



CANTERBURY  
COMMUNITY  
ACTION GROUP

*Progressing the future  
Protecting the past*

## CCAG Presidents Report

### AGM: November 2017

CCAG worked in the following areas during 2017:

- Communication
- Urban Forest
- Parking & Traffic
- Canterbury Stationeers
- Maling Road Shopping Centre
- Graffiti removal.
- Networking.
- Strategic Planning.

#### Communication

We regard Communication as our “Core Business”.

Jo Marchese did a great job developing our new website – [www.ccag.net.au](http://www.ccag.net.au)

And then Jo developed, and then our secretary Peter Jenkins has implemented our new “mail chimp” newsletter system.

One of the features of mailchimp is statistics! For example, our Autumn newsletter was sent to 170 email addresses, 57.4% were opened & 7.7% clicked on links.

Is that good? After three years of sending emails into the ether, fearing the worst, it was very reassuring.

So, its a benchmark, that we aim to improve. Thank you Jo & Peter.

#### Parking & Traffic.

Our Treasurer Gordon Black and I continued dialogue with Council’s Traffic Manager Jim Hondrakis and his team, meeting on three occasions. This process started with Jim’s presentation to us at the 2015 AGM, from which a number of actions have been implemented. Three notable current initiatives being discussed are:

- Rochester/Canterbury/Maling Roads intersection – slow progress, but next step is Council survey of Rochester Road residents about traffic signals.
- Kendall Road Underpass & Lack of Footpath – local residents should be surveyed soon about two options.
- Multi Storey Carpark at Canterbury Station – our next step is to meet with our state parliamentarians.

#### Canterbury Stationeers

Stationeers is an initiative of CCAG that works on the gardens at Canterbury Station under the umbrella of Keep Victoria Beautiful.

We held working bees in March, May, September and November involving a total of 50 Working Bee-ers.

The March working bee was conducted as a Clean Up Australia event, and covered the Station and surrounding Maling Road shopping centre. We intend to make this an annual event.

In 2018, we are likely to have a Council Grant of \$5,500 to install water tanks and indigenous gardens, and \$500 from Bendigo Bank to renovate the planter boxes at the murals. Fingers crossed.

Our Sunday morning working bees were caffeine fuelled, and we greatly appreciate the donation of caffeine, time & munchies from the boys at The Good Food Collective, at every one of our Working Bees.

Thank you Chris & Nev! Certificate of Appreciation.

### Maling Road Shopping Centre

At the 2016 AGM, there was much discussion about the state of Maling Road Shopping Centre.

At the AGM, Greg Burns was elected onto the CCAG committee with a special project of Maling Road. A few days later, Greg advised CCAG that he was not able to join the Committee. Councillor Addis invited me, Greg and Lorri to participate in her committee on Maling Road. I attended four meetings, until that committee was dissolved in April.

In May, Council advised CCAG that it was not permitted to extend its working bee activities to Council assets around the shopping centre.

During the last two years, CCAG created an opportunity to lease land from Victrack for the purposes of storing the bins that currently litter the laneway behind Theatre Place. We have lobbied unsuccessfully for Council or Landlord to grab the opportunity. We will keep trying.

On the upside! Peter & Judy Barclay's film night in Theatre Place, and Auto-Classico event were outstanding successes. The Traders Association have a new logo, website and "look". There are a growing number of enthusiastic traders and landlords that care. And residents (lead by Wendy – thank you) are maintaining a positive dialogue with Council officers about maintenance at Maling Road.

CCAG believes that we can improve Maling Road by engaging and working together. But it will need positive cooperation, persistence and leadership.

We are hopeful that the Maling Road Shopping Centre Improvement Project can provide an opportunity for positive cooperation. Nathan will talk to us about that project shortly.

### Graffiti Removal

We have two Graffiti removal kits in our network. Peter Adams north of Canterbury Road, and I have one for the south area. They are used from time to time. Just contact us!

Thank you Tim, for your persistent removal of graffiti in the pathways around the old Bowling Club.

### Urban Forest

Amanda Rasmussen-Huang has lead our efforts in Urban Forest. This year Amanda promoted the Council's significant tree nomination process, and was strongly involved in our working bees.

Unfortunately, Amanda has decided not to continue on the Committee. Thank you Amanda for your four years of effort on the behalf of our Community. Certificate of Appreciation.

I attended a Boroondara Community Workshop in May. The outcomes of the workshop were used to inform Councils 10 year plan. A take-away for me was that most residents (I recall figure of 80%) value our green and open spaces.

CCAG really needs someone to take over from where Amanda has left off.

Can someone please step into that role?

### Networking

We have made an effort to reach out to other community organisations:

- Neighbourhood Watch
- Canterbury Neighbourhood Centre
- Lighter Footprints

They are links to build on.

### Strategic Planning

We congratulate our Councillors and Council Officers on two important initiatives:

- The gazetting of new Heritage Policy, including a clause that now allows the option of traditional or contemporary design for an extension to a heritage protected home.
- The exhibition of the outcomes of the Canterbury Heritage Gap Assessment, proposing a substantial increase in the heritage protected areas within Canterbury.

In March, the State Government announced changes to the Residential Zones, and Council's response was painfully party political. We invited Council and State planners to attend a forum in June to explain the changes to our Community! Ben Cooke, an ex-resident, and up & coming planner from Tract Consultants, came to our rescue, and provided a clear explanation of the pros & cons of the changes.

### Conclusion

At a personal level, I would like to thank our Committee. I believe we functioned well, with all committee members contributing with purpose, towards the common good.

Thank you Gordon for your chairing of all our meetings, and keeping good books. Thank you Peter for improving substantially over the immediate past – secretary. Thank you Rob, for your insightful advice, and to you & Jean for hosting our Committee meetings. And thank you Amanda – you did a great job of advancing the cause of Urban Forest, within a very busy life.

Thank you to you our members for your support, involvement & enthusiasm.

I conclude by issuing an open invitation to residents and others associated with Canterbury to step up and offer their services to help support the community.



John Constable  
Chair – CCAG  
14 Nov 2017