

BATTERY POINT COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION INC.

2020 – 2021 Annual General Meeting Report

Overview

The last twelve months have been active but challenging again for the Committee as a result of COVID-19. The Committee has met monthly and undertaken a wide range of tasks between meetings. In doing so, Committee members have been cognisant of their responsibility to meet the aims and planning principles of the Association.

Finances

The Association is in a sound position financially, in despite the ongoing restrictions caused by COVID-19. This is largely due to the income derived from the Community Hall, successful grant applications to undertake specific projects and careful fiscal management. Membership is strong and a number of new members joined the Association during the year.

Battery Point Community Hall and Henslowe Park

The Community Hall has been maintained in excellent condition but requires high level management and ongoing upkeep. The Hall is known as an excellent venue for a variety of purposes and interest in hiring the Hall increased during the year. The installation of acoustic batts in 2020 has significantly improved the acoustics of the venue.

The upgraded lawn area and installation of a watering system has greatly enhanced the appearance and amenity of Henslowe Park.

In Bobby's Footsteps www.batterypointwalk.com.au

This resource is actively supported by the Association, HCC, Tourist Information Centre, Narryna, local businesses and residents. COVID-19 restrictions have led to a significant drop in purchases of the booklet, but we anticipate that this situation will change in coming months as tourists return in larger numbers.

Website www.batterypointhall.org.au

The Association website continues to grow and is seen as a highly valuable resource for the community, visitors and students. The website provides regular news updates, information about membership and hiring the Hall as well as promoting local businesses and facilitating communication with members. Although not precise, website statistics show that the site is visited about 3,700 times per month

with about 9000 pages viewed per month. This is a significant increase on last year's figures.

During the year, several new stories about Battery Point people, places and events were added to the site. We are deeply indebted to web designer Steven Haines who prepares and presents the stories to a high professional standard.

Community Events / Communication

The Committee has been committed to fostering a strong sense of community among members through regular communication posts, and social and cultural events. These included:

- Battery Point Twilight Concert Series soirees in the Community Hall
- History sessions for Albuera Street School students
- Dogs Christmas Party
- Fundraising Calendar Sale
- Autumn Get Together
- Association Book Fair
- Book Clearance Sale
- Spring High Tea
- Regular support for events at St George's Church and Narryna

Planning

The Committee regularly engaged with planning applications:

- Submitting objections to Development Applications (DAs) that are not consistent with the Aims and Planning Principles of the Association and supporting DAs that do so

Traffic

This continues to be an ongoing, challenging issue for the Association. In response to advice from the HCC, the Committee presented a draft *Vision Statement for Battery Point* that is intended to inform the development of the HCC's Local Area Management Plan for the precinct (incorporating traffic management). We will work with the HCC to develop a process for involving community members and businesses in this initiative.

Businesses

We have continued to encourage community members to support local businesses and have welcomed several new businesses to the suburb. They have been included on the Association website.

Council of Community Associations of Hobart (CHCA)

The Association is a member of CHCA and was represented at its regular meetings. CHCA is an important peak body that participates in scheduled meetings with the

HCC General Manager and enables member associations to share ideas and initiatives.

Grants

The Committee was successful in procuring two significant grants:

- A Stronger Communities Grant, which enabled the upgrading of kitchen and storage facilities in the Hall.
- A Hobart City Council Community Grant to support the Association's Battery Point Historic House Plaques project. This project assists residents to research the history of their house and for key information to be included on house plaques that will be affixed to individual properties.

Future

The Committee will continue to support the Aims and Planning Principles of the Association. The Committee is committed to fostering improved communication with members and to seeking their advice on matters of interest to the community. In particular, the Committee aims to strengthen the sense of community among Battery Point residents and businesses through a variety of social activities.

Acknowledgements

I would like to acknowledge the important contributions of the following people:

- All members of the Committee – Peter Jones, Pam Powell, Neil Cranston, Tiina Sexton, Carol Mackel, Andrew Edwards, Marylouise Brammer and Sarah Oxbrough who have worked exceptionally hard on behalf of the Association
- Hall cleaner, Sharon Sproule who takes pride in presenting the Hall in exemplary condition and is always prepared to come in when needed
- Andrew Wilkie MP in assisting us with photocopying throughout the year
- Narryna, The Battery Point Post Office, Gay Flowers and Annick's Antiques for promoting and selling In Bobby's Footsteps booklets
- The many local businesses and groups who helped promote the activities of the Association, in particular Angelo and Marco from Da Angelo's and Cibo e vino for their ongoing support for events and initiatives
- Association members who made special contributions in support of a range of events and initiatives, notably Jenny Cranston, Marilyn Jones, Len and Gay Spaans
- Steven Haines for his exceptional and generous work in designing and maintaining the Association website.

Charles Morgan

President

28 September, 2021