



Ashfield Community Action Network
Annual General Meeting
November 11, 2024

President's Report

Plant a tree, beneath the shade of which you will never stand

Another year has come and gone, and I am pleased to say the Network has never been stronger.

Our membership has increased significantly, and we remain in a strong financial position.

Partnerships with the Town of Bassendean, the Department of Biodiversity, Community and Attractions, our local MLA Dave Kelly and others remain robust and supportive. We cherish these relationships.

We continue to strive in promoting Ashfield as an emerging, friendly and supportive village that has much to offer by way of environmental and community diversity, and opportunity.

This has never been more apparent than our commitment to the continued development of community parks, exploring other exciting development opportunities, and our advocacy for the health of our river, particularly the Ashfield Flats foreshore and environs.

We have strongly advocated retaining the current pedestrian thoroughfare alongside this unique stretch of riverbank which, for over a century, has linked the people of Ashfield and Bassendean. Furthermore, AshfieldCAN believes that the Ashfield Flats Parkland (adjacent to the iconic wetland), once a dairy farm and trotting track, represents a unique opportunity for the Town to increase local tree canopy, perhaps by reintroducing magnificent Flooded Gums that once proliferated along this stretch of hinterland. In doing so we appreciate many may never stand beneath their shade. Nevertheless, we must continue to strongly advocate on behalf of the broader community to maintain the current intimate, open, visual and physical connection with our river. In this we have received reassurance that, for many generations to come, we will continue to enjoy the beauty of our river, as we stroll along its banks, wondering at all it has to offer. Fencing the river from view and access would have been a travesty.

In the year ahead, we will face challenges, but as a group we have demonstrated that by being unified, nurturing partnerships and by displaying and seeking accountability in all things, we can achieve important outcomes for the benefit of our community and more broadly, the Town of Bassendean.

Thank you for your support and take care as we approach the festive season.

Bob Brown
President
Ashfield Community Action Network