

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT FOR 2018

Strictly speaking, this should be a report on the financial year, but that doesn't make a great deal of sense when all our programs run by the calendar year, so I shall stretch my summary a little.

In brief, SACC has had a good year. Thank you

- to our hardworking Committee of Management
- to Julie Kelly and Melissa Jones in the office
- to the Shire whose financial and other support is so crucial, and in particular to Mr Adrian Cully and our Ward Councillor Jane Ashton.
- to our associate organisations: the St Andrews Community Market, the St Andrews Film Society, the Historical Society, the Stringybark Nursery, the Makers' Market and to our good neighbours St Andrews Primary School
- to the members of the Men's Shed who have been an unfailing support with all sorts of little (and not so little) projects around the Hall and Wadambuk.
- to FRRR which, once again, has provided substantial financial support.

The Treasurer will report shortly on our financial position. We continue to hold reserves which will allow us to continue should there be some disaster or loss of funding and we are operating prudently.

The real life of a community association is of course in the activities and relationships which it enables and fosters. Every week in term time there are things going on in the Hall and in Wadambuk. Like me, you have probably noticed that it is seldom these days that one can drive past without noticing a good number of cars and SUVs parked out the front. We had our regular Yoga, Tai Chi, fitness classes, Pilates, Men's bible study group, Craft group, Historical Society, Food Swap, Makers Market, a myotherapist in the consulting room. Private functions have included Art workshops, band rehearsal, first, 21st and 50th birthdays, a bush dance, Sound Meditation sessions, First Aid Training, Landcare sessions, CFA training and Council's information sessions. Once some new blinds have been installed, we expect the mid-week Film Society screenings to move into Wadambuk which is a much more appropriate and agreeable space for them than the Hall.

Special initiatives have included three Soup Days and the Seniors High Tea – all strongly attended. Thank you Helen Kenney, with Jane Kaye and Gaye Ponting. An information night about the new internet and phone technology being rolled out in our area attracted a full house. We have enjoyed exhibitions of local art works.

In the background, quite a lot of work has been done with our friends at the Market, particularly with Jodie Sheahey, its Secretary. There have been considerable staff and role changes in the Shire offices, which has meant many meetings and chasings up to ensure that the Saturday bus service, the upgrade to the sewerage system, and arrangements for the Twilight Market have gone ahead. Tedious, but necessary work.

We decided against a St Andrews Festival this year – not out of any doubt that it would be another roaring success, but having taken a careful look at the calendar. We want the Festival to have good weather, not to rub shoulder too closely with other major events in the district and, for the sake of the organising group, not be at a time of year already frantically busy (such as November !) So the next Festival will be on 28 April 2019. Already a working group is well advanced with the planning. We have secured funding and I am confident it will be another great day.

This year has seen some setbacks of course.

- We have not been able to increase our staffing. We had hoped for funding that would have allowed us to increase staff time and so undertake several new activities. Alas, our application was not successful.
- The monthly Makers' Market is still struggling and it is difficult to see how to attract more buyers. However, they have some initiatives for next year and we shall do all we can to support them.
- The former Principal's Residence continues to be grossly underused and its status on our Planning Permit inhibits some potential tenancies.
- We have not succeeded in recruiting new members to the Committee. It is understandable that busy people hesitate to take on yet another commitment (not that the SACC Committee is particularly onerous). But the fact is that no Committee equals no SACC. I see this issue as the most critical for the coming year.

On behalf of the Committee, best wishes to everyone for the festive season and for the summer break. We look forward to seeing you in 2019.

John Brenan
November 2018