

# Woomelang and District Development Association

## **WDDA President Report 2017**

I'm really not sure where this year has gone but once again it has been a busy one. Probably for the past 6 years it didn't appear that we had achieved much but this year has been a complete reversal.

Towards the end of 2016 we saw the block taking shape. We had gravel laid and we could see the potential there.

At the end of 2016 we saw the magnificent snake appear almost overnight on the wall of the shop. This has drawn many comments both good and bad but it has people talking and most importantly talking about Woomelang. We hope this improves the number of tourists to the area as they do the Silo art trail. We were hoping to have the shade next to the shop erected before Christmas 2016 but numerous hold ups didn't see it appear until early 2017.

During 2017, discussion was centred around the positioning of the fuel. It was decided to move the fuel from the proposed area at the rear of the shop to a more prominent position to the west of the toilet block. This meant further submissions to the shire.

Last month we had notification that we were successful in our application. Huge thank you must go to Travis for all the running around and phone calls that needed to be made to get this over the line. This has been a very long drawn out and frustrating process that we can not wait to see finished. Works to pour the concrete should start with in the next few weeks.

Once the toilet was installed and shade erected planning went into landscaping of the area. Fortunately there was enough money in the budget to engage a landscape gardener and this was certainly money well spent. Many hours were then spent picking up rubbish, mowing and trimming trees in the lead up to the grand opening of the corner. It seemed at one stage there was a working bee every week.

The opening of 'Combine Corner' was a relief to us all but once again created some controversy as there were lots of opinions on the name. This project is a WDDA project. The land is owned by the WDDA so the WDDA named it. Approximately 25 names were suggested, these were narrowed down to 4 and voted on by the committee members and as it turned out the name that was selected was suggested by a long standing community member.

During this time Monica closed the Bon Bon Café in Hopetoun and we were able to assist her with the move and since then the shop in Woomelang has gone from strength to strength. We are very lucky to have such an experienced business woman as Monica in the shop because at one stage we thought our town was only capable of supporting a store that sold bread, milk and papers and now look what we have.

With the area almost complete we can heave a big sigh of relief.

We are fortunate to have a very motivated group of people who want to see our town grow. We have many more projects in the pipeline - the Colour Run in October and hay bale art at the beginning of next year; the Endangered Species Project is also under way with grant applications put in to access funding for the project. We will work in conjunction with the Historical Society to further develop the corner of Brooke Street/Sunraysia Highway and Railway Crescent. Cronomby tanks is an ongoing project that can always be added to. One suggestion I have had this week is more seating around the tanks.

I'd like to thank North West Ag, in particular Rick and Steve, for all their support and donations during the year.

Grant Kelly  
Outgoing President 2016-17