



President's Report 2018

It has been a year of “two steps forward, one step backwards.” The Association has continued to advocate on behalf of its members and the broader South Hobart community on a broad range of issues impacting on our community. Progress does at times appear elusive or slow but change does take time and if the Association has learnt over its nearly one hundred year history, it is to be patient. Like any good community-based organisation, we advocate for a better future for the Suburb while, at the same time, fighting rear-guard actions to maintain and preserve the very reasons we choose to live in South Hobart; and if we don't do it who else will? The need for an active, community-based organisation has never been more acute.

Before summarising some of the activities of the Association, I would like to make a few thank yous. First and foremost, I would like to express my gratitude to our Honorary Secretary David Halse Rogers. David has worked tirelessly and with passion for the Association, and, therefore, for the broader community for a long time. He writes and edits Association correspondence, co-ordinates our response to development applications and organises volunteers in the distribution of our Newsletter which he often writes and always edits. For his sins he regularly provides invaluable advice to me.

Kevin Wilson is another tireless campaigner for a better South Hobart whether it is pedestrian infrastructure, parking in the Suburb or recognising others who make a contribution. He ensures the *South Hobart Residents Traffic Committee* continues to be a viable conduit between the Association and the *Hobart City Council*. As Vice President he also has been very supportive.

I would like to thank Phil Brown for his on-going and professional approach to managing our financial affairs and membership. He also stepped into the breach when the D'Arcy Street Community Hall was damaged during the May floods in Hobart.

Many thanks also to Liz Rees for 'volunteering' to be our Minutes Secretary. It can be a thankless task but it is crucial to the smooth running of the organisation. Equally, Craig Hoey has once again kept an eye on the Community Centre – thanks Craig.

The Association's main contact with residents of the Suburb has been “A South Hobart Newsletter” which continues to be delivered by our ever-conscientious and intrepid volunteer deliverers. Without their continued support the SHPA simply could not manage. A big thank you to all of you: you know who you are!

Finally, I would like to thank all our members who have turned up come rain, hail or shine to our General Meetings throughout the year. Your participation, whether through asking questions, putting pen to paper or attending meetings or participating in discussions enables the Association to not only understand the issues confronting the community but legitimises our claim to represent the views of our local community. Please continue to contribute.

PO Box 200 South Hobart TAS 7004

www.shpa-inc.org.au

phillip.hoysted@gmail.com

0437 451 138

The Association has dealt with a broad range of issues throughout the year. The following are just some of the most prominent concerns we have addressed.

May Floods

By far the single biggest event to occur in South Hobart was the downpour and subsequent flooding that hit our Suburb in May this year. What a frightening and catastrophic night it was. It is hard to find anyone not affected by, what will hopefully be, a once-in a–life-time event. The heartbreak of watching the damage caused by half a metre of water going through your own home cannot be underestimated.

At the time the Association went on the public record and thanked Council staff for their hard work, often after hours, to try and lessen the impact on people’s lives and Council infrastructure. Nothing was more impressive than hundreds of community members turning up to help clear rubbish from the *Hobart Rivulet*. Organised by HCC Bushcare, over 240 people managed to pick up half a tonne of rubbish and recyclable material.

The Rivulet and associated walking track sustained a significant amount of damage, and a damage assessment has been completed by the Council and a works programme is underway. The Association will continue to push to have the much loved and used *Rivulet Park* repaired as soon as possible.

The Association pressed the Council to look at additional flood mitigation measures for *McRobie’s Gully* given the amount of damage caused by the run-off. At the same time, we have provided feedback on infrastructure plans being drawn up by the HCC and provided specific advice and support for specific applications to the State Government on the impacts of natural disasters on the local community.

At the time of writing, much of the damage has been addressed but there remain a couple of areas along the *Rivulet* and in *Wellesley Park* that require attention. The Association maintains an active interest in the matter.

Traffic and Parking

Traffic management continues to a major issue within the Suburb. The Association continues to press the HCC to take a far more pro-active approach to dealing with a broad range of transport-related issues, including pedestrian walkways, regulation of parking in South Hobart, management of the *Southern Outlet*, speed limits and footpaths.

The Association took a strong position opposing the HCC attempt to replace the *South Hobart Residents Traffic Committee* with another broader consultation mechanism. It was felt that traffic management was a major community concern and needed a specific forum. Two meetings were held this year.

