

AGM: Chairperson's Report

According to our constitution we need to have a Chairperson, Secretary, Treasurer and five committee members. Getting committee members proved to be easy – at our first AGM 12 people volunteered to be on the inaugural committee. But one of the main problems that face community organizations is recruiting volunteers to be the office bearers. Jobs like Chairperson, Treasurer and Secretary are generally thankless tasks and so when there is the call to fill these positions we tend to find people studiously avoiding eye contact less they get lumbered with the job. We were no different – we all wanted to make a contribution as a committee member but preferably not as an office bearer. We solved that problem creating three subgroups : A Chairpersons subgroup consisting of Garry Beaton, Allison Mason and John Töns, A secretarial group consisting of Chris Collins, Evelyn Hay, Roger Norton and Sam Perna and a treasurers group consisting of Claire Harris, Sally Hayes, Andrew Mann and Peter Stafford. In the main sharing the workload has worked reasonably well.

There have been teething problems – having a constitution is one thing but actually putting those lofty ideals into practice is another matter all together. But we can point to some successes: two working bees were organized: one to clean up around the Lenswood Memorial Park and the other to pave the driveway to the Forest Range Post Office. We were successful in getting funding from Council to create our own website: www.Lenswood-ForestRange.org.au. We organized the second Harvest Fair, the History Group is up and running and we have published the first community newsletter.

None of these things happen of their own accord. One of the most satisfying aspects of this first year of operation has been the amount of support these various activities have had from within the community. If we were to include the names of all the people who have in some way contributed to our successes to date then this report would be unconscionably long.

But what of the immediate future? As a result of your feedback it is clear that if there is one thing that has to happen is the Harvest Fair. What has emerged from the feedback we have received is that people appreciate the family atmosphere; the opportunity to catch up with neighbours and the fact that the stalls are all drawn from our own community. We certainly do not want to lose that aspect of the fair. But as it is also a means for fund raising we need to ensure that we get people from outside the community come along and spend their money. Our plan for the 2013 fair is to have a fifties/sixties theme: "Remember when you could taste the freshness? In Lenswood Forest Range you still can!" We aim to couple that with a display of classic cars and music to match the theme. By starting now we will be able to publicize the event around Adelaide. It will also mean that we will increase the entrance price for non members. Members will still be able to attend for a gold coin donation (Either members of the Memorial Park or the Community Association.) But more information will be available in due course.

Setting the date for the fair will always be a problem –The last Saturday in March has been chosen because it tends to sit between sporting seasons and it is possibly the last date where we can expect reasonable weather.

We have started the ball rolling on one major project –improving pedestrian safety. The stretch of Lobethal Road from Tiers Rd to the Forest Range Hall is designed for through traffic – the idea that

people may want to walk to their neighbours, that children may need to walk to and from school does not seem to have figured in the various road upgrades. We have written to the Minister of Roads suggesting that as an interim measure the speed limit between Tiers and Harris Road be reduced to 50KmPH and flashing warning lights be installed to discourage motorists from speeding past the school. (You will find the full text of the letter on the website.) We are also working with the school in organizing a working bee to tidy up the footpath from the school to the gas centre.

However, getting government to move to make Lobethal Road safe for pedestrians and vehicles is a long term project. As a community association we are ideally placed to nag the state government into submission.

As a result of talking about pedestrian safety a number of people have suggested that we get our own community bus. This could be used to ferry children to and from school but also used for the community. No decision has been made about the bus – what we have agreed is that before we can seriously contemplate such a purchase we need to make sure that we can cover the ongoing running costs. But in the first instance we will need to be satisfied that this is actually something that our community thinks is worthwhile.

The other long term project is the centenary of the naming of Lenswood. 2017 is not that far away. One of the reasons it is important that we mark the occasion is that those of us who have recently moved in the district are generally unaware of the fact that this was once all Forest Range. But the other reason is that we need to stop and remind ourselves of the legacy that our forebears have left us. Lenswood Memorial Park and Forest Range Hall were built as a result of community efforts. We are in a situation where we can upgrade these facilities so we can pass them on in good order to the next generation.

We have discussed a range of other ideas –but many of these are destined to stay on the drawing board until such time as we have the resources to make them happen.

We have learnt one important thing – there is a benefit to having a large management committee. It is for this reason that we are recommending a change to the constitution so that the size of the committee is not limited to eight members.

2011/12 Has been a good start – the challenge is to build on that start – we look forward to working with you in making 2012/13 even more successful!

Garry Beaton

Allison Mason

John Töns