

## Mayor's Report – May 2017

From 21<sup>st</sup> till the 27<sup>th</sup> May it was the National Volunteer Week and many events were held across Australia to thank the over 6 million Australians who volunteer their time to many organisations. Without these volunteers in all of our communities many events, fund raising morning/afternoon teas, luncheons, award ceremonies, forums and training sessions, to name just a few, would not be possible. Tasman has two wonderful Service organisations, Lions and Rotary, who are all volunteers and do an amazing amount for our Tasman community. There are Landcare groups, Coast Care groups, Animal rescue, CWA, history groups, Ambulance, SES and Tasmanian Fire Service volunteers along with the numerous other small committees that meet regularly to get things done. From Tasman Council, I would like to express our sincere thank you to all the volunteers in our community who work to help our environment and our residents 365 days a year, every year, thank you.

St. Albans Church and cemetery in Koonya has been placed on the 'for sale' list put out by the Anglican Diocese of Tasmania. St. Albans is the only Church in Tasman that has a cemetery attached to it, the Anglican cemetery in Sorell is full and no more bookings can be taken there.

St. Albans was built in 1904, the land was donated by an adjoining landowner and it was built and paid for by that local community. That same local community, through a 'Friends of St. Albans' group and the congregation still maintain and care for the building and the surrounding cemetery. The Bishop of Tasmania, Dr Richard Condie, states that when the Church and cemetery are sold the person purchasing the land will become the Cemetery Manager under the *Burial and Cremation Act 2002*. This Tasmanian Legislation is very open to interpretation. Just two examples where the Legislation is at the Cemetery Managers discretion - it may lead to the costs of burials being significantly increased and the access to the cemetery for those wishing to visit a burial site would be at the behest of the Cemetery Manager.

Dr Condie also states that this sale of properties is to enable the Anglican Diocese to pay for the redress to those who were abused by the Clergy and those that covered that abuse up. They are looking to raise a total of \$20 million dollars with the sale of properties and \$5 to 8 million dollars of the amount raised will be used for that redress, a quarter of the total amount. No one is against those that have suffered abuse receiving compensation, they definitely should, but not by the selling of community Churches. There are many that will also suffer, in a different way, as a result of that decision.

Communities across the State of Tasmania are very unhappy and angry that the majority of Churches to be sold are in rural and regional communities as they are the ones that do not meet the criteria set out by the Diocese, e.g. 30 families supporting

the Church every Sunday and a full time Rector for that Church paid for by those attending that Church.

The congregation and The Friends of St. Albans plan to try for an exemption from the sale and they will know more by the end of this year if that has been successful or not.

Tasman Council office staff organised a Biggest Morning Tea to raise funds for the Cancer Council. Staff and Councillors brought a plate of food to share and donated funds, over \$480 was raised with other contributions still to arrive, well done and thank you to all who gave to this very worthy cause.

The Local Government Board has informed Tasman and Sorell Councils that their report into any merger or shared service options which was due at the end of May will now be finalised and submitted to the Minister at the end of June 2018. That may mean that the vote by Tasman Council will be held either at the July or August Council meeting. The July Tasman Council meeting will be held on the third Wednesday (18<sup>th</sup> July) instead of the usual fourth Wednesday (25<sup>th</sup> July). This is due to the Local Government Association of Tasmania's Annual General Meeting and Conference.

The Board are working through the public submissions and their own peer review of the modelling and assumptions made through the KPMG stage of work including more broadly applying financial and asset management data independently audited by the Tasmanian Audit Office for the last two financial years.

It gave me a great deal of pleasure to be able to announce, at the final farewell to the Lendlease Springboard program event on the 30<sup>th</sup> May, that the Australian Business and Community Network (ABCN), a not for profit organisation, would partner with Tassal and the Tasman District School to deliver mentoring programs for the Students at the School. ABCN was formed in 2005 by a group of CEO's whose vision was to engage business to have a greater positive impact in the community, since then 32,507 students have benefited from direct mentoring through their work. Currently there are 38 Australian leading companies and 203 schools working together to make a difference in the lives of young Australian students. ABCN approached me in early 2017 to attend a session, 'Interview to Impress', with the students and I was impressed to see how the ABCN representative gradually drew the, initially very shy students, to work together and interact with the community representatives and delegates from Lendlease who also attended the session. Louise Manks from ABCN approached me to see if there was a business in our region that would be able to support the Tasman District School with this program. After some thinking time I approached Tassal to see if they would be prepared to commit to a 3 year collaboration with the school along with a substantial monetary component,

they, as stated above, agreed to work with ABCN and the School. The Tasman District School's acting Principal; Michelle Waldock is very excited that the School will participate in this wonderful program. I would like to thank Tassal for agreeing to participate in the ABCN program and work with the School and the students who will benefit from this initiative.

**Roseanne Heyward**  
**Mayor**