

## **BYWONG COMMUNITY INC PRESIDENT'S REPORT FOR 2007/2008**

The 2007-2008 period has been a relatively quiet one for the Association, with much of the activity being business as usual. The most significant issue has been the decline in interest in the Association and the difficulty of attracting people to support preparing for Association events and to the Committee.

### **Local issues**

**Merger with Wamboin Community Association** - there have been informal discussions with the Wamboin Community Association about the potential for a merger between the two Associations. Formal correspondence has just been received to indicate that Wamboin Community Association would prefer that Bywong Association remain independent and have offered to assist to work together to strengthen both Associations to mutual benefit.

### **Local Government**

**Palerang Shire Elections** - the Association supported all candidates to have an equal voice for the recent Shire election by assisting at a range of Meet the Candidate events in Wamboin and in Bungendore. The Bywong Community Association remains politically unaligned with any group or independent and as such, we can more effectively talk with all members of the new Council to put forward views on behalf of our Community. We look forward to a more harmonious and productive Council in future.

**Submission on the LEP** - a submission on the LEP was made with the key points about differentiating between "need" and "demand" for land development, and that the role of the Shire Council should be proactive rather than reactive. We also made points about the need to ensure that development was environmentally and socially sustainable.

**Les Reardon Reserve and Hall Committee** - I have attended two meetings of the Hall Committee. Developments for a dressage arena are underway and this is a positive development. However, I have been pushing for more activity and improved facilities for all members of the Community, and also better promotion of the Hall. The electricity supply is still on the agenda to be solved but as yet, no progress has been made.

**Palerang Shire Cultural Development Committee** - I have been attending these monthly meetings since the Committee began in January 2008. The main area of work on the Committee has been to develop a cultural map of the Shire, to map resources and cultural activities in order to maximize promotion and use of these, and minimise overlaps. The Australia Day Awards are also a key feature of this Committee and I would encourage Bywong residents to nominate

suitable people for the Palerang Shire Young Australian and Australian of the Year, and also the Event of the Year award.

**Donations to local groups in 2007-2008**

- Wamboin Bush Fire Brigade - \$2000
- Wildcare - \$200
- Bungendore Tennis Club - \$200
- Bywong and Wamboin Short Story Competition - \$125

**Program of community and social events**

- Christmas drinks - December 2007
- Presentation on climate change by Dr. Karin Geiselhart - February 2008
- Clean-up Bywong Hall and Car Boot Sale - 30 March 2008
- Trivia night - 26 July 2008
- Presentation of donations to local groups - 21 September 2008

Nora Stewar**Acting President**

**28<sup>th</sup> October 2008**