

EWINGSDALE COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION INC.

PRESIDENT'S ANNUAL REPORT MAY 2021

The 2020-21 year has been extremely challenging for the Association as it has for many Australian organisations and members of the Australian community. Unfortunately, due to the ongoing COVID19 pandemic the association has been unable to run many of our usual events such as the Cancer Council Biggest Morning Tea and the Bush Dance.

The pandemic greatly affected the running of the Ewingsdale Hall and caused a very large decline in revenue for the Association. This placed the Association in a very difficult position and necessitated steps being taken to minimise expenditure. However, there is light at the end of the tunnel and weddings have resumed. This has given the association back its major source of revenue. I'm sure all members will join with me in hoping that Australia continues to be very fortunate in its management of the virus.

The very good news for the year was that the proposal by the Anglican Diocese of Grafton to de-consecrate the historic Saint Columba's Church did not eventuate after submissions were made by the association and members of the community. I, and no doubt other members of the Ewingsdale Community, are very happy that the use of the church as a church is to continue. Congratulations to all who played a part in that outcome!

The future use of Lot 101 also raised its head several times over the year, initially with proposals by Ingenia to create a 'lifestyle community for over 55-year-olds.' The association took the view that, whilst by no means perfect, this proposal was a far better outcome for the community than previous proposals. Whilst we do acknowledge that some members of the Ewingsdale Community are far from happy with the proposal the association has taken the view that outright rejection of the proposals would be counter productive. In any event, it seems that Byron Shire Council will require significant amendments to the proposal and so we wait to see what eventuates.

I want to thank all of the members of the Association who give so much time and energy to it and its important work. You all know who you are! Last, I especially thank Peter Gough for his continued invaluable assistance in the role of treasurer, Lorissa Barrett for all her work as manager of our hall, Corinne Maynard for her work as secretary and Will Hayman for his help as Vice President.

Lindsay Wootten

President

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3 May 2021