

President's report, Kananook Creek Association – April 2021

Firstly, I'd like to thank all of you who've made the effort to attend tonight.

Last year, our AGM was delayed because of the Covid restrictions and had to be completed using Zoom. It's so good to be able to do this face to face again.

We do have a Zoom session running in order for people taking holiday to listen to the proceedings. Unfortunately, they won't be able to contribute to the meeting because of the limited technology available in the hall.

It's only 8 months since our last meeting..... Only 8 months, but a lot has happened.

As reported at the last meeting we have established a new committee

Rob Thurley (Vice President), John Shreeve (Treasurer), Margaret Hunter (Secretary) and Yvonne Lynch (Membership Secretary), Thomas Weichert, Stuart Allen, Ken Matthews, Russell Taylor.

I would like to thank each of them for their significant contributions this year.

WHAT'S HAPPENED SINCE THE LAST AGM?

ROB THURLEY AWARDED SENIOR CITIZEN OF THE YEAR AWARD ON AUSTRALIA DAY 2021.

Congratulations to Rob. Great recognition of his massive contribution to the KCA and the community in general. I was very honoured to be his guest on the day.

NEW WAY OF WORKING

One of the things we have done over the year is to introduce working groups to enable a more focused approach to managing activities. By doing this, we have given these groups accountability to manage an activity and reduced the need for everyone in the committee to be involved. Each group reports back to the committee on a monthly basis. We will be hearing from each of these groups later in the meeting.

MEMBERSHIP

Membership numbers have increased slightly over the last 12 months but they continue to be a serious issue for us. Low membership seriously affects our credibility when we are talking to Government and large private institutions. It's a frustrating position given that the number of properties bordering the Creek is on the increase.

To help with awareness of the association, we have continued to produce our quarterly newsletter. This has included door to door drops which have resulted in several new members.

We also held a successful Autumn Evening Family Celebration on Thursday 4 March 2021 at Talbot Hall with representatives from the Seaford and wider environment community taking the opportunity to mingle with fellow members and groups on the balcony near the creek.

Attended by representatives of the Frankston Council, Councillors, regional environment groups .Thank you to all those that attended this special evening for KCA.

KANANOOK CREEK GOVERNANCE GROUP (KCGG)

You may recall that at the June Council meeting, a proposal to form a Kananook Creek Governance Group was approved. The first meeting was in August last year and included representatives from Council, Melbourne Water and multiple local Associations including KCA.

Disappointingly, this group has met only once more since that initial meeting and progress has been very slow.

One of the issues was that Council Elections took place after the first meeting and both Council representatives to the KCGG were not re-elected. Two new Councillors, Sue Baker and Claire Harvey, have been nominated by Council as the KCGG representatives.

The 3rd meeting of the group is scheduled for 7th April.

KANANOOK INDIGINOUS BOTANIC GARDEN

At KCA's 50th Celebration, Mayor Sandra Mayer announced that Council had unanimously endorsed this long-awaited project in the heart of Seaford.

You may recall that we had a presentation about the project at our last AGM. Progress to date hasn't kept pace with the schedule we were presented with at that time and there have been a number of issues encountered within the project group.

KCA made representation to Council on 15th February regarding these issues which have been largely ignored to date. Mayor Kris Bolem stated during that meeting that he would contact The KCA President to discuss these issues the following day. No contact was ever made.

There was also an exchange of emails during this period where we believe the Mayor unjustly criticized the KCA and our nominated project representative. The Mayor has decided that he will only communicate with the KCA President on these matters going forward. We have raised our concerns about these actions to the Frankston City Council CEO. We are awaiting a response.

BECKWITH GROVE FOOTBRIDGE

Council is currently reconsidering their decision not to rebuild the Beckwith Grove Footbridge which has a direct impact on the botanic garden plans. The community managed to negotiate a deferral of this decision which is coming back to Council at their April 19 meeting. It is the KCA's view that this bridge should be rebuilt for a number of reasons. More about this later.

WORKING BEES: We have 2 well established working bees on the Southern and Central parts of the Creek. Unfortunately, with the Covid restrictions we have only been able to progress minimal work this year.

Special thanks go to Nigel Woodhouse and Minio Rossetto for their continued efforts and not forgetting our local Ranger Pat Murphy.

We are keen to keep these working bees active and also establish a third group in the Northern stretches of the creek.

RUBBISH:

We had a very successful "Clean up Australia Day" where we launched 3 boats in Seaford. A massive thank you for the people that contributed, and it was great to see 2 of our MP's (Peta Murphy and Sonya Kilkenny) getting involved on the day. Pictures of the large amount of rubbish collected are posted on Facebook.

We have also been involved in instigating a complaint against Woolworths in Seaford where a large amount of rubbish was reported by a KCA member, finding it's way into the creek from the back of the store carpark. Council issued a compliance order to Woolworths and I am pleased to see that the rubbish has been cleared up as a result. We need to monitor the situation as it has happened before.

THE ROAD AHEAD:

We still need your help..... Talk to your neighbours about the Association and encourage them to join. There is an interest out there as our Facebook posts regularly receive several hundred views. We need to change that interest into a committed and growing membership base of contributors and supporting volunteers.

On a personal note, I have decided not to stand for re-election as President.

When I agreed to take on the role, it was on the basis that I felt other people would be better suited because of my circumstances.

I have a very busy 9.00 to 5.00 job that takes me into the city and interstate. I have found it very difficult to contribute effectively or to attend day-time meetings because of my business commitments.

Although I wish to stay involved, we will be looking to elect a new President.

Thank you
Phil Carter
President KCA