience of the Twin Waters precinct and has only come about because of the efforts the Association put in in opposing the previous Stockland development plans. Stockland seems to have learnt the lesson from this long, expensive and eventually unsuccessful exercise which lacked proper community consultation. This time they have sought to involve TWRA and the community before making any application to the Council. Geoff Billard, Max Mills, Ken Vaughn, Evan Flower and myself have been involved in these negotiations and hopefully will continue to be involved in the ongoing discussions. The nature and detail of the negotiations involved reflects the stand in which TWRA is held in both the developer and the Council.

We have also been involved in giving support to the Council in regard to the redevelopment of the airport and the building of a new east/west runway. During the year we made a detailed submission in regard to the Environmental Impact Statement which is an essential first step in this project. The outcome of the EIS will be available later this year. Ken Vaughn and Con Guard represent us at the quarterly airport forums and put forward our position of support to the airport management and the local communities.

We also put our views to Council earlier this year in regard to the multi storey development proposed by Sekisui House at Yaroomba. We indicated that we were opposed to the Council approving a development which was clearly not in accord with the Council's own planning regulations which had only been in place for a few months. We were pleased by the Council's refusal of the application.

The continued success of the Landscape Maintenance scheme is reflected in the manner in which the parklands and common areas are kept. Our scheme is the envy of other communities and has been used as the basis for schemes in other areas of the Coast.

Lend Lease finally departed Twin Waters during the year following the handover of the lake and waterways to the Council. As a parting gesture to Twin Waters they repaired and revamped the entry sign and paid for the repainting of the precinct walls which were looking a bit faded and shabby. Some members of the community did not like the new colour but they now seem to have grown to like it, or at least have got used to it. We thank Lend Lease for this gesture.

Neighbourhood Watch continues to be active in our community keeping people up to date and giving appropriate safety messages. Con Guard stepped down as Co-ordinator during the year and was replaced by Fred McDonald. They had another successful bike engraving day earlier in the year.

We also had two First Aid training days at the North Shore Community Centre conducted by St John Ambulance. These were organized by Max Mills and proved to be very instructional and well accepted by all who participated. It is thought that these courses may be repeated at some future date.

General

The number of people who assist TWRA in all their activities are too numerous to mention. We would not be able to function as a successful community group without their assistance. My thanks and the thanks of the whole committee goes out to them all.

Before going any further I must thank our local representatives at State and Local level. Both Fiona Simpson and Jason O'Pray have been great supporters of our Association and have become the joint presenters at our Xmas Carols.

We recently had a meeting with Fiona and she took a keen interest in all the issues that concerned us and showed us that she was well aware of what was happening in our area and around the North Shore generally.

We first met Jason when we had a candidates' forum prior to the last Council elections. Since he was elected we have seen Jason develop markedly as our councillor. He has always been receptive to our approaches and assists us whenever possible.

The committee deserves special mention. Each member fulfils at least one role apart from attending committee meetings and contributes countless hours to the Association and community. A number of the committee members have not renominated this year and must be singled out for mention.

Firstly Ed Berry has been a member of the TWRA committee since its foundation. He was originally the secretary and is a Life Member of the Association. There is an old saying that "if you want a job done find a busy man". Ed is the personification of the busy man. He is into everything and always makes a great fist of whatever he undertakes. He is finding it more difficult to attend meetings, however he, with Merryl will continue to be involved in the administration of our membership and we know that we will not lose touch with them.

Dinah McCulloch is also stepping down because husband, Rod, is retiring and they intend to do a lot of travelling. Dinah joined our committee when she became Newsletter editor and is the organizer of this year's Picnic in the Park. Dinah, we will miss your humour and good sense on the committee.

Sarah Caddy has handled the advertising in the Newsletter and has had to relinquish this position for personal reasons. We appreciate the contribution you have made Sarah.

I am stepping down from the position of President after four years. It is time for change, time to bring in new blood and different ideas. I will remain on the committee and render whatever assistance I can to the incoming President. The four years has been an interesting and fulfilling time for me.

The major event during that time was the refusal of the Planning & Environment Court of Stocklands' appeal against the Council's decision to refuse their development proposal for the Canelands. I have commented earlier about the impact our involvement in that process

and how that shaped the new Stockland development proposal. I became part of the team that represented all your interests but the original hard work had been done by Geoff Billard, Dennis Kyling, Warwick Daniels, Ken Vaughn, Ken Taylor and others. It was a real feather in the caps of those involved and brought about the standing in which TWRA is held in the community and by the Council in particular.

I have been blessed to have had Sophie Lever as Secretary. She is a gem, never flustered, ultra efficient, always sensible and sage in her advice.

Jacqui Eedgeman became Treasurer just over a year ago and is extremely efficient. She brings very forthright views to our committee discussions and has a great sense of humour.

I must also single out Warwick Daniels who I regard as the Father Figure of Twin Waters. Warwick has been on the committee for over ten years, probably closer to fifteen years. In that time he has been President and also headed up the Landscape Maintenance Group, the Picnic in the Park and the Carols. Warwick has been and continues to be a wonderful contributor to the Twin Waters community. He is great warrior and you would always like to have him in your corner.

I, personally, must also thank Geoff Billard, my predecessor as President and my mentor and guide for the last four years. Geoff brings a wealth of experience, intellect and practical experience to all aspects of our various involvements. In particular I particularly thank him for his assistance during the past twelve months which have not been easy for me.

I also thank all the committee members who have served during the past four years for their support and input.

Lastly I must, on behalf of us all, thank those who sponsor us. Novotel are extremely generous in allowing us to use meeting rooms for our General Meetings and the Wandiny Room for the Carols free of cost. They also give us a special deal for Christmas in July at Lily's. The Friendly Grocer collects our membership payments and this is a great and convenient service to members as well as TWRA. We also receive generous support from the Sunshine Coast Council, Bendigo Community Bank, North Shore Realty and the North Shore Lions Club. It is great that we have these relationships across the community.

Twin Waters remains a great place to live and has a great sense of community. Our Association, I believe, makes a fundamental contribution to that community spirit.

I believe that our Association will continue to perform a very important role in the future of Twin Waters. I'm sure it, and our community, will continue to thrive.

Peter Braithwaite