

President's Report to Annual General Meeting on 13 July 2009

Ladies and Gentlemen

I am pleased to present this Report on the Twin Waters Residents Association for the year ended 30 June 2009.

The past year has been another successful one for the TWRA. Our membership has reached a new record and we have seen many of our long-sought community infrastructure projects come to fruition. We have dealt with two very significant development issues that were perceived as threats to our Twin Waters lifestyle and we have had successful social and sporting events. Our communications with members and the community have been maintained. Our relationships with our stakeholders, especially the Sunshine Coast Regional Council, are excellent. In short, it has been another good year. Thank you to our members for your support.

TWRA Issues and Activities

The first Objective of the TWRA is to represent members' interests in regard to the quality and amenity of the Twin Waters Community. In 2008/09 this has covered a wide span of activities. Our responses on two Development Applications (DAs) – the Tennis Courts site and the Canelands area between Twin Waters and the motorway, have been significant in influencing the outcome. The DA for the Tennis Courts was rejected by SCRC. The DA for the canelands is still being considered by SCRC, but the opposition from the Twin Waters community to the proposal should influence the outcome. These are big issues because they could significantly affect the quality and amenity of the Twin Waters lifestyle

Smaller, but no less significant, are a number of infrastructure and amenity projects we have been working on for a long time and which were completed in 2008/09. We have finally secured a Sunbus service along Ocean Drive. There is now a fortnightly Mobile Library service to Twin Waters. The crossing and pedestrian refuge on Ocean Drive near the Shopping Centre was built. The “missing link” walkway along Ocean Drive between Tamarind Place and Twin Waters Drive was built and the walkway from Novotel to Mudjimba was under construction at year's end. Further signage and road safety improvements in Ocean Drive are in the budget for 2009/10. We are engaging the SCRC to ensure that the hand-over of the lakes and canals from Lend Lease to Council does not occur until maintenance items are addressed and Lend Lease has fulfilled its development obligations with regard to the areas concerned. This is an on-going matter.

As I mentioned last year when speaking about the TWRA's involvement in the various issues affecting Twin Waters, we have two principal criteria to guide our involvement – first, it must have an impact or potential impact on our Twin Waters lifestyle and second, we will always seek to play a constructive role in resolving the issue.

Another of our Objectives relates to activities for the community. Once again, our social activities have been important and successful during the year. Our biggest event is the Carols & Fireworks held in conjunction with North Shore Baptist Church. For the first time we held the event closer to Christmas, and this proved very successful. We had circa 500 people, including many guests from the Novotel Resort, participating in a wonderful family Christmas celebration. We have continued the Birthday celebrations in October with a family BBQ event. Dineouts were still reasonably popular. The Entertainment Book sales were successful once again. The Golf Days and the Bowls Days have provided enjoyable opportunities for combining some sport with social activities. Social and sporting activities are an important part of our Twin Waters community lifestyle. We need more events and more participation in the future to further improve our sense of community.

The Twin Waters landscape maintenance arrangements continued to work very well. Our unique arrangements are standing the test of time and we have been able to maintain the high standard of public landscape infrastructure.

Communications with our members and within the community have continued to be important. Our Newsletter has been the cornerstone and every residential property in Twin Waters receives a Newsletter each month with timely and relevant news about the community. The Newsletter is supplemented by our web site. During the year, we added a local Business Directory to the web site with the objective to encourage members and residents to “Think local: Buy local” when buying goods and services. The use of broadcast e-mails has been expanded as our data base of addresses for members is expanded. Well over 90% of members have provided their e-mail address. This allows very timely distribution of news. The Community Notice Board also assists with our communications with the residents. Overall, communications is a big part of our activities and we expect that its importance will continue to expand and grow.

During the year, we made donations to the Victorian Bushfire Appeal (\$750) and also the North Queensland Flood Appeal (\$250). This would not be normal practice but both natural disasters were exceptional events.

Executive & Committee

All of these achievements cannot be accomplished without work by some community-minded people. The Executive and Committee elected last year have served the community well. For the record, the following have been office bearers during the year:

President	Geoff Billard
Vice President	Ed Berry
Secretary	Sophie Lever
Treasurer	Cookie Jones
Committee Members	Warwick Daniels
	Dennis Kyling
	Con Guard
	Ian Savage
	Mike Keay (part-year)
	Lynda Szegedi (part-year)

On your behalf, I express our thanks to all members of the Executive and Committee for their work in the interests of our community. We are all volunteers and our time and efforts are offered without reservation. I thank all of the Committee for their work and their support during the year.

