**Lenswood & Forest Range Community Association AGM Chairperson’s report 22nd July 2020**

Peter Stafford

We had only three meetings this year. A world-wide pandemic of the Coronavirus, Covid-19 resulted in people being required to self-isolate. These restrictions began in March and lasted a few months. Our state, at present, has a couple of positive cases in quarantine but Australia has not yet suppressed the virus and in many countries, thousands of people have died.

The matters of the Lenswood & Forest Range Community Association seem trivial to the backdrop of this world disaster, but life goes on and while we are required to sit at a social distance at this meeting, it is important for us to find normality and a purpose where we can.

The year began at the last AGM when Melissa Bradley, the Chair of Imagine Uraidla gave an inspiring presentation on the revitalisation of her town.

At the next meeting, Tom Playford, assisted by Rodney Green from the Steering Committee for the District’s Community Banking Project, promoted the benefits to the community of setting up a branch of the Bendigo Bank in lieu of all the banks that have left Lobethal.

In November, Kendrea Rhodes from Along the Grapevine, talked about community involvement and promotion. A photo shoot of community members was organised to support her featured article about our community. Her photography is also featured in our website and Facebook page.

At our last meeting in June we resolved to give more attention the to the Lenswood Centennial Park and discuss with Adelaide Hills Council a weed control management plan and other possible improvements. We also decided to offer support to the Forest Range and Lenswood History Group for their Forest Range Gold Rush event.

We thank our local Adelaide Hill’s Councillors Pauline Gill and Chris Grant for attending our meetings and informing us of council matters.

Following the face-lift, we gave to the Lenswood landmark, Fred’s Tank the previous year, we have continued to undertake weed control in front of the iconic structure.

The Forest Range Cinema had been planned as a Christmas Eve community get together but the Cudlee Creek Fire intervened and the event was postponed for a week. It was financially successful but not the celebration we had hoped for.

Our association registered with the Cudlee Creek Bushfire Recovery Centre, offering our support.

The highlight of the year was the opening of the Lenswood Centennial Park Heritage Trail.

The opening ceremony was on 20th October as part of the Lenswood Primary School’s 150th celebrations.

Invited guests included John Gardner MP, Jan-Claire Wisdom Mayor AHC, AHC Councillors Pauline Gill and Chris Grant, Ivan Ti-Wu Copley and Kay Stafford who opened the Trail.

The Trail is a tangible monument to mark the centenary of Lenswood. It took three years to get to completion. Family groups, organisations and individuals have generously sponsored the silhouettes to a total of $5000.00. Support was given by the Adelaide Hills Council in making the sites available, design approval and a $2000.00 grant. A Federal Government Grant of $3000.00 was provided to assist with the project.

On the base of each silhouette on the Trail is a QR code which tells the story with detailed information. We thank the Forest Range and Lenswood History Group, for researching and providing all the information, and for hosting on their website, the links to the QR codes. We thank everyone who has assisted in making this project a reality.

Our website has been updated to improve navigation and give a more attractive look. The Heritage Trail now features prominently on the site. A scenic drive map of the district is also a recent inclusion. A post is placed on our Facebook page each week to promote our district and provide community information.

We have turned over a large amount of money (by our standards) but have ended up with little in the bank, so we will have to have some discussion on how to improve our situation.

We have operated for almost ten years as an association without any public liability insurance. We hope we have circumvented this responsibility, by having the events we organised, being on behalf and in the name of, other groups that have insurance cover. This practice is often a topic for discussion at meetings. It is on the agenda again.

We thank the Forest Range Recreation Ground Management Committee for allowing us to use the Forest Range Hall for our meetings and for hosting the cinema events.

I thank our association members for supporting us financially and the members of the committee for their commitment.