

## **KILCOY DISTRICT HISTORICAL SOCIETY INC.**

### **PRESIDENT'S REPORT FOR 2023 – AGM 14<sup>th</sup> March 2024**

Another wonderful year with plenty of activity at KDHS considering our small numbers of Volunteers.

During 2023 we had a total of 2418 visitors to our Hall of History (1511 previous year). Bev Staines, Ken Evans and I open the Hall of History. Special thank you to Bev for the 3 days midweek and the extra time she does at home, and to Ken giving up your Sunday mornings. I opened the Hall on Saturday mornings.

During the year, we had many face-to-face enquiries, emails and phone calls from a vast variety of people either wanting to research their families, ancestry or discover local historical knowledge of Kilcoy and surrounding areas. Thank you to Noela Lowien, our Research Officer, for her extensive knowledge of our records and her local knowledge and efficient, timely responses to these enquiries.

Our Newsletters continued during 2023. We currently have 320 subscribers and topics contained in the Newsletters during year were:

- January / February – Fires in around Kilcoy over the years
- March / April / May – The Kilcoy Pastoral & Agricultural Society (The Kilcoy Show)
- June / July – Early days of Tennis in Kilcoy
- August / September – Railway Sidings between Kilcoy and Woodford
- October / November – St Mary's Anglican Church celebrates 125 years in December

Our Newsletters link readers to our website. These Newsletters are also stored on the website. We have our business profile added to Google Business enabling visitors to locate us and our website.

Displays during 2023

- Yowie Park Multicultural Event
- Small Schools Reunion run by the Woodford Historical Society
- Hospital Auxiliary Fete
- Kilcoy Show
- Villeneuve / Neurum Reunion
- St Mary's Anglican Church Wedding Display
- National Trust Heritage Month Display – Interviews of Kilcoy Residents on Film
- Visit by the Kilcoy State School Pupils over 2 day (50 & 75) – thank you to the Volunteers who made this successful, the children were engrossed especially when Terry played the organ
- Tourists visiting by coach organised by Phil Close.

Our ongoing and completed projects include:

- Yearly representation at ANZAC Day Ceremony
- Updating and review of our History Trail signs throughout the town
- Re-issue of the History Trail Sign brochure – SRC Grant of \$600
- New issues of the KDHS Browse Books – thank you Noela and Bev
- Application for Grant – Mural and lighting for side of Hall of History (2024 approved and project on the way)
- Launch of the Tones Family Book
- Meeting with the Community and Tourism Manager SRC. Offer of displays in the Information Centre
- Attendance to workshops provided by Museums and Galleries at Esk
- Painting the decking at the entrance to the Hall of History (thank you Ken and Denise)
- Installation of Grindstone at entrance to Hall of History (thank you Ken and John)
- Don attending the Jinibara Tribe Community meetings
- Offer and progressing on supply of timber for slates around the bottom of the Hall of History (in progress) – thank you Trevor Carter

It has been a wonderful year and to be able to help people with research into their families and their ancestry, and to be able provide them with information, stories and local knowledge from our records. This year there seemed to be more emphasis on tourism with visitors to Kilcoy calling in to see our displays. There has been a noticeable jump in donations received via our Donation Box.

It is still my concern regarding active memberships and our limited number of volunteers. I am not sure what we can do to be able to keep the Society going if we should lose any of our existing valuable volunteers.

Lastly, thank you to my Committee Team and our Volunteers for the last twelve months, without them we would not be able to continue. I wish the incoming committee a wonderful and exciting year ahead.

Signed: **Donald Walker (President for 2023)**