



Hawks Nest Tea Gardens Progress Association Newsletter December 2022

- Merry Christmas Members - this is our last Newsletter for 2022 and what a year it has been! Here is the annual President's Report and thank you for your support.
- The Hawks Nest Tea Garden Progress Association Incorporated had a successful Annual General Meeting last Tuesday 13 December. Thank you to all who attended and enjoyed the AGM, including acknowledging our three new Life Members, Christian Patterson, Leigh Allen and Trevor Jennings – thank you!
- **Local Projects & Work Orders:** We continue to support a range of local projects and have submitted over 20 Work Order Requests to MCC for action plus reporting issues to the EPA, NSW Roads and the Office of Local Government.
- **Community & Communications:** We were busy supporting community events with highlights such as the MCC - Totem Skate Clinic; Anzac Day by donating library books to the TG school; hosting our first fundraiser – the Masquerade and

- I am very happy to announce our 2023 Management Committee comprising Trevor Jennings (Vice President), Sandra Bourke (Secretary & Public Officer), Kay Jones (Treasurer) and Christian Patterson, Jeannette Hart, Kath Verdon and John Verdon. I have the privilege of being President and another year of improving Tea Gardens, Hawks Nest and surrounds. I especially welcome our two new committee members, Gloria Churchill and Bryony Barnes.

- At the AGM, I presented my annual report which addressed six key areas: our strong advocacy to government; our renewed strategic focus; the grants program; local projects and MCC work order tracking; our improved communications; and our commitment to regular meetings and compliance with NSW Fair Trading:

- **Strong Advocacy:** In 2022 we advocated to all levels of Government on a range of issues impacting our community including the prolonged Tea Gardens Pool closure, road damage, lagging maintenance, and aging infrastructure. This will increase in 2023.

- **Strategy:** We resumed strategic planning with a vision for a vibrant, connected and happy community that cares about our unique coastal environment and our twin villages. To that end we seek to preserve what we value about Hawks Nest and Tea Gardens: our beaches and land, the Myall River, our environment, and to create opportunities that benefit our community including for volunteers, culture, arts and local businesses; to achieve this local support is critical.

Comedy night with over 80 tickets sold and almost \$1000 raised for local projects. We also have a new website that promotes the Myall River Art walk; regular Newsletters, NOTA updates, and on Facebook with additional moderators committed to fostering safe and civil debate on community matters and reporting trolling.

- **Regular Meetings & Compliance:**

Our management team has ensured Association business complies with Fair Trading NSW. In 2022, we met each month and held a General Meeting every second month – 16 meetings in total.

- It is significant that this year, the wonderful Myall River Art Walk Group came under the auspices of the PA. We also are supporting the Galleries in the Garden inaugural Annual Anderson Art Award and look forward to seeing all the entries.

- Looking ahead, in 2023 our strong advocacy and grants program will continue to gain momentum. I am focused on improving our local maintenance program and taking the opportunity presented by the State Election to better represent our interests to local and state government. Finally, I believe that several recent decisions by Mid Coast Councillors appear to serve interests other than those of our local community. I believe progress must occur, but we need to hold the line on our coastal village vibe and support zoning compliance.

- Finally - Happy New Year & see you all at our NSW Seniors "Let's Celebrate" Festival at the Hawks Nest Scout Hall 11 February 2023 from 10am.

- **Grants Program:** This year grants became a key source of funds to get stuff done and this trend will continue given the MCC's financial constraints. This year, we joined the Community Fundraising Centre giving us virtual access to a national database of grants as well as tools for fundraising, event management, donations, and sponsorship. We have worked hard to improve our submission rate and quality, completing five and winning three (for the Seniors Festivals and Audio-Visual Equipment).

Best Wishes from Bruce Murray & the Management Committee.



YOU ARE INVITED!!!

Join everyone at the Hawks Nest - Tea Gardens Progress Association "Let's Celebrate" NSW Seniors EXPO from 10am, Sat 11 Feb 2023 at the Hawks Nest Scout Hall & surrounds, Yamba St.

Our new Life Members - Congratulations!

Three new life members, Leigh Allen, Trevor Jennings and Christian Patterson, were appointed and acknowledged at the Annual General Meeting of the Hawks Nest Tea Gardens Progress Association (HNTGPA) Incorporated held 13 December at Hawks Nest Golf Club. According to the HNTGPA's Constitution, Life Membership is awarded to community volunteers who have fifteen years of service, including five years on the Management Committee. In awarding their Certificates and hand painted shells, Bruce Murray, President, stated, "Some time has passed since the HNTGPA acknowledged life members, with only one currently active, Kevin Green, who continues to support our community and PA. Our three new life members have each contributed significantly to our community and continue to do so. Life membership commemorates their service and connection to our community. These volunteers continue to support our twin villages, bringing perspective and experience. Thank you."



Local stalwart, **Leigh Allen**, joined the PA in 2002 and has volunteered for 20 years, including as Secretary, Treasurer, and this year on the Management Committee, continuing as a member in 2023. As well as being a founding member of the Myall River Art Walk Group, Leigh believes volunteering is important, stating, "I consider local community involvement the crux of a society, and Progress Associations are a fundamental element."

Well-known local **Trevor Jennings** joined over 15 years ago and has served multiple positions including as President, Secretary and remains Vice President in 2023. Key contributions included the strategic infrastructure plan, fundraising sausage sizzles and overseeing the running of the Grey and Thespian Mardi Gras for two years. Trevor stated, “The issue that I am most proud of was when I convened a meeting of local community group representatives, the Police and representatives from the Comancheros outlaw motorcycle gang who were attempting to establish a headquarters in the Tea Gardens industrial estate. The PA was successful in getting Council to reject the Development Application for the establishment of the club house. This helped prevent the gang from infiltrating our villages with the distribution of drugs, firearms and other illegal activities.”





Photographer and author, **Christian Patterson** grew up in Hawks Nest and joined the PA in 2001 and remains part of the 2023 Management Committee. Over 21 years, Christian served in many positions including as President and Vice President and supports communities working together, stating, “In 2005, the PA united the entire community, the Chamber of Commerce, Environmental Groups, Real Estates Agents, Developers and more to reject then Great Lakes Councils so-called ‘Housing Strategy’. If implemented, the high densities and designs would have altered our twin villages beyond recognition. The PA initiated two open Public Meetings and persevered until all of the community groups (often in conflict) signed a strong unified document. This was presented to the Council who when confronted with such opposition had no choice but to redo the entire strategy.”

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