



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

Chairman's Report to the Annual General Meeting 25th September, 2021

It is with pleasure that I present my 20th report as President.

A slow start to the year with the Covid restrictions still in place but gradually we came out of 'hibernation' and steadily activity around The Village picked up pace.

For our own safety and that of visitors to The Village, a *Covid Safe Plan* was developed and implemented to ensure we met Public Health guidelines in all our operations. I wish to acknowledge the assistance given by staff at Work Safe Tasmania particularly in respect to how the market could operate.

The real test for our *Covid Safe Plan* was the very successful October market and car show –what a day!!! Unfortunately the ground was soft in places, some cars and a bus became bogged and I thought that maybe they would become permanent exhibits! Reviewing the photos of the day we believe there were about 120 cars, a fantastic effort.

November was a busy month hosting the start of the Variety Tasmania *East Coast Tas Bash* fundraising rally, a lot of fun for spectators and those taking part. We were privileged to be able to support this charity which does so much for children in this State, we were also grateful for their very generous donation of cleaning and sanitizing products. Later in November our *Small Business/Self-Employment Expo* was very well supported, we heard about some new developing businesses and from services that are able to provide support. All participants found it worthwhile with plenty of time to network, make appointments etc.

The Village has become the 'Mecca' for various Chapters of the Campervan and Motorhome Club of Australia (CMCA) for end of year get togethers which not only supports The Village but also local businesses. Their members are also willing to assist with ground maintenance and always leave the place spotless. We look forward to their return this year.

In April the 2020 Covid cancelled electric vehicle display was held with quite a wide variety of vehicles, bikes and scooters. The generous support from the Electric Highway Tasmania, State Growth and the vehicle owners was appreciated by people who had so many questions about EV ownership. A lot of people came along, many to The Village for the first time so we hope to see those faces on a more regular basis. Another EV display is planned for 2022.

There have been some infrastructure improvements - The Papermaking / Printmaking Studio has a new floor and a refurbished Melbourne Street façade. The former shade house has become a hot house and a grant from FRRR has given the Barbecue/Bread/Pizza Oven shed a facelift (actually a roof lift!), a little more space and power. This building will be ready for the upcoming Car Show.

This year Horticultural Training, provided by Global Net Academy, is taking place at The Village on Thursdays – we hope this will develop into a long term relationship with mutual benefit to The Village and the broader community.

We were successful in receiving a Healthy Tasmania grant to retain our garden coordinator to continue in engaging the community and development of our gardens with a range of garden related workshops planned.

The East Coast Network continues to meet at The Village providing wonderful networking opportunities that often lead to speedier connections of providers to clients, businesses and community. Covid restrictions do limit the number of attendees with many placed on a waiting list. The Network has been very beneficial to ERDO and The Village with many of those attending hiring our facilities for meetings and workshops.

The markets continue to play an important role for The Village but more importantly for the community. It is always wonderful to see groups of people meeting up, chatting and supporting our stallholders. The markets are important fundraisers but now we are able to be open every day we are seeing more sales of books, bric a brac and art work.

I wish to thank all office bearers, members and volunteers for their dedication and support of ERDO and The Village in, what turned out to be an interesting year. There are too many to name but your contribution in whatever way is really appreciated and continues to build a strong and vibrant community.

Tom Tenniswood
Chairman.

