

Lenswood and Forest Range Community Association

Chairman's Report 18 April 2013

For much of the last 6 months I have been pre-occupied with assisting the Harvest Festival committee to ensure that the Lenswood Harvest Festival was a success. As you will see from the section devoted to the Harvest Festival that was time well spent. However, there were a number of other issues that emerged during this period and I will touch on these first.

Footpaths/safe pedestrian access

It remains our intention to work closely with the school community to address this issue. A draft survey has been prepared to gauge the depth of community concern about this issue.

There has been a significant development. I attended a meeting called by the council officer in charge of Recreation and Sport. It transpires that Council is endeavouring to access state and Commonwealth funding to develop a network of walking, hiking and cycling trails that will link all the Adelaide Hills Townships to one another. A draft plan has been prepared. As the intention is that the actual trails developed will be designed through a process of community consultation I have asked that given our unique situation we be first in the rank. The proposals for such a network of trails will be presented to Council later this year so even if the process runs extremely smoothly I doubt if we would see much on the ground before 2017.

Hoon drivers on Lobethal Road

Various community members have asked that the Association take up the issue of hoon drivers. Particularly those who use Swamp and Lobethal Roads to conduct impromptu speedways.

I have spoken to the police. They are well aware of the problem and have scheduled regular patrols on Weekends (at night) to deter hoon drivers. It is a major problem and is one that will not go away in hurry.

Motorbikes are also a major concern – here the police are virtually powerless. They cannot give chase for our roads are too dangerous; a chase could put the safety of innocent motorists at risk.

What we can do as a community is this. If you observe a motorbike being ridden in a dangerous manner then make a note of the time and place and their registration number. Report them to the Police and action can and will be taken. BUT under no circumstances place yourself or other road users in danger by chasing them to get the information.

Response to the Council's Strategic Plan

I have prepared a response to the Council's Strategic Plan – this has been done without any consultation but is based on the sort of issues that people have raised from time to time. The response is posted on the website.

Presentation at Community Forum

On the 30th of April I will make a presentation to Council about the support that Council provides for community events. This presentation is also on the website the main argument that we will be

putting forward is that the Council does far too little to encourage community events, yet if present resources were better targeted much more could be done without increasing the council's budgetary allocation for community events.

Meeting with Mark Goldsworthy

On May 3 I will be meeting with Mark Goldsworthy. The purpose of the meeting is to address the question of health regulations as they apply to community events. A number of community members have expressed their frustration with respect to the Occupational Health and Safety requirements that have to be met; in some instances the nature of the regulations is such as to deter people from volunteering to bake products for community events. The aim of the meeting is to urge Mark to find a way to modify the legislation so that there is a differentiation between community events and commercially run events. In addition it will be pointed out that the council pays for a health officer to attend community events – this is an additional and unnecessary impost on council for presumably that officer will need to be paid penalty rates for attending weekend events.

Harvest Festival Report

Community feedback has been excellent – patrons were more than happy with the music, and range of available stalls. Likewise stall holders and exhibitors.

At our meeting on the 18th members of the committee and volunteers discussed ways in which the festival could be improved.

A newsletter will be distributed to all community members and exhibitors to summarize the 2014 festival and describe our plans for future festivals.

One of the highlights of this years festival was the number of people who donated some of their time to make it all happen. Close to fifty people made some sort of contribution. The success of the event can largely be attributed to the willingness of so many people to share the load.

However, I feel I must make special mention of one person. Caroline Chaplin our coordinator she worked long hours to make sure we were able to present a Festival to remember.

As an Association our challenge will be to encourage all people who worked on the festival to pay the \$10 to become members of the Association – ultimately our capacity to work for the community will be enhanced if community members and friends of the community are willing to become members.

Challenge for 2013

You may have read in the Weekender Herald that there is a proposed electoral redistribution of Ward boundaries. We will need to make an early representation regarding that proposal for we still have members of our Community who are officially in either Cherryville or Montacute. Since Council is suggesting that people will be allocated to wards based on their township it would mean that some people in our community could potentially be disenfranchised.