

President's Report 2016: Eudlo Public Hall and Recreation Grounds Assn Inc

Peter Driscoll 19 Sep 2016

- I would like to acknowledge and pay respect to the traditional Gubbi Gubbi owners of the land on which we meet. It is upon their ancestral lands that our homes and lives are built.
- This has been my second year as president and the committee has remained much as it was in the previous year with the exception that Denise Wilson did not stand as a committee member at the last AGM. The current committee members are myself, Clive Plater (Vice President), Stephanie Tonkin (Secretary), Margaret Bradburn (Treasurer), Jenai Hooke, Christine Jones and Mark Shera. I will just outline some of the year's events and activities.

Performances

- The Small Halls event under the auspices of the Woodford Folk Festival was very well received by a full house who were rapt by the might and talent of Irish Mythen and the Starboard Cannons. This year we were able to negotiate a more profitable arrangement with the Small Halls organisers to ensure we made it worth our while financially. Unfortunately, the Small Halls organisers are taking a year off this year but I expect we will be involved again next year. Louise King has not used the Hall this year but we wish her well as she is staging performances at an assortment of other venues much farther afield.
- The open mic Musos every month on a Sunday is always a treat with different people performing under the excellent directorship of Michael Whitticker with help from Doug Pullen. These two guys are exceptional in their dedication to music and live entertainment. Eudlo Hall is not the only venue for muso events organised by Michael but it is surely unique in its presentation and appeal, especially because of the excellent home made food and beverage available. Everyone involved, the volunteers, audience and participants, should be especially pleased that we have this opportunity to liven up the town on a regular basis.
- The performance by Dean Stevenson and Rue Arts of the Juliet Letters at Eudlo Hall last October was a quality performance, perhaps not normally expected at a quiet semi rural setting. More recently there was another real treat at the Hall; photography by David Lazaar and exceptional music by a string quartet from the Australian Ballet orchestra. Thanks to Daniel Lopez and Eleanor Streatfield from Rue Arts for being so interested in using Eudlo Hall.

Grants and projects

- The recent kitchen upgrade was probably the biggest capital improvement to the hall in a long time and involved over \$30k of expenditure with involvement of various tradespeople and volunteer contributions on a major scale. The result has been favourably received and gives us a commercial grade kitchen. The decision to pursue a licence for the kitchen is still under consideration but the upgrade has definitely added to the appeal of the hall to potential hirers. We are particularly indebted to the Sunshine Coast Council and Heritage Bank in Palmwoods for helping to finance the new kitchen.
- The other major upgrade project is now a possibility with a Gambling Community Benefit Fund grant awarded for the improvement of the building amenities at Wominjeka including for provision of a shelter for a heritage horse drawn wagon (originally from Eudlo) which will go on display at the grounds in the near future. A

minor grant was also awarded by the Council for restoration work on the Wagon by the TURSA group under Clive's management in Nambour. We thank the GCBF and the Sunshine Coast Council for their assistance. Except for some preliminary earthworks, building work has not yet commenced at Wominjeka but we expect the project will still be completed on time early next year.

- We also thank the Council for assisting the Hall with 3 years of regular funding to cover some of our expenses through a community partnership grant. The Council also provided an emergency grant to help with replacement of the water tank at Wominjeka.
- The other big boost to our assets this year is the participation of the Skills Alliance group in maintenance, repair and improvements to the Hall. Thanks to them, which is also a Council supported group, we have a new concrete pathway, steps at the back of the Hall, painting inside and out, rejuvenation of the toilets, minor repairs, installation of cupboards, some landscaping of the environs and some preparation for further work such as resurfacing of the supper room floor. We were given the opportunity in July to host a graduation ceremony for the workers involved in our project and many similar projects where they worked.

Other activities or achievements.

- Disabled access arrangements for the hall and ongoing lobbying for such improvements in the town area. Thanks go to Ross Barber for his advice and Thomas Whitton for the initial suggestion that the Association play a role.
- Culmination of working on a revision of the Association rules.
- Continued improvement in our administrative systems and forms, and regular maintenance and cleaning; and pest, electrical and safety inspections including the preparation of an Asbestos Management Plan and a Pest Management Plan.
- Hall photographs arranged through the Council as part of the showcase of regional halls, which brought an especially enthusiastic response from Eudlo with some decorative food and furniture settings.
- Sunshine Coast Community Halls workshops and interaction between community organisations including a SCATER (Sunshine Coast Area Trail and Endurance Riders Inc) event earlier in the year.
- Even further behind the scenes, a lot has been happening. Tasks have included managing of bookings and associated duties, financial record keeping and auditing, marketing and promoting of events at the hall, organisation of events including catering, coordination with other groups in the community, two major working bees throughout the year, keeping up with insurance and other obligations, working towards the best possible reduction in costs as a not for profit organisation and for our hirers (insurance, permits, regular charges etc).
- Numerous individual projects and contributions by committee members and community members.

Strategic Plan

- The Strategic Plan is set out as four key goals with objectives for each goal. Briefly, goal 1 concerns good management of the community assets and resources, goal

2 is about engaging and helping to build the community, goal 3 is to have a dynamic, innovative community association and goal 4 is to advocate for maintaining an autonomous community identity for Eudlo.

- I believe we have done well this year in improving the condition of our assets and have certainly been trying to engage and build the community. Goals 3 and 4 have been less of a focus so perhaps next year we continue with improvement of our assets and play a bigger role in searching out innovative ways of putting them to use to help build the community identity.

- I am hoping that having our new rules in place will help with a resurgence of interest in the Association and the community. To this end we will be holding a Special General Meeting in the near future and have made available tonight, the proposed new rules for comment and consideration at that special meeting.

Acknowledgements

- It has been a pleasure this year working with the committee. We are generally a very enthusiastic, easy going and dedicated group of people. I especially acknowledge each and every committee member for their very significant contributions. The contributions are too many to itemise here. If one person deserves special mention perhaps it is Stephanie who, as secretary, has the biggest ongoing workload but she is also an especially strong advocate of the Association. Perhaps these comments of mine are biased but I will leave others to make that judgement

- Finally, I would like to thank the community for the opportunity to be involved with the Association over the last 12 months.