

# PRESIDENT'S REPORT TO ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

8<sup>th</sup> March, 2012

I have much pleasure in presenting my report on the activities of your Association during the past year, this being my third opportunity to do so.

Again the year has been filled with positive activity and due to the keenness of many of our members our area continues to be much loved and cared for by those of us who live here.

**Subscriptions** have been faithfully renewed by most of our long-term members and it has been particularly pleasing to welcome those who've joined us as a result of attending our general meetings and supporting the speakers who have given so generously of their time and expertise.

At our **March** meeting, Gary Palmer, Assets Officer for Gosford City Council gave an excellent summary of the then concern over the invasion of myrtle rust into our forests and what steps Council was taking to limit its spread. This was a particularly significant topic as Gary reported that the outbreak impinged on the success of the forest regeneration of Goodaywang Reserve. It was good to be able to thank Gary in person for his oversight of our Bush Care activities at the Reserve and included in my appreciation of course are those of our members who have gathered there on the first Friday of each month and generously given of their time and effort in weeding and planting. Growth there, this wet summer, has been phenomenal both for weeds and the carefully nurtured seedlings. Unfortunately I have to report that later in the year myrtle rust was declared unstoppable!

In **June** our Guest Speaker was local resident and publisher of several community newspapers, Mr Cec Bucello. His fortnightly Gosford Central News, recently rebranded as Central Coast Community News, now features items from the suburbs of Tascott, Point Clare and West Gosford, thus complimenting the coverage from Koolewong in the Peninsula News. Cec gave an interesting account of his background to becoming a newspaper publisher and encouraged our Association to keep supplying him with informative articles.

At our **September** meeting we again featured a much appreciated local institution, Fairhaven Services and it was a pleasure to hear the enthusiasm and positivity from their Fundraising Co-ordinator Sue Chidgey. As well as giving a brief history of Fairhaven from its beginning as a Special School to what is now a large Central Coast community enterprise, Sue explained how donations and voluntary support are still needed to keep this worthwhile organisation running well and giving hope and work to our disabled citizens. Particular mention was made of the new recycling centre for large items, Xanadu in Margaret St, Point Clare.

Nostalgia was definitely one aspect of the speaker's topic at the **November** meeting, especially for older members. Our guest was Kate Moore, a member of the team running the Girl Guides Association branch at Point Clare. Kate outlined how the focus of guiding activity in recent years has been changing and is now in keeping with the times. Service is still very much part of what the Guides do in and for their groups and the wider community and Kate's enthusiasm for the cause was most infectious. Our young people are definitely in good hands.

In keeping with our practice of the last couple of years, our **December** meeting was given over to another look at some of the history of our area. A display was prepared from archival material on the Net and also from that made available by Geoff Potter from the local studies section of Gosford Library. In relation to the latter, thank you for supporting me in my keenness to press on with the setting up of a Heritage Trail. A visit by the local federal member Deb O'Neill to one of our meetings hinted at leads to possible assistance from that source. An excellent sausage sizzle preceded the meeting and a Christmas supper followed. My thanks go to those members who kindly assisted in providing the food and drink for what was once again a memorable occasion.

We have maintained our links with **Point Clare Public School** during the past year and while there was no School Fair during 2011, we were able to enlist the help of the school's Environment Club in a wonderful end of year planting at Goodaywang. Our Bush care group wish to pass on our thanks to Mr Steve Rayner for allowing his class to join us for the December planting day along the waterfront. Some of the children may be disappointed to hear that several large trees fell onto their plantings in recent storms.

The regular Association issues have been ever before us and again I pay tribute to our Secretary Helen Orchard, the Committee and also some members with a particular interest for the excellent work done in writing to, lobbying for and attending meetings on a variety of matters. These include the perennial train noise issue, where we have joined forces with other like-interest groups along the line to make a combined approach to those with the ability to lessen the squeaks and groans we hear so often.

Updates are regularly given on major commercial development applications pending at West Gosford and the Koolewong marina and water level rises due to climate change are reported on at most meetings by members who have volunteered their lobbying services so willingly. Hundreds of letters, e-mails and phone calls have passed through the Secretary's desk during the year, indicative of the keen interest and willingness to be involved by our community members on many matters pertinent to us all.

Our plans to produce three **newsletters** each year have been successful and we have returned to a general distribution to all letter boxes throughout our area. We were only successful in obtaining a grant for one lot of printing by council. However a local business funded another issue commissioning us to deliver its flyer to all except the "no advertising material" letter boxes. We hope to maintain this method of funding in 2012 should Council's community printing grant again indicate a shortfall.

Yes, it has been an excellent year for our Association and even though we were not always successful in our endeavours, namely the walkway from Aldi carpark to the Point Clare Pharmacy and the long delay in the naming of Bungaree Reserve, we have continued to press in where thing needed to be done. Our website under the expert care of our webmaster Michael Kerr has been much appreciated and I would encourage you to keep abreast of regular updates there. My thanks go to Michael.

We join with the members of the Community Hall in sharing their delight at having the Council upgrade the kitchen and toilet facilities here. As hirers of the facility we do appreciate what has been done and thank the Hall Secretary and his team for working with Council to have these improvements made. Everyone in the community gets the benefit from such activities as this.

Thank you all for your encouragement and loyalty during the year. I, and the committee, look forward to another excellent year of meetings, activities and community improvements. Do give us your suggestions for the latter, including possible speakers for our meetings in June, September and November.

Thank you,

Jon Fearon

**President**