



Bywong Community Incorporated

67 Birriwa Rd

Bywong NSW 2621

www.bywongcommunity.org.au

President's Report 2015-16

This last year has seen significant generational changes happening in our community. Sadly, we have lost several long serving older members over the past year. We are seeing younger couples and families establishing in Bywong. This means that the focus of the Bywong Community Inc. needs to appeal to and welcome this demographic. While our main events provide for a broad cross section of the community – we have to now encourage and appeal more to this younger community.

We welcome your input and ideas, e.g. we've been planning for a family fun day later in the year. This was to align with the commencement of the playground - a major initiative of committee member Merle- to provide for our young community. Since the Hall is owned and managed by Council- any alterations have to be approved and overseen by Council and the Hall Management committee. The project has been accepted by the Council committee and planning and design work is underway. Merle also applied for and won significant funding (\$11000 from NSW Government and a further \$5000 from the Bendigo bank) – an ongoing task if we want to achieve and build the preferred design.

Having been President for just one year, despite being involved with the Bywong Community now for over twenty years – it's gratifying to see the successful signature events that attract so many and give a profile to our little community. Thank you to the Bywong Community committee who have put in over the last year. Bywong is lucky to have such generous individuals who are prepared to donate their time and energy to serve their community!

The 2016 Car Boot Sale (March) was well attended and the great weather made it a pleasant experience. The active selling and buying prompted many positive comments and bargains! The event raised over \$2000 for the Community itself- that's separate from monies raised by local groups such as the Wamboin Fire Brigade and Landcare – for whom this is a major fund raiser! The money raised will be distributed to local community organisations including the Wamboin RFS and the Bungendore Scouts (who assisted with the raffle at the CBS) as well as assisting with the proposed playground at the Hall. Special thanks go to the hard working committee in setting up and working on the day- as well as organising the raffle and distribution of prizes. The event is a major attraction and provides a benefit for the community – a meeting place for old friends and neighbours- almost like a fair! Should it continue - next year would be its 20th year – which should be special!

The Trivia Night in July was another high point! (Really it is JPF's Trivia night...). Nine willing volunteers made things run smoothly through the night, with hot soups and bread rolls- prizes and mind wrenching questions! Competition is fierce but funny -and you can almost hear the brains buzzing. At the end and by public consensus, it was decided to make a

small cash donation to Charlotte Barker, the 13yo ballerina who composed a round. The rest of the income was to be donated to the playground project.

Our Annual Xmas drinks in December 2015 provided plenty of Xmas fare and beverage for around forty of our community – who obviously enjoyed the event, as they lingered and chatted for quite some time.

Less successful was our Clean Up Australia – Bywong-which had been sensibly postponed to cooler times (May). Unfortunately, the lack of clarity about insurance for volunteers meant that after so many years - it did not go ahead as planned. Organisers were advised that volunteers working on arterial roads (such as Macs Reef and Bungendore Roads) were not protected with insurance cover – and Palerang Council could not assist. So to date, nothing has happened about cleaning up the roads. Instead, we watch as the build-up of rubbish continues on the Macs Reef Road in particular- and wonder at what stage it will get noticed by any Council. I recommend that the Association should write to the new QPRC and ask that the arterial roads should be cleaned up - given the lack of support for volunteers to do it.

Work is continuing to update and simplify our website- thanks to committee member Steve Walker. While the committee looked into creating a facebook page- managing social media requires constant monitoring- and to date, the website is our first priority. Virtual is no substitute for the on-ground, real thing when it comes to community!

Working with Bywong Community Inc has given me the opportunity to meet many sterling individuals who put in for their community. I hope that the incoming committee and president will find their involvement as rewarding as I have over the years.
Thank you

Anne Goonan