The commuter parking debate continues unabated. With the increasing costs and availability of car parking in the CBD, and the demands of increased business in the area, coupled with population growth, we are in danger of becoming a parking lot for commuters primarily travelling from southern areas. The Association has sought a parking strategy for the whole suburb that focusses on

the needs of locals rather than commuters. This could involve residential parking zones, timed zones and other parking measures that is in our interests not those of the more southern suburbs. To its credit, the HCC has actively engaged with the Association and the broader community over a long term transport strategy for Hobart and, more specifically, parking in South Hobart. The Association made a submission to the draft strategy (thanks to Kevin Wilson) and recently participated in a workshop on parking in the Suburb. Apart from the dealing with the specific accident hotspots around South Hobart, the SHPA stressed the need for the HCC to take a pro-active policy on parking, and develop a plan that identifies where we should have residential parking only, where we should have timed parking and where we should have no parking or maintain the *status quo*.

Earlier this year, the Government released a consultant's report canvassing options for a dedicated bus lane on the *Southern Outlet*. The Government is considering options that would alleviate traffic congestion on the Outlet, particularly during the morning and afternoon rush hours. The preferred option is to use the current slip road into Macquarie Street as a bus lane, direct traffic into Davey Street then down Elboden Street and into South Hobart. The lower part of Macquarie Street would become one-way only. The net results are 5,000 additional cars coming down Elboden Street, the loss of car parking spaces, and a number of businesses adversely effected. Meetings have been held with senior public servants and media statements released expressing our concerns regarding this short-sighted proposal. I expect it will be a major issue in 2019.

Beneath the Mountain: A History of South Hobart

Sales of Alison Alexander's book "Beneath the Mountain: A History of South Hobart" have continued steadily, so much so that we have now paid off the debt we owed to the HCC. We have managed to sell 1,400 copies of the book and they continue to trickle out. Much of the credit can go to Ros and Malcolm Saltmarsh who not only made a major contribution to the book but have also taken on the responsibility of marketing and distributing the book. Many thanks to you both. Mention must also be made of the sterling efforts of Daniel Cottee and Terry Carless from *South Hobart Butchery* who has single-handedly sold nearly 190 copies of the Book.

Cable Car

Some wit once said "nothing is certain in life except death and taxation." We must now add a third certainty – "every ten years someone will propose to build a cable car on Kunyanni/Mt. Wellington."

As members will know, the Association has been around for nearly 100 years. There is one central reason that helps explain our longevity – the Association fights for what our community wants. For over a quarter of a century, we have opposed a cable car on Kunyanni/Mt. Wellington. The Mountain is a symbol of our City. It is not a developer's fantasy land for ugly intrusions.

Fortunately, the HCC appears to agree, having recently voted to deny the cable car company access to Council land. It is to be hoped that the recent outcomes of the Council elections does not alter that position.

There is little doubt that the proposed cable car will continue to be a major issue for the Association in 2019 as is likely a development application will be submitted to Council.

Community Plan

The Association has decided to turn planning on its head – instead of relying on governments telling us what is important for South Hobart - both now and in the future - **we** are going to do it! Work has begun on developing a community-based vision/plan for South Hobart that outlines the local community's views on what is important now and in the future for our Suburb. Many thanks to Executive member Taki Douramanis for all his work on the Draft.

Such a document will only carry some weight with decision makers if it seen to represent the views of the local community – once a draft is approved by the SHPA it will be available for public comment.

South Hobart Living Arts Centre

It is with a tinge of sadness and disbelief that the SHPA was forced to relinquish its presence in the *South Hobart Living Arts Centre* (SHLAC). Due to financial constraints, the SHLAC Board effectively expelled the Association from the Centre despite a commitment in its constitution that the SHPA was to have a permanent 'home' in the Centre. Nine years of effective lobbying came to nought. None-the-less, the SHPA wishes the SHLAC Board well in its long-term plan to create a viable living arts precinct for South Hobart and the surrounding region. In the meantime, SHPA continues to work with the HCC to get sufficient funds to renovate the *D'Arcy Street Community Hall*.

As always, it has been a challenging year for the SHPA. From a personal perspective, it has been a real pleasure to get to know the SHPA 'family' a bit better. What is becoming increasingly obvious is that we need to plan for the future by attracting younger members and ensuring gender and ethnic diversity within the membership and senior positions.



Phillip Hoysted
President

South Hobart Progress Association Inc.
13th November, 2018