

AGM PRESIDENT'S REPORT
SESSION 2023/2024
DATE: 14 MARCH 2024
TIME: 7.30 PM - 8.30 PM
VENUE: POINT CLARE COMMUNITY HALL
PREPARED BY: KEN JANSON
PRESIDENT
KOOLEWONG AND POINT CLARE - TASCOTT PROGRESS ASSOCIATION

It has been an eventful year for me personally. On the afternoon of Sunday 29 October, I was involved in a car crash outside my home on Glenrock Parade, Tascott. The event made the front page of the 'Central Coast News'. My car was sideswiped when turning into the driveway after returning from shopping in West Gosford.

My car toppled over the railway embankment cliff edge and rolled 3 times to the railway line. Emergency services extracted me from the wrecked vehicle, and I was taken by ambulance to Gosford Hospital. After X-rays and scans it was discovered that I had sustained significant injuries to my neck vertebrae and the fractures requiring me to wear a neck brace, for many months afterwards. I also sustained rib fractures. Fortunately, I am recovering and hope to make a full recovery.

This event underlines the importance of the need to restore Glenrock Parade and its environs to a safer thoroughfare. Over time there has been subsidence and erosion of the nature strip and embankment above the railway line. A subsidence has occurred affecting the front yards of residences lining the road. Glenrock Parade is an alternative route to Brisbane Water Drive between Point Clare and Koolewong. It is also the route taken by the 70 Bus (Ettalong to Gosford via Woy Woy). It is often potholed and has eroded edges and no footpath or side guttering. Residents are forced to walk on the road while going to the Tascott railway station. Many cars are observed to speed along this 50 km/hr secondary feeder road making for a hazardous situation.

Numerous requests have been made to the Council to repair the whole of Glenrock Parade in this section of Tascott. Correspondence has stated that they were awaiting funding from the NSW Govt. Disasters Flood Fund. Rehabilitation work was supposed to commence in February 2024, but nothing has begun up to the present time. No additional rectification work is scheduled to be done for another 4 years according to the Council planners. There is also a pressing need to consolidate the railway embankment to stop further erosion and a protective fence is needed.

As this is a serious matter, the Association decided to commence an on- line petition via 'Change.org'. The street and the Tascott area has been letterboxed with a leaflet and details regarding signing a petition to get support from the community, on the need for an urgent fix of Glenrock Parade at Tascott. To date there has been 540 resident and community signatures. I am looking forward to presenting this petition to our state

MP, Lies Tesch so it can be tabled in Parliament. I am hopeful all levels of Govt. will respond to find a solution to this local serious problem.

Other issues that have involved the Progress Association's business has been the saving of the Austin Butler Reserve at Woy Woy. The Council proposed the sale of the reserve including the removal of 35 mature trees, to the Peninsula Shopping Centre for a carpark extension.

Thirteen local community groups including our own signed an open letter to the council protesting about this proposal. Community pressure resulted in a plebiscite being conducted by the Council. This on-line survey overwhelmingly rejected this proposal, even though the proceeds from the sale were for greening the Woy Woy Peninsula, providing more shade trees along the nature strips and reserves, over time. Point Clare station now has improved access to the platforms by the provision of lifts on either side of the station. We have requested the upgrade of Tascott railway station too. The station has no tunnel connecting the western and eastern approaches to the platforms, instead it currently has 40 uncovered steps up and 40 uncovered steps down to the city bound platform on the eastern side. This situation reduces the use of the station by local residents and increases usage of the crowded carparks at Point Clare.

The association has an interest in restoring the World War 1 Sister Sumner Memorial at Gosford. It is badly weathered and a request for funding and support to the Gosford RSL subbranch has not been secured to date.

I wish to thank committee member Ian Robb for his painting and repair of the Chatter Book Box in the grounds of the Point Clare Community Garden. He volunteered to do the task and did a great job.

Another issue that has arisen this year is the need for a pedestrian crossing south of the Koolewong Rail Crossing on Brisbane Water Drive. It is a perilous task crossing over this busy road to reach the railway station and bus stop. Correspondence and representation have been made to our local state member, Lies Tesch. She made representations to the Minister for Transport, Jo Haylen about this matter. Unfortunately, the pedestrian crossing is not currently being proposed but will be considered again in the future.

We also welcomed a guest speaker to our November General Meeting, Mrs Julie Hale. An expert on local recycling and reducing waste in the home. Julie is the member of Davistown and District Progress Association. She provided plenty of useful information to the gathering.

To finish, I look forward to a progressive year ahead for our association and local community.