

Dwellingup Community Compact
Presidents Report. February 2017

"I look forward to what promises to be a very exciting year for the Compact" was the last paragraph of my 2016 Presidents Report. The words proved true, we have worked hard and done a lot. We have applied for a number of funding opportunities, donated funds to a number of projects, got some others moving, tightened up our governance and importantly established the strongest partnership with the Shire of Murray probably in our history.

Soon after the release of the Dwellingup Tourism Concept Plan in February 2016 a Dwellingup Tourism Working Group was established. We have met regularly throughout the year including a recent workshop to ensure we have been on the right track. John Cusack, Sue Fyfe and myself have been Dwellingup representatives. The group's membership includes Shire of Murray Chief Executive Officer and Shire staff, councillors, MAPTO, PDC, Hotham Valley Railway, Alcoa including a number of invited guests. The integration of the HVR into a Green Precinct Concept Plan has been particularly rewarding with a couple of very exciting possibilities including a train turntable and a pedestrian bridge. The redevelopment of the current Dwellingup History and Visitor Information Centre is a high focus. SOM CEO Dean Unsworth, John Cusack and myself met with Alcoa management early in the year to seek funding support for the building project focussing on the World Class Trails Hub theme. The Dwellingup Tourism Working Group is working hard to finalise a draft Green Precinct plan for public comment.

Greg Caswell and his team of volunteers once again joined Clean up Australia Day efforts picking up rubbish from local road verges and reserves, thanks Greg.

The Street Pole Project was 'cold case reviewed' and a working group of myself, Geoff Bell and Shire of Murray staff re-kicked the project. New design and locations approved by SOM have been developed. Carl has requested to new specifications and engineer drawings are being updated. Funding acquittal extension have been approved by both SOM and Alcoa.

The community website www.dwellingupwa.com.au is going strong. The banner interchange has allowed us to once again support the Dwellingup Log Chop, Pumpkin Festival and the Dwellingup 100 with advertising the events. We engaged Microscope IT to produce some aerial footage of the 3 events. Once again Di Pickering has supported the calendar of events working behind the scenes to make sure community events and special promotions are noted.

In September we submitted a Royalties for Regions Peel Community Chest Fund application for \$5,563.64 for 10 x 3 rack bike stands to be located at points around town. The total project of \$7,945.54 comprises the application, \$1,390.91 from DCC and a \$1,000.00 in kind amount. I am pleased to say we have been successful.

We provided \$500.00 to the Forest Heritage Centre to assist with the Emu Trail and contributed \$5,000.00 to the project to provide playground sails. The sails were erected in December. We also applied for \$25,000 from Alcoa for the provision of 3 electric BBQs. They were installed and operating

the week prior to Christmas next to the new and older playgrounds. An amount of \$20,000 committed by the Shire for the BBQs will now be spent on 3 Carl Macmillan designed picnic table settings.

New faces to the Alcoa Mining Sub Group now called the Dwellingup Protection Group have been welcome additions. We have attempted to keep residents up to date with as much as we know with a couple of short updates posted to all. There is much work the group is doing to gather information to support a mining exclusion zone around Dwellingup.

In conclusion I would like to say a big thank you all that have assisted and contributed to a very busy year. In particular the support we have received from Dean Unsworth and his staff at the Shire of Murray has been significant.

Peter White