



SOUTH HOBART PROGRESS ASSOCIATION

(Incorporating Cascades Progress Association)
Founded 1922

ABN 65 850 310 318

President: Phillip Hoysted

Hon. Secretary: David Halse Rogers

PRESIDENT'S ANNUAL REPORT 2020

As with the broader community, it has been a year of ups and downs for the *South Hobart Progress Association* (SHPA Inc.). We have continued to advocate on behalf of our members and the broader South Hobart community on a range of issues impacting on our Suburb. Progress does, at times, appear slow, but change does take time, and, if the Association has learnt over its nearly-one hundred year history, it is to be patient. By far the highlight of the year, has been the opening of our new Community Centre in D'Arcy Street. More on that later.

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 again express my gratitude to our Honorary Secretary, David Halse Rogers. David has worked tirelessly and with passion, for a long time, for the Association, and, therefore, for the broader community. He writes and edits Association correspondence, as well as editing "A South Hobart Newsletter" – the Association's principal means of communication, co-ordinates our response to development applications, and organises volunteers in the distribution of our Newsletter. He regularly provides invaluable advice to me and contributes to debate at General Meetings of the Association: thank you David.

I would also like to thank Phil Brown for his on-going and professional approach to managing our financial affairs and membership. I can only repeat what I said in last year's report; there is often little understanding of the importance of an Honorary Treasurer in community organisations; fortunately, we are in good hands with Phil.

Many thanks also to Liz Rees for continuing in the role of Minutes Secretary. It can be a thankless task, but it is crucial to the smooth running of the Organisation.

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. A combination of the closing of the Centre for renovations and COVID-19 restrictions has made it difficult to hold meetings let alone pursue issues. 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.

The following are just some of the most prominent concerns we have addressed:-

1) Traffic and Parking

Traffic management continues to a major issue within the Suburb. The Association continues to press the *City of Hobart* 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.

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 focuses on the needs of locals rather than commuters. This could involve residential parking zones, timed zones and other parking measures that are in our interests, not those of the more southern suburbs. The *City of Hobart* (CoH) conducted a survey of residents to gauge their wishes on parking requirements in their street. Those wishes are now being putting in place which is a great outcome for our Suburb.

2) South Hobart Community Centre

After years of lobbying, negotiating and sheer hard work we finally have a new, state-of-the-art, community centre.

Built over 50 years ago as change rooms for the adjoining soccer ground, the Centre was never fit for purpose. Too dark, too small, too inadequate – the time for redevelopment into a proper community facility has been long overdue.

Our success was very much a community led team effort. The proposal was written by volunteers, and included letters of support from many different community groups and businesses in the area. The *City of Hobart* supported the initiative and extended the proposal to put the re-development idea to the *Tasmanian Community Fund*. The Council's contribution has been pivotal, not only through hard work by Council staff but also through a major funding commitment that helped get the Project over the line.

A host of positive outcomes will follow the re-development of the Centre: it will become a community focal point for expanded use by a much broader range of community groups – early childhood, youth families and older persons. It will promote social connection and well-being.

It would be remiss of me not to thank Council staff ,who have worked long hours to get the Project up: Kimbra Parker, Manager, Community and Social Programmes, Megan Cunningham, Community Development Officer, and Martin Schmidt, Senior Architect. It is as much their Project as it is ours.

Once again, congratulations to all those involved, particularly our new Community Centre Manager, Emma Gunn, who has taken it on with gusto and professionalism.

3) Cable Car

As I have mentioned, the Association has been around for nearly one hundred 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 kunanyi/Mt Wellington. The Mountain is a symbol of our City, not a developers dream.

We have continued to lobby against the cable car, spoken publicly about the issue throughout the year, worked with other like-minded organisations, and raised questions in Parliament.

The South Hobart road network is already under considerable pressure due to increased traffic congestion, an inadequate road network, particularly narrow sections in Davey and Macquarie Street, and increased commuters parking in the Suburb. An extra 600 vehicles a day will only exacerbate the problem. The reality is that, if the cable car goes ahead, up to an extra 500,000 people or 200,000 cars will travel through the heart of South Hobart each and every year. The developers own consultant has indicated that the road network can only cope if the T-junction of Cascade and McRobies Roads undergoes a major, multimillion dollar upgrade.

The proponent lodged a development application (DA) with the CoH who immediately sought additional information on up to 30 different aspects of the DA. At the time of writing, the CoH and the proponent were in mediation to try to resolve Aboriginal heritage issues. It is now close to ten years since the latest iteration of a cable car was first mooted. A decade of angst, broken promises and still the end is not in sight.

The Association will continue to oppose any inappropriate development on the Mountain.

4) Beneath the Mountain

Sales of the Association's book by Alison Alexander's book "*Beneath the Mountain: A History of South Hobart*" have continued steadily, so much so we have now paid off the debt we owe to the *City of Hobart*. We have managed to sell well over 1,500 copies of the book, and they continue to sell slowly. 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, and having the inconvenience of having much of the remaining stock cluttering their home! Many thanks to you both.

5) Hobart Rivulet

The Association has taken an active interest in the ongoing management of *Hobart Rivulet Park*. It is a major conduit between the City and Mountain, and is increasingly popular with the public.

Not many Hobartians, let alone visitors, would realise that it is now possible to walk from the edge of the city to the top of kunanyi/Mt Wellington and barely cross a road. A thin strip of land running along the Hobart Rivulet from Molle Street to near the *Cascade Brewery*, the Linear Park gained momentum during the late eighties after receiving a Bi-centennial grant to construct the walkway. It has grown in popularity ever since. Pedestrians, bike riders, joggers, dog owners and their companions, and the odd platypus, enjoy themselves by the hundreds every day.

Much of the success of the Park can be attributed to the City of Hobart. The Council has responded to community wishes and put in paths, signage, playgrounds, and rehabilitated land. The Association continues to push for improvements such as waste management (keeping rubbish out of the rivulet), separate paths for pedestrians and bike riders where possible, and improved lighting. Such management helps to maintain the asset but so much more can, and should, be done.

6) Constitution

The SHPA has a new constitution. After one hundred years we thought it was time to bring it up to date – to have a constitution that reflected not only the Model Rules set by the State Government, but also one that reflected a more modern organisation actively participating in the twenty-first Century. And yet what's changed in 100 years for the Association. The objectives of any organisation are its bread and butter – the reason for its existence. When the Association established itself in 1922, the first objective was to:-

“Protect and promote the welfare, interests, and general well-being of the community of South Hobart.”

And what is our new primary objective in the new constitution? It is to:-

“Protect and promote the welfare, interests, and general well-being of the community of South Hobart.”

A hundred years of doing the same thing – working for the interests of South Hobart and the people who chose to live here. Lets hope our new constitution stands us in good stead for the next 100 years.

7) Miscellaneous

Contrary to popular belief in some government and media circles, most developments in South Hobart are supported by the Association. Only the bad ones garner our attention. David Halse Rogers continues to co-ordinate our response on a range of proposals that come before the CoH.

Our Newsletter continues to inform residents, not only about our activities but what else is going on. Both I and the Executive would like to thank all the volunteers who make it all happen by delivering it to households come rain, hail or shine.

8) Conclusion

As always, it has been a successful year for the Progress Association. From a personal perspective, it has been not only been enjoyable but also productive, particularly in light of the COVID-19 pandemic. I want to place on the public record my appreciation for the support of the Executive and the stalwarts of the SHPA who turn up so regularly to general meetings because they care about what happens in our Suburb.

I said last year, and it is worth repeating, 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

The South Hobart Progress Association Incorporated

November 2020