Other Assistance

The work of the Committee was assisted by many others in the community who assumed responsibility for particular tasks. We acknowledge also their contributions during the year and I thank them on your behalf. Some of those who assisted (in addition to the Committee members), not in any order or priority, include:

TW Landscape Maintenance Reference Group	• Peter Carey Mick Sweetman
Zone Co-ordinators & Liaison with SCRC	
TWRA web site upgrade	• Neil Charkow
Web Site Business Directory	• Debby Nielsen
Newsletter Co-ordination	• Matt Wilkinson
Community Noticeboard	• Kevin Carter
TWRA Meetings set-up and advertising	• Ron Clark Chris Breen
Reviews of DAs & Submissions	• Jane Beck and many others
Christmas Carols & Fireworks	• Pat Hamilton Meryl Berry Faith & Angelo Giovias and many others
Airport Community Forum	• David Figgins Kevin Carter
Entertainment Books	• Malcolm and Cynthia Smith
“Living in Twin Waters” brochure revision	• Toni McCulloch
Birthday BBQ Function	• Bob Gavin and many others, especially Apex Camp Mudjimba
Gym in Park project	• Jenny Masche
Golf Day	• Len Lever
Bowls Day	• Bob Gavin TWRV (especially Ron Boxall)

There are others who have helped as well and whose assistance we appreciate. Thank you one and all.

Debbie Blumel has been an outstanding local representative as the councillor for Division 8 on the SCRC. We thank her for her representations on our behalf that have been so productive in allowing us to achieve the results detailed in this report. Fiona Simpson has provided continuous support, including as co-compere of our Carols event, which we appreciate. We also acknowledge the work of the Plant Management Group on our landscape maintenance.

Novotel Resort and Living Choice & Twin Waters Retirement Village have both been generous with their assistance in providing facilities for our use. Also, we thank Bendigo Bank Marcoola, Beachside North Shore Realty, Maroochy RSL and Sunshine Coast Regional Council for their support for the Carols & Fireworks. Three local firms - Century 21 Twin Waters, LJ Hooker Twin Waters and Realway Property Mudjimba - have continued to pay the initial TWRA membership for new homeowners in properties they have sold at Twin Waters. LJ Hooker also delivers our Newsletter. We thank all of these businesses for their support.

SPAR Express Twin Waters and especially David and Leona have continued to be outstanding and unstinting in their support of the association and the community. We really appreciate the support that they have provided in so many ways throughout the year.

We are very grateful for the support of everyone, whether a Committee member, helper for a particular activity, business providing support or a member who participates in the activities.

Membership

Last year, I reported that we had achieved record membership of 262 at 30 June 2008, but that I still believed we could do better. We did do better in 2008/09! Membership at the cut-off date for this year reached 352, an increase of 90 members or 34%. This is an outstanding result. Thank you to all our members for your support.

The membership fee has remained unchanged at \$10 per year (plus \$2 for an additional card if required). \$10 a year is an insignificant membership fee, especially when balanced against the benefits. Everyone who lives at Twin Waters, whether an owner or a tenant, benefits from the activities of the TWRA. Everyone should be a member!

Future Outlook

The TWRA is becoming a mature association. We have achieved much for Twin Waters. We are a very active association. But we must guard against complacency. Twin Waters is a wonderful place to live because we (all of us - the TWRA, members and residents) have helped to make it so.

My aspirations for the future rest in two broad areas. First, is the need for our association to connect more effectively with the younger families in our community. I realise that young families are busy and have lots of time pressures. But they are part of our community and can benefit from a greater sense of participation in our community. I am encouraged that we have younger people now stepping forward to assist the TWRA. Sophie Lever has been a wonderful addition to the Committee and in 2009/10 some younger people have volunteered for the new Committee. I welcome this.

Second, we still have some big issues to address. The question of possible future development of the Canelands is not finally resolved; the lakes and canals are still not in acceptable condition and the really big issue for us remains the earliest construction of the East-West runway at Sunshine Coast Airport.

Finally, we are always open to suggestions for improvements, and, especially for people who are willing to volunteer some time for the benefit of our community. Our community work needs to be in "bite-size" pieces that each person can handle. Helping in the community brings its own rewards and satisfaction.

In conclusion, I offer my sincere thanks to everyone who has helped the TWRA this year. Ours is a large and active association. It is something of which we can all be very proud. I look forward to continued growth and success in the year ahead.

Geoff Billard