



Surrey Hills and Mont Albert Progress Association Inc.  
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## 2021 – 2022 PRESIDENTS ANNUAL REPORT

I am pleased to present the annual report of the Surrey Hills and Mont Albert Progress Association for the twelve months to 30 June 2022.

We took a significant step, at the 2021 Annual General Meeting, to formally include 'Mont Albert' in the name of the Association. This was passed unanimously by members, and recognised the shared interests and close history between the two suburbs and our growing membership of Mont Albert residents.

The Committee elected at the AGM held on 18 November 2021 comprised Greg Buchanan (President), Phillip Dews (Vice President and Treasurer), Yvonne Bowyer (Secretary), Lynette Giddings (Publicity Officer), Susannah Aumann, Russell Gray and Gerald Brown (General Committee members).

The Association again benefited from the wonderful generosity of the Salvation Army Chinese Corps Church (Alan, Esther & Amy) for the use of their facilities in Guildford Road where we resumed meeting in November 2021, following easing of Covid restrictions. Thanks to Gerald for his ongoing technical support to our group, especially Hybrid Zoom meetings, with Tim and Don's support also.

The focus of our activities through 2021-2022 continued to be on the major rail infrastructure project as construction commenced - with many urban amenity, design, landscape and traffic/car parking issues still in contention and requiring ongoing advocacy with the project agency, the Level Crossing Removal Project (LXRP), and Whitehorse and Boroondara Councils.

It is difficult to draw together all the issues around such a large and intrusive project in one brief report or give adequate recognition to our members who have devoted so much time, energy and expertise into seeking the best outcomes for the local community. The minutes of our monthly meetings are a detailed record of the submissions made and steps taken by the Association on this significant project.

A number of our members sat on the Community Reference Group (CRG) for the level crossing removal project and we thank Bruce Harvey, Peter Forrest, Pat Cutri, Don McDonald, Scott Willing, Chris Horsfall and Greg Buchanan for filling that role which has now concluded. Chris Horsfall, Scott Willing and Peter Forrest have continued as members of the Construction Liaison Group (CLG).

The Anzac Day Dawn Service held in the Surrey Gardens continues to be well supported by the community and local schools; Chatham Primary, Our Holy Redeemer and Ashwood School. This year the service was jointly convened by our Association and the Mont Albert-Surrey Hills Rotary Club with the Surrey Hills Neighbourhood Centre (SHNC) playing a supporting role. Special thanks go to Lynette Giddings, Yvonne Bowyer, Joe Somers and Graeme Battersby (from Rotary).

During the year we made detailed written submissions to local councils and state government agencies on the Eastern Metro Land Use Framework Plan, the Parliamentary Inquiry on Planning Protections in Victoria, to the Suburban Rail Loop Environment Effects Statement and Public Hearings, the LXRP Landscape Survey, to the Whitehorse and Boroondara Design Vision Concepts (for the rail project) that also included heritage submissions, to Heritage Victoria in regard to Wattle Park and finally, a submission through Sue Barnett (as President of the Surrey Hills Historical Society) to the LXRP for retention of the mature Palm Tree associated with the former stationmaster's house at Surrey Hills Station.

Many thanks to Geoff White, Mark Curry, Elizabeth Meredith, Sue Barnett, Graeme Davison, Sophia Hanger, Bruce Harvey and Don McDonald for their specialist expertise and contribution to various key submissions through the year. Both Geoff and Cliff Williams also kept us abreast of major Council planning applications and studies which we thank them for.

The project to introduce a 40kmh speed limit in Union Road through the Surrey Hills shopping village was completed in 2021 with electronic speed restriction signs installed.

Special thanks to Yvonne Bowyer in her role as Secretary and for her support in managing our many activities. Yvonne's commitment and enthusiasm has seen her take on many tasks including coordinating a Tree Protection group, the Accessibility group (with Elizabeth Meredith) and the Suburban Rail Loop group. At various stages of the year, these affiliations met frequently and became important in networking and in providing a better understanding and approach to specific issues.

Thanks also to Yvonne and Alison Dews in managing and keeping updated the Association's website and Facebook page. We also obtained a range of positive media coverage during the year, thanks to Kirsten Langford, Susannah, Yvonne and Pam Hulme.

During the year our Association formally joined the Combined Residents of Whitehorse Action Group (CROWAG) and also had ongoing involvement with Planning Democracy, led by Kelvin Thomson.

The Bunnings sausage sizzle was a great fundraising event for the Association. This was spearheaded by Lynette with great support from Yvonne, Kirsten, Greg Langford, Bruce Harvey, Courtney Horsfall, Russell Gray, Susannah, Geoff White, Cliff Williams and Peter Forrest. The Box Hill Lions Club was also very supportive in taking us through the ropes with set up and catering arrangements.

We also supported the Salvation Army Red Shield Appeal with Lynette, Pat Cutri, Lynette Cutri and Yvonne providing great assistance on the day.

The Financial Statement for the 2021/2022 year recorded an opening balance of \$1,550.34 and a closing balance of \$5,745.04.

We were very appreciative of two large donations of \$2000.00 (from DIY Resolutions – owned by a member of the Association) and \$911.00 (from Ron Wilson CEO Navy Health – this amount fully meeting our financial obligations for the Anzac Day Dawn Service).

Many thanks again to Phillip Dews as Treasurer for managing the finances and membership applications.

In closing I wish to again thank all our members for their wonderful support and contributions to our activities during the year. I especially acknowledge the friendship we share and the loss we've experienced with the passing of Bill Chandler OAM, Mark Hayward, Trish Leigh and Stephen Lovass.

Greg Buchanan  
President

17 November 2022

*The Surrey Hills and Mont Albert Progress Association acknowledges the Wurundjeri Woi Wurrung people of the Kulin Nation as the traditional owners of the land in our area. We pay our respects to their Elders, past, present and emerging.*