

2018\_10\_06 ..... Ipswich Historical Society inc.

Presidents Report \_ AGM

Welcome Everyone to this our 52<sup>nd</sup> Year and possibly our 52<sup>nd</sup> AGM Meeting of the Society.....

Yes another Year has quickly slipped by and again many improvements have been made to our society and our site here at Cooneana Heritage Centre.

All of this has only been made possible due to the team work and camaraderie between our active members. For all your efforts and assistance, I sincerely thank you all and It has been a privilege and pleasure to be part of the progress.

In particular I must thank our Executive Members for their support and attendance to meetings and the running of the Society. Without them and their dedicated work most of our achievements would not have been possible. Yes I know that a lot of members also contributed significantly as well and for their efforts Thank You all so much !!

I am always guarded at publicly thanking any members for their efforts etc as in doing so you usually offend someone. Not that this is done intentionally at all, but it happens. Even though you mention at the time “thanks to all involved” ..... So if there are any members that believe I do not appreciate or thank then please accept my apologies and please recognise that I do appreciate and Thank you for all or anything you do for our Society. ....

Well our past year where has it gone !!.....

In November we held a farewell morning tea for Member Mr Joe Llewellyn as he was relocating to Maryborough to be with family and our negotiations regarding the power reticulation for the site was happening.

In December our retired miners’ group were involved in hosting a successful Memorial service at the Ipswich Rosewood Coal Miners Memorial and the Society held a great Christmas function at Casa Mia Restaurant. Also, in late December the electrical upgrade of the site commenced. Challenge Education were at work on Brigg & Brighton Houses and we hosted a visit from the Laidley historical Village group.

In December our hard-working Secretary was awarded a Volunteer Award at a Volunteers ceremony held in conjunction with the Ipswich City Council. This

was a great result and a very proud moment for Sandi and our Society. Again Congratulations to Sandi.

In March I reported on our working bee in tidying up around Shed 2 etc. The Spirit of Service Grant and development of this major display had commenced. The Challenge work was ongoing and the reallocation of areas to QMAC was being progressed by QMAC members.

In April works were ongoing with our front garden and our Spirit of Service display was officially opened in late April. Auspice arrangements with the Amberley Brass band were underway. Challenge Education work was still progressing and Cooneana House restoration work commenced. The Museums and Galleries workshops were also commencing and being attended by members.

In May we met with Council regarding our ongoing tenancy here at Cooneana. A very successful Soiree was held in May many thanks to Marg Nicol and her team of dedicated actors or radio Buffs. .... The dinner prepared by Dorothy was excellent and the support by the girl guides was fantastic.

In June we had a film making company use parts of the site for a short film and access to the site was managed by Dorothy. Even some members were included in the filming.

July saw ongoing works at Cooneana Homestead and Terry Smith announced that a warehousing type program was being installed for registering our collection items. Our miners group put on a great Box Flat Memorial Day for the 46<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Box Flat Disaster.

In August we held our Annual Heritage Day and despite the awful weather this was a very successful day. The Theme being Cooneana 150 years on. My congratulations go out to all involved. Our organisers and supportive members made this such a memorable day yet again. Helen Carol and their Wots Team ..... Well Done. They were also very pleased to receive on our behalf a substantial support and supply of soft drinks and water for the day courtesy of Schweppes.

Unfortunately during this year we have seen the sudden demise of our Mayors and then Councillors. Our Society was very well supported by our Council Representatives and their presence and assistance will surely be missed. The future in this administration phase is unknown and as yet unchallenged. I have,

on behalf of the Society, requested a meeting with the Administrator. In fact I have invited them to meet with us here at Cooneana over morning tea but as yet I have not had any suggested times or dates.

The electrical redistribution works for Cooneana are to be on going many thanks to our Councillor Kerry Silver. As part of one of her last actions Kerry was able to authorise funding for part of the remaining works required to finally provide proper mains power to Brigg & Brighton houses. Works on this should commence soon as funding is available and allocated. The full extent of the works I am yet to find out but progress is being made.

Cooneana House restoration has reached a good position so far and it is hoped that painting and securing the building can be completed by Christmas .....  
Yes this Year !!!!

Recently I attended the funeral of one of the Society's great supporter in earlier years. Helene Hughes recently passed away and I am advised that some of her collection will be donated to the society in due course.

I believe that now is a good time to reflect on our performance in relation to our 1<sup>st</sup> year of our 3 year Strategic Plan that we commenced as of this time last year.

Many parts of action plan for year 1 has been achieved or in progress.

Some of the items in the Action Plan for Oct 2017 to Oct 2018 include restoration works for Cooneana Homestead which is well underway, Electrical redistribution works which are well underway, evaluate and expand our security arrangements – some have been attended to and monitoring arrangements are planned. Our Website and Social Media is now always being updated. Our Accessioning team and management of our collection is being greatly improved and will step forward now that we have a warehousing type program implemented. We have developed our Education collection and programs to such an extent that we are seeing good use by local schools.

For all this work I must congratulate and thank all those involved. I especially thank those members that attend on school visitation days. Their attendance is very well received by the teachers, parents and students. So, Congrats and well done to all involved.

In closing I wish to thank my outgoing Management Committee Members and sincerely thank them for all their support and attention this past year. To the incoming Management Committee, I congratulate them on taking up whatever positions they nominate for and trust that they will enjoy and continue the great work that has been done so far.

I would like to especially thank our outgoing Treasurer. As we all know and recognise that Lyn has done a sterling job over the past 10 or more years as treasurer and many more before that as an active member. I only trust that Lyn can train any successful nominee to be as diligent as herself.

Also, Sandi is stepping down from Secretary and her work over the past few years has been exceptional. Then there is Col and Dorothy, both Vice presidents stepping down. Their support and efforts have also been exceptional.

The society has been ongoing now for 52 years and it is only through the good wishes and support of our members that it can and will survive into the long-term future. It is my belief that this will be achieved due to the dedicated and supportive nature of our members.

Yours in Heritage

Hugh Taylor

President, Ipswich Historical Society inc.