**Chairperson’s Report 2019 – Peter Stafford**

At the last AGM we resolved that the Association aim to encourage community spirit by continuing to organise at least one annual event such as a low-key picnic on an oval or it be the launch of the Heritage Trail.

Consideration was given to promoting working bees around the district, or to offer support to other groups. There was no mood for organising a lot of events, but the group had a clear feel that we can perform a role for the community, by trying to help, in some way, to bring the community together.

In November we organised the Cherry Time Picnic on the Forest Range Recreation Ground. The weather was fine, but it was only a week after the hailstorm which caused major damage, for the second consecutive season, to fruit crops in the district.

The Uraidla Concert Band provided great entertainment. There were games and prizes for kids. A bouncy castle was well occupied. Father Christmas brought gifts. Food catering was provided by Lenswood Primary School, Lenswood Bowling Club, Lenswood Ranges Cricket Club and Stella Creek Cherries.

No one took up our offer to operate craft stalls at the event other than a political party. This led us to

make a ruling for future events, *that political stalls were not appropriate, but politicians or candidates are welcome as members of the community.*

We considered the event was a good, free, family day and with100 people at the event, this achieved what we aimed for and so it was a success.

At a later meeting, we discussed what we could further do to help lift people’s spirits following the storm damage to crops and the difficulties growers faced as a result. The government appointed rural councillor, Colleen White, spoke on the fact that a lot of people are struggling and while we are not be able to fix that, Colleen emphasised it was important that we can show everyone that the community cares.

We went on to organise The Forest Range Cinema at the Forest Range Hall. The main feature was, Hunt for the Wilder People, it was backed up with a variety of local videos and a Candy Bar. We attracted a full house and half of the audience were young people of the district which was especially pleasing.

Leading up to the Apple & Pear Grower’s, Pick a Pink Lady Weekend, we installed several silhouettes cut from rusty steel on roadsides around the district. They depicted apples in varying stages of being eaten!

After gaining approval from the land holder, a group of volunteers set about removing some graffiti from the Lenswood landmark, Fred’s Tank. Weed growth was removed and the remainder sprayed with weedicide. The mural on the tank was repainted with the graffiti covered over.

The Lenswood Centennial Park Heritage Trail is planned to be installed ready, for an opening ceremony in October as part of the Lenswood Primary School’s 150th celebrations. The Trail was planned to be a tangible monument to mark the centenary of Lenswood. It has taken three years to get to completion. Family groups, organisations and individuals have generously sponsored the silhouettes. Support has been 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. We thank everyone who has assisted in making this project a reality.

We decided to regularly invite our local political representatives to attend our meetings. We have had reports from Adelaide Hills Councillors and a visit from the Federal member for Mayo.

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