

HACKETT COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

2016 CHAIR'S REPORT

Firstly I would like to acknowledge my predecessor James Walker. James was elected the Chair for 2015-16 but retired very recently for personal reasons. On behalf of the Committee I would like to thank James for his outstanding leadership for the year and also acknowledge his dedication and effort in working towards a better Hackett.

James was a member of the original committee of the HCA was formed in 2003-04. Initially as the History/Archives Officer in keeping with his professional skills and later as Chair from 2008-09 to 2010-11 and then as Deputy Chair when I took over for 3 years and finally as Chair in 2015-16.

Secondly I would like to acknowledge the support of the other Committee members. Without their efforts there would be no Hackett Community Association.

I would also like to acknowledge Lorraine Mason's membership of the Committee. Lorraine first joined the Committee in 2005-06. Initially as a General Committee Member but later as Treasurer and Assistant Treasurer.

Community Contact Day

This year we introduced quarterly Community Contact Days and we have invited other local organisations and Canberra based community organisations to join in. This change of approach has been an outstanding success.

Local Organisations

One of the Committee's ongoing concerns has been need to recruit fresh blood, or rather fresh minds and vigour. There is a very real danger that one or more of our community groups could become moribund or disappear completely if this does not happen. Currently, for example, HCA and HNW are largely being led by older retirees, all of whom are slowing down, becoming tired and who could die or leave the suburb at any time. The loss of any of one our community groups would severely diminish the overall effort to foster community spirit in Hackett.

Websites

We recently established a Hackett Community website to help promote local businesses and organisations separately from the Hackett Community Association which will continue with its own website. It is still work in progress as we fine tune the social media side of the websites but we are hopeful of an increased engagement with residents, businesses and local organisations.

Shopping Centre

The shopping centre continues to be a vibrant focal centre for local businesses and our community. The recent changes of ownership of the florist shop, the establishment of an

allied health practice and the expansion of Siam Twist have in combination reinvigorated the vibrancy of the shopping centre. The continued vacancy of the old Chinese restaurant is a disappointment and we can only hope that this is leased sooner rather than later.

We continue to push for the installation of a public toilet but the lack of government funding is holding it back. That said we have been told by the Government and other sources that we are at the top of the list and once funding is available it will go ahead.

Parties at the Shops in March

The next Party at the Shops event is on 29 October. We are planning on a range of activities for children and adults. We have already locked in the Canberra Harmony Choir, the Blue Gum School and the jumping castle.

Finally, I would like to thank everyone here tonight. You are all busy and your attendance comes at some sacrifice and for that we are very appreciative.

Please join the Committee for some light refreshments.