



## **2013 PRESIDENT'S REPORT**

The 2012-2013 year has seen yet more substantial achievements for the Surrey Hills Progress Association, and it is truly pleasing to see that after more than three and a half years, the SHPA remains a vibrant, constructive and forward-looking community-based organisation.

Perhaps above all-else, the most pleasing aspect of the SHPA is the fact that it is comprised of a number of active members, and a substantially larger number of supporters, who are motivated by nothing more than a strong desire to preserve the unique characteristics of our wonderful neighbourhood, while at the same time seeking out and supporting opportunities for future growth and improvement.

It is against this background that I am pleased to present my third President's Report to the SHPA.

### **Where have we come from and what have we achieved?**

#### *Planning controls and protections*

As I noted in my 2012 President's Report, a key objective of the SHPA at the time of our inception in early 2010 was to achieve the implementation of a more sensitive and robust suite of planning controls.

At our first public meeting in May 2010, the community was jolted into action when it was realised that while substantial parts of the Whitehorse section of Surrey Hills were subject to Heritage Overlay protections under the Whitehorse Planning Scheme, protection under the Boroondara Planning Scheme for those parts of Surrey Hills within the City of Boroondara was conspicuously absent. Never was this more evident than with the demolition of the former Surrey Hills Post Office, which proved a key catalyst for the SHPA's formation.

This time last year, our objective of achieving a suite of planning controls that responds to, respects and protects the unique neighbourhood character of our beautiful suburb was only beginning to be translated into something tangible. I am pleased to note that much more progress has been made over the last 12 months, thanks in no small part to the outstanding contributions of a number of our members.

It should be with a sense of enormous pride to the SHPA that a great deal of work has been done in relation to the application of heritage overlays to substantial areas within Surrey Hills. This follows numerous submissions and representations made to our former and current Maling Ward councillors by SHPA, the heritage studies undertaken by Lovell Chen on behalf of the City of Boroondara, largely in response to those submissions and representations, and the strategic planning work that has been done by the City of

