



The Eastcoast Regional Development Organisation Inc
PO Box 96, Triabunna Tas 7190

Chairman's Report to the Annual General Meeting 16th September, 2018

In December 2002 at an ERDO meeting at the Triabunna School a discussion took place about the possibility of purchasing the land across the road, there was a great deal of animated discussion. Carl Trost moved the following motion: *"We take all reasonable steps for the community, through access to funds, to purchase the block. The land to be secured in Trust for the Glamorgan Spring Bay community"*. This motion was seconded by Greg Lewer and was unanimously carried. A purchase contract was signed to purchase what is now The Village, we were given reasonable time to secure some funding.

Then in April 2003 an Executive Committee meeting was held in Swansea with our legal advisor, Kathleen Ford, present – another purchaser was lurking! After some discussion, mainly about finance, the following is recorded: *Moved Carl Trost, seconded Greg Lewer that we purchase land with borrowed money and that two interest free loans to be negotiated with Carl Trost and Simply Creative (Tom & Jane) with the hope that money will be repaid from Grant Funds if they become available.* Again this was unanimously carried and thus The Village was born.

I believe this was a brave move for a not-for-profit organization but all those who sat around the table at those meetings were great visionaries and could see the potential for the development of a creative community space. It is also interesting to note that none were from Triabunna.

We have come a long way in that time and many young people in the community have had a part or have been influenced by the development in so many ways, some are now bringing their children to The Village. Many people have come through the gate for exhibitions, forums, concerts, plays, meetings, workshops and much more. We hear so comments from visitors near and far: *"I am stunned"*, *"Wow!"*, *"I am blown away"*, *"If only we had this at home"* and so many more.

For me the pending completion of the refurbishment of the L-shaped Shed/Multi-Functional Space will be a major milestone – so many people have played a role in what has been achieved.

This year ERDO has been successful in attracting various grants for infrastructure improvements and equipment:

- Australian Government "Stronger Communities Program" grant - \$10,000 for the completion of the interior of the L – shaped shed
- Orford Odeon Community Grant - \$1,736.00 for a PA System
- Community Support Levy - \$3,006 for 15 amp power supply for the woodworkshop
- Billiard Table Restoration Group - \$600.00 towards a gallery hanging system in the L-shaped shed

During the year we were able to complete the Pottery Studio with a 'Domino's Doing Good' grant, financial support from Trish Clennett, Michael Kent and many hours of voluntary time and I must acknowledge those who assisted in these building projects with time and equipment. As a 'not-for-profit' we do not have 'cash' to contribute to the grant applications so it is this 'in-kind' labour that is our organisation's 'input' in the grant application.

The East Coast Network continues to flourish with increasing numbers, new connections and enthusiasm with many commenting on the value and the strength of the network. Here I must acknowledge the time

given by those attending and by Vija and Jane.

The third “Stepping into the Future” expo was once again very successful with stallholders, students, teachers and supporters all agreeing that it is a very worthwhile. One of the challenges is to encourage more parents and/or grandparents to come along to discuss options, future career paths and other opportunities for their children and maybe a career change for themselves.

The markets continue to be a major source of funding for the day to day running of The Village and we have committed to a ‘come rain, hail or shine’ policy that the market will be on! The ‘special’ markets or those with a focus are extremely important and we must make the most of them – October with the ‘Predominately’ British Car Show and in April next we are hosting an Italian Car Show. I would like to acknowledge Peter Huttemeier’s efforts in contacting all the car clubs and getting the word out about the car shows.

The markets are fun, for many they are an important social event but unfortunately the returns to ERDO are not keeping pace with the increases in the day to day running costs of The Village.

The ‘open’ gallery has generated reasonable sales (hence commission) and interest, but it is not just the gallery that needs to be open. From experience I have found that taking the time to allow people to browse through the bric a brac and to show them the other Village activities often leads to sales, donations and certainly the “Wow” factor!

There is a need for all of us to promote The Village as a venue for meetings, workshops, musical events, private functions etc. The ‘Summer Ranger’ program at The Village has been a great success as was the recent ‘Songmaking’ camp.

www.triabunnavillage.com.au and The Village Facebook page continues to grow and both are recognised as a great means of getting the message out into the community. Our Webmaster, Peter Huttemeier is to be acknowledged for his work in keeping things up to date and Facebook ‘posting’.

I wish to thank all office bearers, members and volunteers for their dedication and support of ERDO and The Village. In whatever way you contribute to our organisation and projects remember to remain positive, remain calm and laugh. The Village is a sharing community and your contribution has generated the following message:

“Congratulations on the progress made at the Village by you, Jane and the Village and ERDO volunteers; the Art Centre at the Village, the almost complete L shape shed, the grounds and gardens are looking fantastic and continue to demonstrate the confidence of many and we’re sure they’ll remain an outstanding asset for the Village, ERDO and the local community.”

In closing I think the following recent comment sums up the philosophy underpinning The Village: *“It seems the great strength of The Village is the goodwill and generosity of all involved. It is rightly valued for its welcoming and inclusive approach and the willingness of current members to embrace newcomers.”*

Tom Tenniswood
Chairman.