

PRESIDENT'S REPORT TO ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 16JUNE 2013

Well what a brilliant year this has been for the Society. In January 2013 just 11 months after the present committee were formed we completed Stage One of the interior restoration of our Church and held an official opening to celebrate this event. This was achieved by only seven women however they are fortunately backed up by talented sons and husbands.

Contractors (both paid and volunteers) were thanked at that time but I would still like to record our appreciation in this report:- Tom Morgan - Painter; Bob Rowell - The Glass Shoppe; Laurie Parker - Builder; Wayne Thomas - Oiling of floor and carpeting aisle and rostrum; Brett Lockyer - Electrician; Ken Alexander - General Handyman, able to do almost anything else we needed.

We would also like to record our thanks to Peter Jones who has taken on the lawn mowing of the grounds for the past year and Hellen Valster who has volunteered her time and expertise in restoring the lettering on many of the graves which had aged with time and weather.

Also to all the Grave Adopters who have made the graveyard once again look loved and cared for.

And not forgetting the Gardeners Club who look after the actual flower beds so well. You will have all noticed the beautiful Iceberg Roses either side of the entrance and these were the idea of our committee member Andrea who tended and watered them daily through our recent wonderfully hot summer. She was rewarded by how great they looked for the Official Opening and of course the recent weddings. Still looking great today.

And of course most importantly our committee who have given unstintingly of their time, knowledge and great enthusiasm, which has enabled the progress that has occurred to date possible.

Our fundraising this year has included:- Providing 18 Marshalls for a Tough Guy Challenge competition at the Boys Brigade Camp (raising approximately \$1600 for one day's work); Scarf Tying demonstration night - held at Tennis Club; Quiz night - again held at Tennis Club; Garden Ramble - most successful in spite of weather; Walk Down Memory Lane - a combined fundraiser with the Little Theatre; Two recent Market Days again most successful. The sponsorship of all 16 pews which gave a huge boost to our funds when it was most needed. A raffle of a collector item doll which was donated by a member and tickets have been sold over the past month (and are available here today as well).

We have also applied for every grant we are eligible to apply for and these, along with our on-going fundraising, the generous donations by members and non-members and of course the membership fees which we all pay, have enabled us to complete the projects to date and to feel confident about our ability to proceed to the next stage of the renovations.

We have finally had the Conservation Architect visit the church and are currently awaiting his report so that we can decide what project(s) are next on our list. We have also hired the Church out for two weddings and a vow renewal and have one further wedding booking next month. We are hopeful such bookings will increase in the future as the payments we receive for such events also help in the day to day costs we have which include rates, electricity lawnmowing etc etc.

We have also had a number of working bees over the past year and our most recent one (yesterday) installed three park benches. Thanks to our committee member

Annette for driving this for us and of course to the hardworking husbands again, Ken, Colin and Laurie.

Whilst everyone on our committee are invaluable I would like to pay special tribute to Colleen Hira who puts together the magnificent newsletter which keeps all our members so well informed of what is happening and what is coming up.

Our Membership was 64 full members and 19 Honorary as at our last committee meeting on Wednesday.

You are all aware of the recent discovery that the Church is not quite as old as we thought and our Historians are working very hard to verify actual dates and to get the record correct for the future. This of course means that we will not celebrate the 150th Jubilee this year as planned but look forward to making it an even bigger and better event on the correct date.

We are fortunate that the majority of the outgoing committee have indicated they are available for re-election but our thanks to Deb Mustard and Sarsha Hira who have had to resign due to work and family commitments.

In closing my thanks to all of you for attending today and for your support during this past year and of course huge thanks again to our great committee

- Joyce Lockyer
President