



SOUTH HOBART PROGRESS ASSOCIATION

(Incorporating Cascades Progress Association)

Founded 1922

ABN 65 850 310 318

President: Michael Cole

Acting Secretary: Liz Rees

President's Report 2024

The Constitution has as our objectives:

- (a) To protect and promote the welfare, interests and general well-being of the community of South Hobart.
- (b) To enhance, promote, protect and preserve the social, cultural and built heritage of Tasmania with special attention to South Hobart.
- (c) To promote, organise and conduct events, entertainment, functions or any other similar activity in South Hobart.
- (d) To make representations to local, State and Commonwealth authorities, bodies, boards, councils or other entities and any non-Government entities for the promotion of the objects of the Association.
- (e) To operate and manage a community centre for the benefit of the community of South Hobart and for other citizens and groups as may be determined from time to time.

How did we do this year?

Planning

Planning, and its potential impacts on South Hobart, has continued to be a significant area. This relates directly to **Objectives (a), (b) and (d)**.

We are in a veritable planning blizzard, so in the interests of keeping this report within the bounds of reason, I have added a detailed overview at the end! Whilst we can be confident that we have made an informed contribution to proposals and developments, we must maintain our efforts; this will remain a major focus and purpose for the Association. For much of this, we will need to maintain connections with organisations such as PMAT and TasPIN (the Tasmanian Planning Information Network).

Community Centre

The Community Centre provides our most diverse connection to the community: playgroup; yoga classes; birthday parties. **Objective (e)** has certainly been achieved, in no small part due to the continued efforts of Emma Gunn in overseeing the running of the Centre, and in particular the bookings. As part of our accountability to the Council, we were asked for an activity statement earlier in the year. I have added a copy of that at the end as well - I think provides a useful picture of the use of the Centre, and its value to the community. Thanks to Emma for that.

PO Box 200 South Hobart TAS 7004

mikecole@gmail.com

www.southhobart.org.au

0490 661 066

We remain committed to enabling community groups to access the Centre. Our current lease will finish at the end of 2025. We have every expectation of continued renewal, given that we have enjoyed excellent relations with the Council, who of course have ownership of the facility.

Good Neighbour Agreement

Earlier in the year, Anna Reynolds brought this to a meeting, and subsequently the Agreement was (re)activated. This is a group that meets to receive reports, and have community input into the operations at McRobies Gully (The tip!) We have representation on the group which has now met several times. It is pleasing to report that the communication and response from the Council has been most positive, and the group provides an excellent model for community/Council interaction. One significant outcome has been the decision to improve the capture of rubbish otherwise entering the Rivulet through a very large pipe by the introduction of a serious gully trap, rather than simply the large sock that was the only previous filter.

Communication

We have a group chaired by Phil Hoysted looking at all aspects of our communication strategies. One important outcome from this year has been to reconfirm that *A South Hobart Newsletter* remains a key part of our communication. Chris Rees will take over from David as editor in the new year, and we will need to support him – not least in the search for content. More immediately, we have an ongoing need to find people to help in the delivery of the Newsletter.

There are other avenues: Facebook is one; our website is another. We have yet to develop a Facebook presence, but we have made significant progress with our website, through the efforts (again) of Chris Rees in a moderator's role, with Kit Whyte continuing to provide technical support.

Discovering SoHo with Paul County is close to a launch, and this will hopefully give us a platform to raise our profile in the community.

Engagement and Involvement

Presidents' reports over many years have referred to the challenge of reaching out and engaging our community. Part of that is in ensuring we are communicating effectively; part is looking at how we can involve people actively in contributing to the continuing life and well-being of our community through the activities of the Association. This relates directly to **Objective (c)**: *"To promote, organise and conduct events, entertainment, functions or any other similar activity in South Hobart"*.

We need to consider and develop opportunities for activities that help promote and advertise both our suburb and our existence. That will include a review of our current meeting schedule and format - evening meetings are not good for people with young families! As a note to us all: the best attended meetings were where there was a solid advertised issue to consider, with guest speakers.

Succession and the future - connected of course to Engagement and involvement

In The Future of SHPA (Feb 2023) I wrote:

We have a record of achievement, but there is no shortage of challenges to engage us.

As part of our response to these challenges, we need to look out for each other, and seek to build both personal and community resilience through connection and support. This will be my key focus for the Association. We must seek to engage with all in our community – and we need the active participation of all in our community. Get involved – every little bit helps!

This is the area where we should look to do more – and that means engaging and involving more in the community. That points to an ongoing and potentially existential issue. There are too few of us actively involved, with the same people by and large having been involved for many years. These people have given invaluable service, but no-one can go on for ever. We need new people to help carry us forward, to be ready and willing to share the load, as well as helping us to connect with a more diverse group.

This year two stalwarts of the Association have laid down their roles: Phil Brown as Treasurer and David Halse-Rogers as Secretary and Newsletter Editor. We acknowledge their service, and hope that they can continue their connection and support for our endeavours. It was bound to be a challenge to find people to carry on their work.; Liz Rees has been Acting Secretary, but we have as yet no replacement for Phil as Treasurer.

So, thanks to all those who have made a contribution to our community through the Association this year, and indeed every year. Special mention to Phil Hoysted and Liz Rees for their continuing support.

Thank you

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'M Cole', with a long horizontal flourish underneath.

Michael Cole.
President. SHPA (Inc.)

