

President's Report February 2009

The defining event for the past year was the establishment of the Cassowary Coast Regional Council, and in February we had 120 people present at our Candidates Forum, which gave an opportunity for the Mayoral contenders to make a presentation, followed by the Division 3 candidates. I would like to congratulate Bill Shannon on his election as Mayor, as Bill was the founding President of the Mission Beach Community Association and it is a pleasure to acknowledge the work that he did in that role. We are all aware of the challenges faced by the Regional Council, and I would like to thank both the Mayor and Councillor Jennifer Downs for regularly attending our meetings and providing information and updates on matters of concern.

The Association is committed to ensuring that the interests of Mission Beach receive due recognition and action. The Association again prepared a comprehensive report on community needs titled State of Mission Beach 4852. While some minor matters have been attended to, others have not advanced as we would have wished. Two long-standing matters are the Aquatic Facility and the lack of walkways/bikeways, both of which the Association has strongly supported, while acknowledging that their implementation will necessarily be staged over time.

Many of our members were involved in supporting and encouraging the proposal to establish a Bendigo Community Bank and regular updates were provided to meetings for nearly two years, until our June meeting when it was announced that having raised the minimum capital requirement of \$675 000 in the space of five weeks, the Bank would proceed.

Also at our June meeting approval was given for a submission to the State Government 2025 Plan, which commended the plan for recognizing Mission Beach as a "priority area for biodiversity conservation" and as an "area not considered suitable for high density urban development," planning to control growth at Mission Beach to "ensure the protection of the area's natural values" and acknowledging that Mission Beach "provides a highly valued mix of tourism" as well as a permanent residential community.

A significant achievement by our Safe Boating sub-committee, led by James Mort, was the announcement at our October meeting that they had been successful in raising funds to install a floating pontoon at the Clump Point Jetty and I would like to congratulate all the members of this group for seeing the project through.

Throughout the year we have had a number of guest speakers and I would like to thank all of them for their informative contributions. I would also like to acknowledge that Andrew Cripps, Member for Hinchinbrook, has been a regular contributor to our meetings in addition to following up matters raised at meetings.

I personally would like to thank all members of Executive for their efforts throughout the year, without which this association would not function.

Thanks are also due to Mission Beach Resort which has provided the venue for our meetings free of charge.

Warwick Jull