

Sussex Inlet and Districts Community Forum Chairman's Report 2017/2018

Another year has flown by as I reflect on our achievements for the past year. The Committee of our Community Consultative Body has had a very busy year attending meetings with Council, reading and following on Council matters. Preparing agenda for meetings and acting on decisions of Forum meetings on behalf of the community and taking residents and rate payer's concerns and requests to the Council.

Streetscape

In May 2017, Forum address to Council General Manager, Directors and Councillors in Budget meeting regarding DPOP and planning document funding resulted in the project being fully funded rather than being done in two stages- sometimes Forum had been lobbying for over a long time

Forum made a declaration to the council meeting when the motion to fully fund the project was brought to Council. The positive vote was unanimous.

The revitalisation of the town centre began on 19th February and the project manager and designer will address our next meeting in April

Web Site The web site is now available and several interested people received some training to be able to update the site as required. www.sussexdistrictsforum.com.au for further information

Water Filling Station has been installed at the end of Jacobs Drive.

Learn to Ride Track was officially opened in May. This is located in the Thompson Street Complex.

Dogs off Leash. This has continued all year without resolution. The subject was raised at the Executive Meeting of Council as we

The subject was raised at the Executive Meeting of Council as we were asked to present questions. Council are not going to look at their Dog plan until 2020 as there is no money available for this. This matter is discussed every meeting and we as a community need to devise our own plan and present it to Council.

Fisherman's Paradise Motel invited Forum and other groups of Sussex Inlet to the opening of their International Photography Group for tourist from overseas to visit Sussex Inlet and take pictures of our beautiful town for exhibition overseas.

Council Familiarity Tour was conducted with all those present walking the length of the street from LJ Hookers to the end of Jacobs drive talking to people on the way. They were surprised just how much our street scape is in need of an upgrade. They finished at the Community Church where the Forum provided lunch. This gave the church congregation an opportunity to put forward their case to the Council.

Community Consultative Body Executive Meeting at this meeting it was discussed what was most productive for all the CCB's of the Shoalhaven They decided that we should have some input and so we were asked to send in 3 questions.

A brief overview of the council and its workings were given.

At the 2nd meeting it was discussed the benefits of the tours to the villages, too many villages in one day. Council to discuss further options. The manual for the CCB's is under review and the meeting decided on some changes for further discussion with Council.

Guest Speakers for the Year

Nikki Fleming from Chamber of Commerce Tourism

Committee. Nikki made us aware of the objective of the committee for the coming year and we were shown the Banners that have been purchased and are flying in the main street on the way into the township.

Scott Wells Wayne Schnoor Shoalhaven City Council Traffic Section.

They discussed where the crossings were going to be installed even though the Forum voted against it, the Council had a responsibility to install them after even 1 incident had occurred.

Marina and David Harris Community Engagement Officer Sussex Inlet Rural Fire Service

David had a slide show and talked about the coming fire season, they handed out information and answered many questions from

the floor.

Jan Natt President of Safe Navigation Action Group Jan talked about their plan for future improvements to our waterways.

Alyson Green Winner International Youth Day Awards Shoalhaven Positive Youth Award Alyson inspired us all on all her activities where she has encouraged other youths to aspire to greater ideals

Jasmine Greenwood Winner International Youth Day Awards Shoalhaven Inspiration Award Jasmine like Alyson encouraged all youth to achieve by overcoming difficulties. Jasmine has been selected for the Commonwealth Games for Swimming. This has been announced since our last meeting.

Tourism Kiosk. This was built by the Men's Shed for the Chamber of Commerce and was manned by the community and including Forum representatives, we all had ½ day training. The long weekend in October, 18 days after Christmas, Australia Day Long Weekend. It proved very successful dispensing a lot of tourist material to both tourist and residents.

Strategic Action Plan. The Griffith University had a final session with us and then presented the final plan to Council. We have had several meetings during the past year and are now revising the plan to move forward.

The Strategic Action Plan adopted by council as reference for planning Council Departments are to work through similar planning process with Professor Darryl Lou Chou from the Griffith University a research project titled' **managing environmental change through planning for transformative pathways'**

We received 2 awards for our plan when 4 of us went to Parliament House New South Wales and were presented with our Award. **The Awards were for Resilient Australia Awards Highly Commended Community Category.**

The 2nd Award was **Won the Local Government NSW Excellence in Environment Award 2017 (Climate Change Action Category)**

Little Blue Dinosaur Holiday Time Road Safety Signs

School holidays from December until after Easter- Forum thanks to John Lang again posted TIME TO SLOW DOWN KIDS AROUND signage in high pedestrian traffic in the district.

With fewer signs due to some being souvenired last year we were unable to get more as we had to purchase them from Council and they were too expensive- Future funding to be considered.

Shared Pathway- Ellmoos Reserve- midden?

Office of Environment and heritage archaeologist could not determine if midden or not.

Forum representatives met with another archaeologist on site- now repaired after suspected midden unearthed there found not to be so.

Errol Bond Reserve Cudmirrah

Forum Committee met with council staff to inspect state of public toilets, short term measure to have one existing toilet unisex and site for proposed new facility determined (new toilet construction in 2019/2020 budget)

Chris Creek

Letters to and consultation with Council resulted in excellent works on ramp -repairs and an extended ramp

Footbridge, Amenities and Pedestrian Crossing.

Committee met with Council staff on site to discuss placement of toilet facility and pedestrian crossing. Work is to be done in stages, crossing may be constructed later this year with other works to be done in 2019.

Before closing I would like to thank the committee for their assistance in attending meetings at short notice. I would like to give Gail my special thanks with all her hours of research and always prepared when attending meetings. It is difficult to argue when all the facts are in front of you. THANK YOU GAIL.

The past year has been an exciting one, where we have all achieved great things for our town and I hope will continue into the future

Sussex Inlet and Districts are a great place for a holiday and certainly retirement but we need to move forward and keep improving the district for the future.

Gwen Downie
Chairman

Sussex Inlet and Districts Community Forum 19th March 2018

