

**President's Report 2017**  
**Crow's Nest & District Tourist & Progress Assn Inc**

Good evening.

It gives me great pleasure to present my President's Report tonight, not because it is my last, but because it is a summary of the good aspirations and efforts of a bunch of volunteers who make Crow's Nest and District a better place to live and a better place to visit. Many thanks to all members who have been part of a successful 2016-2017, part of over a century of active citizenship by our Association.

Our Association is a member and has voting rights in the Regional Tourism Association – Southern Queensland Country. This past year has seen an increasing take-up of places at SQC workshops, and of course the Annual Conference. Our members have come away with increased skills and knowledge. Members have also attended the TAG (Tourism Advisory Group) meetings.

Many thousands of people throughout the year tune in to our window to the world – the website. As the seasons come and go different webpages get increased numbers of visits, but the big picture is that Grahame Rogers does an outstanding job. We very much appreciate the free hosting and technical support from Noel Dixon of Noxidsoft.

The safety aspects of the pedestrian crossing near the post office has been ongoing and we hope that it continues to be a safe crossing for all.

Our Association has been working with the Community Liaison Officers of the Toowoomba Regional Council – Nicki Gallatly and Rhiannon Priestly. Tony Bowman makes a very appreciated effort to attend our monthly meetings, and comes with news from Council and pen and paper to take issues back to council. Just a couple of notable achievements have been the Park Noticeboard and the Youth Day during the Crow's Nest Community Festival. Ongoing projects are the Economic Development and the Tourism Development Reports. We are working on becoming a RV friendly town. Our Secretary John O'Brien has co-facilitated workshops, Council has enabled free WiFi in town, we have had discussions with both the local school and Education Queensland on the year P-12 concept and we have explored the possibility of our Association managing the Crow's Nest Community Centre.

For me, the reports given at our monthly meetings by various community groups is a highlight as it not only continues to show a vibrant Crow's Nest community, but also allows us to focus on the many positive aspects of our area. Many thanks to representatives from the Arts Council, Artists of Crow's Nest, the Film group, the Historical Society, the Crow's Nest Youth groups, the Qld Local Government Reform Alliance and the Crow's Nest Arts and Crafts, and others, who have updated us on their projects. We proudly remember that our Association, to help foster the Crow's Nest Arts and Crafts, provided a rent guarantee for the first few months of their very successful life.

Tammy King was successful with a grant to obtain the T&P tents, which are now stored with other community use gear in the PCCN building.

Katrina, Wayne, Kylie and Graham were the backbone of another wonderful Crow's Nest Day. I think the day has become an important community day and I say thanks to all who have contributed since the first one in 1982. 2017 will see our 36<sup>th</sup> Annual Crow's Nest Day on Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> October.

Christmas in the Park is a great celebration of the end of the school year for the local State School and is just one example of what our Association does best – playing a lead role in co-ordinating enthusiastic local individuals and groups to make a great community activity.

Our Local Directory meets a community need and it an opportune time to acknowledge Heritage Bank and PCCN for their financial support of our community building activities over not only the past year but for many years.

An exciting process our Association has spent more time on this year is the packaging of events, products and services to enhance the visitor experience. An active sub-group has been working on this one.

And what a success the *Crow's Nest – Motor Cycle Friendly Town* has been – from the planning stages, to the maps and brochures, the promotion and of course the launch day. Well done team.

It was a very great pleasure to re-launch the reprint of Tall Timbers. Tall Timbers was our Association's contribution to the 1988 bicentenary celebrations, and with tremendous community support the book was put together. Its sub-title is "a folk history of Crow's Nest" as we knew that already much of our early settler history, not to mention Aboriginal history, was already lost. That was about the time too that our Association commissioned Ken Robertson to record in song the history of Crow's Nest. We were able to have a couple from the original book committee present at the re-launch, including Sally Young.

It is pleasing to see so many organisations and businesses using our T&P copyrighted Crow logo to identify their links with Crow's Nest.

One of the significant moves our association made was to allow various sub-committees to function under the auspices of T&P, and as long as their members were our members, such tasks as insurance, reporting and banking were covered. This allowed these sub-committees to explore whether they could spin off as stand-alone community groups. Two successful groups that started their lives as T&P sub-committees are PCCN and the current Business Alliance. Congratulations to the business group on their early work.

There is much more that has happened in an action packed 2016 – 2017 year. But it all comes down to the volunteers who make up this association and who help make it all happen. Thank you for your freely given contribution to community life. Special thanks to our executive – Megan Scott, Wayne Smith and John O'Brien .

I would like to thank Bente Moller for her outstanding contribution to T&P over the 35 years – much of it behind the scenes, and her important work as a major liaison person with the local school and other community groups, as well as her creative work with brochures, Best Baits, art competitions and the like..

It is very pleasing to see we have nominations for all positions at this our AGM. Community spirit is high. All the very best to the incoming executive and best wishes to the association for the future. We will be maintaining our membership.

I would like to move that the 2016-2017 President's report be adopted.

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Jeff Close  
2<sup>nd</sup> May 2017.