President’s Report

AshfieldCAN Meeting June 11, 2024

AshfieldCAN continues to thrive as a group, with slow but steady progress being made in a significant number of areas. These include but are not restricted to:

* Increasing Network community participation and representation as evidenced by increases in membership and participation in community events. This achievement ensures we remain relevant and maintain influence in matters affecting the village of Ashfield.
* Community engagement is critical to our continued success. The long-table dinner (Thanks to Ky, Renee, and their team) and the Sundowner were wonderful, well patronised events. All thanks to the members who make things happen.
* The development of our ‘Community Corner’ is nearing completion with the donation and temporary installation of quality re-purposed furniture. The mutual support of the Sports Club, the Town and AshfieldCAN will be critical to the health of the Village in future years.
* The ‘Sundowner’ events are an exciting new concept (Thanks Patricia) with the inaugural event well patronised. This event is important, particularly as it has strategic benefits to AshfieldCAN, the Sports Club, the Town and our community. We look forward to the next ‘Gatho’.
* The Lookout Park and the recent Dawn ANZAC Day service organised by Lucy and hosted by AshfieldCAN continues to flourish. This simple but highly moving event provides an opportunity to greet the morning Sun and pay due respect to our service men and women. We will strive to retain the event as local in nature, encouraging our community to embrace it as an event that is easily attended by walking to the park, whilst recognising some may wish to drive or be driven due to mobility issues.

The issue of regaining and retaining the Lookout park’s reason for existence, the outlook to the East, remains vexed. However, following a formal invitation (supported by historical information) to a meeting scheduled for today, a preemptive, less formal meeting was requested by representatives of the Department of Planning, Lands and Heritage and DBCA. At this productive meeting on Wednesday May 8, attended by AshfieldCAN Vice President and President, agreements were made that will once again open up the park to its intended purpose. We await a formal written commitment to these agreements.

Bob Brown

President