

Kendall Reserve Trust - CHAIR'S REPORT FOR 2015

By Alvena Ferguson

As with all organisations, the Kendall Community Centre has had its ups and downs over the last year, but thankfully there have been more "ups" than "downs". The Centre continues to provide many necessary services to the Kendall and surrounding community. Under the watchful eyes of Trustees the various businesses that operate out of the Centre have held their own.

Always with volunteer-run endeavours the Centre has seen some of our helpers come and new people take their place. There remains however a solid core of stalwarts who make sure that any gaps get plugged so that services continue seamlessly.

Seniors Week in March saw us partnering with the NRMA to present a seminar "So you think you're a good driver" which sought to take the mystery and anxiety out of returning to driver testing for those in their 80s. We were fortunate to receive a grant for this information session which enabled us to make it free to attend. The Trustees were also granted funds for several other initiatives. A Clubs NSW grant of \$7,000 was used to replace the sound and lighting in the Hall, replacing old technology with state of the art performance-standard equipment.

A "**Kendall Fall Festival**" is planned for May 2016 - an idea to roll many of the small stand-alone community events into one big festival for the community and visitors. This is being backed by Port Macquarie Hastings Council who provided over \$3,000 towards the event costs. This new format will require broad collaboration between several existing events and their supporters. The end result will be the work of many hands and minds to ensure that no one feels sidelined. There will be plenty of scope for new ideas to be added in also. So all you creative people out there - put on your thinking caps!

A Country Arts Support Program grant funded in 2014 is drawing to a close. Just one of the four planned events to take place - a **disco night** for the youth of the area expected to be held at the end of January just before school resumes.

Volunteering being what it is, we found several of our regular staff needed to wind back a bit and take a break. As a result '**The Meeting Place**' is curtailing its broad offerings and concentrating on great coffee and scrumptious morning teas. While the menu is starting to gear up again, the break from a full-on lunch menu has allowed The Meeting Place volunteers to re-assess how and what they do. In the meantime the Cafe is still opening every Thursday come rain, hail or shine and continues to make a valuable financial contribution to the Centre's overall activities.

Fine music presentations by Kendall National Violin Competition, Kendall PhiloMusica, the Hastings branch of Australian Breastfeeding Association and the Trust's own presentation have seen the **grand piano** put to very good use. The income generated by the hire of the piano ensures we cover the costs of its insurance, maintenance and one day down the track, its replacement. The Trust has just entered into a partnership with the Sydney International Piano Competition to present the overall winner and the Australian winner in very special concerts next year and in 2017. Local musicians and performers continue to make good use of the Hall on the first Friday of the month and we recently were delighted that Wauchope Arts hired the hall for one of their special concerts. Word has it they will be coming our way again as they were thrilled with the Hall's ambience and size - being considerably larger than their own hall in Wauchope.

Having our very own library in a small village like Kendall can't be underestimated. **Bookends** goes from strength to strength and provides locals with a wonderful selection of reading material. Their annual book sale is eagerly anticipated when you can fill a big bag for just \$5 and have a great supply of bookworm food for those down times and rainy days.

Kendall District Gardeners are endlessly generous in financially assisting us with projects around the property. The building of a boardwalk between roadside parking and the footpath around the RTC building

was undertaken with contributions from the Garden Club and the Meeting Place. While there are still a few finishing touches to be done, feedback has been overwhelmingly positive - looks good and is safer too.

Tin Hua Nu and her band of enthusiastic gardeners ensure that **The Global Food Garden** continues to flourish and provide fresh produce for purchase and for Meeting Place cooking. While Tin has been unwell of late and has decided to step aside from her Trust duties, she reassures us that her commitment to the Garden is unwavering. We hope you are soon back to full health Tin.

After some rocky financial roads were traversed the **Chronicle** goes from strength to strength under the creative eyes of Jodie Neil and Judy Wilson. While it is not intended to be a money-maker the emergence of several new advertisers has helped the Chronicle to carry its own weight - and it is like a real newspaper with local stories, recipes and advice.

The Artists' Dressing Room and adjacent storeroom were upgraded at the end of 2014 and we have been complimented many times by visiting artist, not expecting such a comfortable and appropriate accommodation to exist in a village School of Arts.

I wish to extend my personal thanks to my fellow Trustees: to Allan Phelps for continuing to manage our purse strings - always a tricky balancing act; secretary Warren Parkinson, vice-chair Richard Wilson and Trustees Ruth Gallagher, Topsy Roberts and Tin Hua Nu. To all our volunteers who keep the place running day-to-day - 'Thank you' isn't enough to acknowledge the generous gift of your valuable time and expertise in matters far and wide.

iKew Report - by Annette Jepp

Our local businesses are being kept in overdrive at present with the huge amount of visitors who have in the Camden Haven area. It is wonderful to welcome them to our area and share the beauty of both the seaside and the hinterland with them.

We have had countless amounts of cars, caravans and RV's call into the Information Centre for that quick cuppa and rest, our tireless volunteers with Driver Reviver are only too happy to provide for them. Many call in asking distances to their destination, receiving free maps and enquiring about scenic drives and caravanners were pleased to hear of the Kendall Showgrounds sites for their vans. Many called in to tell us what a great holiday they had and collect that all important souvenir.

We would like to thank the Volunteers who gave up their time over the Christmas period to man the centre, it was appreciated and especially by the tired and thirsty travellers.

With the New Year about to start our hopes are to improve continue improving and we would like any Volunteer who would like to join our committee with new ideas and suggestions for improvement to come along to our next meeting, held once a month in the Centre.

A group of Volunteers are forming to tidy the surrounding gardens at the Centre, a job for Council which has been neglected over the time.

The photographic display is still on view until the end of the month. The photos were taken by years 5 & 6 from Kendall Public school, a great effort made by these children, so come along and stop for a coffee - you will enjoy the air conditioned comfort of the centre and give yourself time to view some beautiful art work done by local artists while you are there.

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