

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT FOR 2019

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 which is a pleasure to work with
- to Julie Kelly and Melissa Jones in the office who seem about to deal with almost anything with good humor and efficiency
- to the Shire whose financial and other support is so crucial
- to our associate organisations: St Andrews Men's Shed, St Andrews Community Market, St Andrews Film Society, the Historical Society, the Stringybark Nursery, the Makers' Market and to our good neighbours St Andrews Primary School
- 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. You have probably noticed that rarely can one 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. A new program of training/demonstration in how to use computers and the internet has been greatly valued by both older citizens and their younger trainers. Then there are all the private functions – maybe for a significant birthday, for first aid training, for Landcare, for the CFA, for one of the Shire's training sessions... The list is long! Now that some additional blinds have been installed, the mid-week Film Society screenings have moved 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 especially to Helen Kenney, with Jane Kaye and Gaye Ponting.

Throughout the year we have enjoyed exhibitions of local art works and it is hoped that some of the Shire's extensive collection will also be seen on our walls.

In the background, quite a lot of work has been done with our friends at the Market, particularly with Jodie Sheahy, its Secretary. Following staff and policy changes in the Shire, SACC has entirely administered and run the Saturday bus service since July. I am particularly grateful not only to our noble team of volunteer drivers, but to Sandy and to Melissa in the office for their work on this. We are concerned about the service. Teenage patronage is not strong enough and the Market is struggling to maintain its sponsorship. Without that sponsorship, SACC will have to discontinue the bus service which would be a pity.

St Andrews Festival was one of the great highlights of 2019. The organising committee put in an amazing amount of work and the result was a fabulous day – even though the weather was against us – attended and enjoyed by young and old alike. The Festival even made a modest profit – something that the Treasurer will doubtless say more about.

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 has continued to struggle and will cease at the end of this year.
- The former Principal's Residence continues to be grossly underused and its status on our Planning Permit inhibits some potential tenancies.
- We still need more new members on 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. We are delighted to have at least two new faces nominating for 2020 and would like others to join them.

Finally I would like to thank three retiring Committee members. **Leanne Fletcher** has been with us for more than 5 year, including hard-working service first as Treasurer then as Secretary. **Jane Kaye** has been one of those general committee members that you could always rely on to step up for our activities, to carefully think about issues before the committee and to give wise advice. **Leanne Backman** has been a great link with the School, a Trojan worker on the Festival, an unfailing contributor to Soup Days. All three ladies deserve our heartiest thanks and best wishes for the extra personal time they will now have!

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 2020.

John Brenan
November 2019