

## **Chairperson's Report (Final report from John Tons)**

**Tabled: 19<sup>th</sup> September 2013**

This is my last report as chairperson of the Association – at our meeting of September 19 I will tender my resignation. It may come as a surprise to some that I should resign so soon after our AGM and so I feel I owe the community an explanation.

Time is a precious commodity for all of us. I have been prepared to invest a considerable amount of time and energy to be part of the team to get the Association off the ground. I felt that during these last three years a solid foundation had been laid, one that we could build on. I had hoped that someone else would put their name forward but when no one did I allowed my name to go forward.

However when reviewing our decisions at the AGM I realized that the time to step down is now. The motions arising from our consideration of the Road Safety Survey will demand a great deal of time; more time that I have at my disposal. Whilst it is comparatively easy to write a letter to the relevant authorities and ask that they take action but that is just a preliminary step. Having worked as a Ministerial Adviser I know what happens to those letters – they are replied to, filed and forgotten. I also know what happens if you are prepared to put some pressure on – persist and you will get action. Mentally I had allowed for about four years of continued pressure, four years of wresting a series of minor concessions so that eventually the road safety issues that concern us would be addressed.

Likewise the saga with the old garage – to get that resolved needs constant pressure – failing to put on such pressure will mean that we will continue to be saddled with that eyesore.

The other potential project that we could be faced with is the renovation of the Forest Range Hall. Some of you will be aware we have put in for a grant of \$17,500 we will know by the end of the month whether we have been successful. I had already tentatively approached a builder about donating materials and expertise again if that comes off it will require a considerable investment of time.

Even if that grant falls through I have worked out some other ways to get the funds to upgrade the Hall and to generate the income to appoint a person to staff it so that it actually gets used. I have had some experience with this – having lead the team that secured the original funding for the Box Factory in Adelaide, The Bowden Brompton Community Centre and been part of the group that established the Clarence Park Community Centre. The upside of that experience is that you know what needs to be done, the downside is that you know how much time it takes.

So rather than doing a half baked job I decided that I would follow up on the Road Safety issues by developing the report that I have attached to this document. To get a successful outcome one needs to apply pressure at a number of points –so I have not just circulated the report to Council and our local and Federal Members but to various groups in the community that have a vested interest to ensure that action is taken: The CFS, Apple and Pear Growers Association and the School. The report should provide the incoming and chairperson with a launching pad from which to prosecute a successful campaign to address road safety issues.

The Association is in good shape – I wish the incoming chairperson well and trust that he or she will enjoy the same level of support as I have.