Addition 1 Planning

Planning, and its potential impacts on South Hobart, has continued to be a significant area. This relates directly to (a), (b) and (d).

The development and approval saga of the **Hobart Local Provisions Schedule** has continued – now into its fifth year. This is a major review of planning directly affecting all aspects of both the natural and built environment. Our representation was submitted in June 2023. We finally received a response from Hobart City Council noting the worth of our proposals, but rejecting them on mainly technical/procedural grounds. We were able to make our case though before the Tasmanian Planning Commission in July this year. We await the outcome.

Other major planning/development work carried over from 2023 involves the **Future of Local Government** review instigated by the State government through the Local Government Board. The final report (with 37 recommendations) from the group commissioned to carry out the review was presented to the State government in October 2023. As yet we have no further information as to next steps, if any.

One key and contentious element, namely the role of councils in assessing planning and development applications, was removed from the review at an earlier stage. A separate proposal was made for legislation introducing **Development Assessment Panels (DAPS)** to take over councils' decision- making functions on certain (major) development applications. Our stance was to firmly oppose such a move. That legislation was delayed, partly we suppose by a surprise State election, but late this year, the response to submissions – the vast majority opposed – has emerged. It seems the proposal is to go ahead, subject to approval by Parliament. There will still be opportunities for representations, particularly at the Legislative Council stage. Our approach there will be to support PMAT in any way we can. (We make a significant financial contribution to PMAT to help support their work on our behalf.)

A further linked proposal (in March this year) is for similar “independent” panels to assess significant developments in national parks and other reserves – the **Reserve Activity Assessment** process. We responded to that as well, indicating our support for a statutory process, but opposition to the introduction of panels. A report summarising responses to the consultation documents was produced in September. The great majority of views were similar to ours. We are still waiting for a further proposal/response from the State government, but we would anticipate more need for continued representations.

A further planning area is the **South Hobart Oval Master Plan**. Progress here is linked to a review of the Council **Dog Policy** - due shortly. Other planning areas that we need to be vigilant over are issues and concerns around the mountain – with the continuing threat of the Cable Car, a new proposal for a Zipline, and more generally the **Wellington Park Management Plan** – currently subject to yet another consultation process closing on December 4 .See [here](#).

But wait, there's more!

We are in the middle of a **Review of Residential Standards**, which in turn references **Medium Density Guidelines** being developed at the same time. A final report is “expected” at the end of October (ie now). (This Review is part of a wider review of **State Planning Provisions**. That will in turn be impacted by a set of reviewed **Tasmanian Planning Policies**. A draft of these, together with submissions made in 2023, are somewhere in the system, officially under review by the Tasmanian Planning Commission, but not yet publicly available.) All this is highly relevant to us here in South

PO Box 200 South Hobart TAS 7004

mikecole@gmail.com

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Hobart- focussing as it does on the way in which the density of housing, and in particular infill can be managed/increased in urban areas and established suburbs such as ours.

That's not all. Just to add to the mix, we are most recently invited to take part in yet another review – this time the **Southern Tasmania Regional Land Use Strategy** (STRLUS). This includes 12 Councils and the State government. To place this in context – STRLUS must be consistent with the TPPs, and Planning schemes (SPPs and LPS) must be consistent with STRLUS!

All clear so far?

In case you had not noticed, we are in a veritable planning blizzard. Whilst we can be confident that we have made an informed contribution to proposals and developments, we must maintain our efforts; this will remain a major focus and purpose for the Association. For much of this, we will need to maintain connections with organisations such as PMAT and TasPIN (the Tasmanian Planning Information Network).

Addition 2 South Hobart Community Centre - Activity Report 2024.

The South Hobart Community Centre continues to be well utilised by the community. The Centre is in use for an average of five hours every day, although some days are busier than others. Friday afternoons and evenings are rarely booked.

There are two main categories of user - regular week-day users and casual weekend users.

Regular week-day users

Bookings of the Centre during the working week are predominately by users running classes or activities that occur every week, although there might be a break during school holidays or for another specified period. The types of activities that take place during the week are varied, as can be seen from the list below:

- Feldenkrais
- Yoga
- Pilates for senior rowers
- Arthritis Tasmania strength training program
- Playgroup
- Playback Theatre rehearsals
- Tutoring for primary students
- Photography workshop
- Buddhist Philosophy and Meditation
- Singing class

The Centre is also booked on a semi-regular basis during the week for staff meetings or AGMs and by an Occupational Therapist.

Week-end Users

At week-ends, most bookings are for children's birthday parties. There are often several bookings following one party as other parents see how ideal the venue is for young children. The Centre is usually booked in both the morning and afternoon for different parties and on occasion there are up to three on one day.

The SHPA has a policy of no teenage or 21st parties due to the location of the Centre in a quiet residential area so there are not often bookings on Friday or Saturday evenings. There is a strict 10pm finish time for any evening booking.

The week-ends are usually booked out at least 2 months in advance and some organised parents have been known to book up to a year ahead.

The SHPA has a policy of not allowing regular weekly bookings on Saturday or Sunday to ensure that the Centre is as available as possible to the wider community. However, there are a number of regular monthly weekend bookings. These include:

- Harp group
- Dance group

- Tai Chi
- Second hand record sales
- Hola kids playgroup

The Centre is also used annually on a week-end in November for the Resilience Fair, organised by the South Hobart Sustainable Community Group.