

Western Adelaide Coastal Residents Association Inc.

President's Report to Annual General meeting 28/3/18

Tonight I have mixed feelings giving my report.

It is time for a change in my life and to reduce the work load but more to change the leadership and encourage new ideas revive energy and introduce different ways of working.

The Executive committee have been working through a major change in leadership and responsibilities where we have identified over 20 issues that we are currently involved and have given each issue a priority order. We have grouped some issues and even dropped a few off our list.

The present executive committee members have taken on the tasks to work in small groups with each group having a coordinator and reporting back to the executive committee and in turn to our General meetings for further directions.

Paul Laris, our Vice President, has put his hand up to nominate for the President position that will enable continuity, and with his experience Paul will bring new energy and ideas to the Association.

WACRA has worked tirelessly over the past 12 months with varied success in our endeavors to achieve our primary objective of building healthy and inclusive community.

We have taken on issues at all three levels of Government with an emphasis on Local Government.

Our relationship with the Charles Sturt Council has been difficult due to a reluctance by them to communicate, engage, consult and empower community. There is a attitude by the elected members that is unhealthy and unhelpful in working together for beneficial change. That could never be more obvious than the introduction of paid parking meters, the proposed closure of the Henley and Grange Library, their closed mind on developing a modified Coastal Pathway along the coastal section between Semaphore South and Grange, a new Draft Public Consultation Policy and their failure to continue to support the residents living in a Historic Conservation Zone in Henley Beach to oppose a 35 metre Telstra Tower.

This is where WACRA can take some credit to turn things around such as the parking metre campaign, the stop the Library closure actions and the brave people living so close to the Telstra tower continue their campaign for a camouflaged tower.

The decision of the Supreme Court to strongly criticize the actions of council for its lack of implementation of its Public Consultation Policy has been interesting to observe and in particular how council have responded by wanting to pull out its exiting policy and replacing it with something that we believe is totally undemocratic and inferior. Our submission in stating why we believe Council made a gross error in judgment also makes a number of positive suggestions of why we believe the present policy should be retained. Our working group of Richard, Pedro, Bert, Paul and Becky Llewellyn are thanked sincerely for the many hours of research and presenting a response that is on the council table along with another 34 submissions mostly opposing any change.

WACRA joined with Save West beach Sands with a common aim to save West beach and Henley Beach south from total destruction .This has meant extensive research and engaging a Coastal Geologist and council to put forward a proposal to conduct a independent scientific study within the Flinders University to model the tidal and sand movements due to impeding developments, climatic conditions and what would be needed to retain the sand on the metropolitan beaches. Unfortunately incorrect data was used initially and has held up the final report however this initiative has been revived by making it an election issue. Our thanks go to the tireless work of our member John Dundon who has been a fantastic asset in turning the tide. All we can say at this time is that we are continuing to apply the pressure on the government and council to complete the research and provide good science that will hopefully attract the money necessary to Trial the recommended models.

The proposed closure of the Henley Library for demolition and a downsizing to a Boutique shop front in Henley Square was met with a strong resistance by the community. WACRA joined forces with the Community Library Action Group and mounted a campaign that involved a on Line petition, constant information via Internet and Facebook and a strong presentation to the Council elected members and staff. It became obvious that the community wanted the Library to be retained not only for its provision of books and other learning process's but as a meeting place and learning centre for children. Letters of opposition sent to council were encouraged and finally Council realised that the proposal was not going to receive Community support. This campaign would have to be one of the most significant that WACRA have been involved in and we thank the members of CLAG for their untiring campaigning. Council have planned a consultation process that will involve a Ideas Cafe and On Line Your Say seeking your input in what the community wants the library services to provide in the future.

Perhaps one of the best outcomes in the past 12 months is the Discovery Trail through the Tennyson Dunes Conservation Reserve. The Tennyson Dunes Group have worked so hard to reach agreement with Government in the direction and composition of the trail it is a credit to them and their supporters [WACRA being a strong supporter]. The Trail was official opened in Feb and we would encourage you all to visit the Conservation Reserve and see what can be achieved.

After ten years of consistent lobbying of the government for the Torrens River Break Out Creek wetland they finally announced before the election an amount of \$5 Million to construct the wetland from Tapleys Hill Road to the Outlet. Most of you will have seen the Concept Plan that will assist greatly to improve water quality and increase bio diversity of fauna and flora. We have various levels of commitments from the Liberal and SA Best parties that we have kept in a locked box to remind them of their promises.

On 21st of this month the application to demolish Estcourt House was discussed within the Council Assessment panel. The planning staff recommended that the application be refused and a number of presentations were made opposing the demolition. Thanks go to Theo Ellenbroek for writing a strong submission opposing the application. The result is that that the Council Assessment Panel refused the application. Where does it go from here?

The illegal action by Mr Antunes by failing to retain the groundwater on site at his Henley square development, we understand has finally reached a confidential agreement between DEWNR, Antunes, Council and the Corporate on how this precious water is going to be retained on site. We have seen some early drawings on constructing a deep trench immediately west of the building on the present foot path. A number of soakage cells will be bored to a aquifer depth where the water will be disposed and recirculated preventing salt water intrusion and possible ground slumping. All we can say is watch out for the road works in front of his apartment development.

Other actions we have taken up is to develop a Nuclear Free Zone within the City of Charles Sturt that was knocked on the head by the Mayor and elected council. This issue is by no means dead as we see two locations in SA being explored as possible sites by the Federal Government.

The Riviera on Henley Beach that we strongly opposed on the grounds of safety and the lack of access to all. It seemed crazy that it was directly in front of the Henley Square where we have 15 food outlets and licensed premises. We do not support exclusivity on the community beach.

The issue of Significant and Registered Trees, climate change, sea level rise and adaptation to climate change, Greening the West, waste management, affordable housing planning and heritage, Cultural and Performing Arts Centre, and SA Living Artists events remain on our agenda.

The Association continues to support physically and financially the work of the following organisations:

- Conservation Council SA
- Environment Defenders Office
- Marine Discovery Centre
- Australian Youth Climate Coalition
- Community Alliance SA
- Friends of Gulf St Vincent
- Tennyson Dunes Group

In closing, I want to give a special thanks to our Treasurer Chrissy Schultz and her fundraising team who keep us out of debt and able to support so much of what we do. Chrissy has decided to stand down from the position and the executive for a well earned rest and I am sure you will all join with me in thanking her for a job well done. The executive committee of 14 members who regularly turn up bi monthly and engage in discussion and often robust debate, our membership officer Anne Wheaton who does such a terrific job in keeping up our membership and the production of our Newsletter and finally you our wonderful members who provide us with the support to reach our objectives of Building Healthy and Inclusive Community.

Jim Douglas