President’s report

We have to face it, the year 2020 has not been the greatest year in history for VERY obvious reasons.

It has brought with it many challenges from fires, to storm, to pandemics and hopefully we are emerging as a stronger and more resilient community having endured these months of lock down.

It has not been all doom and gloom, there have been some incredibly positive things to happen this year. In Jason’s speech last year he detailed many of the big tickets items which were happening in and around Lynbrook.

The flashing light north bound on Sth Gippsland Highway – tick. They will save lives and this committee fought long and hard to get them installed.

Intersection upgrade at Evans and South Gippsland Highway – tick, and election promise fulfilled.

Additional parking at Lynbrook railway station, so very close to a tick, but we can blame covid and the hold up with accessing the lighting poles for the site – ¾ of a tick.

And as we know, our long-awaited link to Marriot Waters will open tomorrow. I remember talking about the joining of Lyndhurst and Lynbrook back in the early 2000’s, first of all with a failed rail crossing approval on Aylmer Rd. It has taken a long time, but it has been done safely and a great outcome for the community. We will need to assess the impact of extra traffic in the area, and I sincerely hope that the rat run through Lynbrook to the freeway is not increased, but time will tell.

Another thinkgs we have ticked off this year is a new and much easier to maintain website and refreshed logo, created by the very talented Emma Pike, who is the daughter of a long time LRA member Debbie. The design keeps the original mother and baby bird, but is new and fresh and has local birds found in our river redgums, winning all round.

Of recent times, the Hampton Park landfill has begun to impact out community. This is not something that we should simply accept. I want you all to know that this week, I have written to the Minister in charge of the EPA, The Hon Minister D’Ambrosio, requesting the EPA urgently review and remedy the current situation, but more importantly, I have again highlighted that the landfill is not manageable with its proximity to a residential area and requested what the government intend to do in the short and long term to remove the landfill from this site. I hope I can provide some positive news on this front, but it is a complex matter.

It is normally not great to single out one person to acknowledge, but Viv Paine this year has worked tirelessly on several very important matters in the area, namely the flooding issues on Evans Rd, the lack of a safe footpath in the same area of Evans Rd and now he is pushing for improved street lighting from the highway to the new rail bridge, om, you guessed it, Evans Rd. Now you may assume an ulterior motive, that Viv lives on or near Evans Rd, when in fact he lives nowhere near it. These were identified by locals and the committee as priorities, and like a dog on a bone he chipped away with great success. Viv you are a true asset to this area and I thank you for all of your hard work.

Events are normally a huge part of the landscape of what we do at the LRA, but unfortunately Covid put an end to all of that. My beautiful wife Vanessa, is our events manager and I know she is ultra-keen to get things going again and so it is my pleasure to let you know, that in Lieu of our normal Christmas event, Santa Clause will be coming to town and taking a traditional drive down our local streets, greeting the kids, giving a treat and hopefully collecting some letters to him from the local kids. The LRA has teamed up with the Hampton Park CFA to put on this event and we are really excited.

Something which has been a challenge for some time is the management of the membership list. The membership list over the years has continued to grow and grow, to a point that it has almost become unmanageable and with a high number of incorrect email addresses and contacts. It is important to remedy this and so the committee resolved to renew memberships annually to keep membership current and relevant. There may be some people who may have to reapply to the LRA over the coming period and for that I apologise, but I honestly feel that this is the best long term strategy and a way of remaining in touch with our active members.

The conduct of an AGM is also a challenge under these Covid restrictions and so it come as some relief that Business Victoria have relaxed the quorum requirements of an AGM, deeming it more important to keep Volunteer organisations such as ourselves together and functioning in some way.

Now to our amazing Committee, thank you for this year. It has been strange, it has been different but your time and efforts are appreciated and it has been an honor to be on this committee with you, but to be frank, I will be happy to see the end of it and bring on the New Year.

I would like to finish with a big ticket item and something I am really excited about. The LRA has in principle agreement from the owners of the Lynbrook Village Shopping Centre, to create a community garden in the area adjacent to Suburban Burger. Exact details are currently being finalised, but what I can show you is a concept drawing of the site which is deceptively large.

Cost estimates have been made and we are on the look out for sponsors and grant opportunities.

I will now show you the concept drawing and run through some of the features...

SHOW GARDEN CONCEPT

Now that is more than enough from me, I will summarise by saying that I have enjoyed this year, I have truly enjoyed working with the committee, and developing solid working relationships with Council, our state member, Pauline Richards and our Federal Member Anthony Byrne. Having said that, bring on 2021.