

**BEGA VALLEY HISTORICAL SOCIETY Inc.**

**PRESIDENT'S REPORT TO THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING (2022)**

First I ONCE GAIN, record my thanks and those of the Society, for all the efforts of our Committee and our volunteers to keep everything functioning during the past year. In particular I thank Kaye Jauncey, our Secretary, Helen Jauncey, her sister and our Treasurer, and Bill Fletcher ever willing to help keep our doors open. Our other volunteers who catalogue, transcribe, record, research, preserve our objects, and guide our visitors, all are essential and I thanks them sincerely. The Society could not and cannot function without their help.

The past year, has seen us struggling to maintain financial viability due to lockdowns on viral spread and this has affected visitor numbers as tourists are inhibited from travel. In addition we have had to dip into reserves to pay the stamp duty on our own property transfer from Council's name to our own at long last. While The BVSC held title they did nothing to maintain the building so we had to do so with small resources and as a result, the building is in dire need of refurbishment and upgrading. As the second oldest building in Bega still in use, it is showing its age.

Application recently for Government Grants assistance is so far unsuccessful and with our State and Nation coming under coming financial stress I cannot foresee any future requests having any prospect of success but we will keep on trying. I thank enthusiastic member Peter Lacey for his hard work and effort on our half. His efforts on our behalf are outstanding. We have had to expend some funds for plans to support this application but they may well stand up us for help in future attempts.

The near neighbor to us, the old Victoria Inn, older than us by a mere few months, has been purchased by the Budd Family from Canberra with a view to restoration. We wish every success to them in their efforts.

While realistic, I remain optimistic that our fascinating artifacts and stories of our Pioneers and their hardships will continue to fuel our resolve in future years and sustain our Society's efforts in the future long after we have gone. We ought not forget that we are living and creating history here ourselves while we live and our records will provide fuel for thought years into our future. Long may we prosper.

In the meantime we have collaborated with Peter Lacey who is conducting "street walks" guiding interested persons on walking tours of the Bega CBD telling of the changing streetscapes from the past to the present and telling an interesting story. I have hopes that we may be able to expand this to half day bus tours in the future to view some of our many historic sites.

I move the adoption of my report.