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Millthorpe eNews

MILLTHORPE 2017 WRAP UP

Looking back, 2017 was a milestone of a year for Millthorpe with many activities included and adopted into the celebration of the 150 sesquicentenary year.

In the outgoing President, John Mason's words it was one of the biggest, most challenging and successful years in the history of the Millthorpe Village Committee, business and the village.

"The year kicked off on a more positive note after a rather large public campaign to save the Inala Units which after many months of negotiations and a working group coming to the final tender stages, the affordable housing block is now managed very successfully by Housing Plus a specialist NGO," said Mason.

"This exercise proved that a community can stand up, be accounted for and look after those that are in need.

"We were honoured to help the current residents, to maintain affordable housing and work to a great solution with Blayney Council to find the best outcome for everyone."

Working closely with Blayney Council, the MVC has changed its reporting methods on expenditure and revenue.

Today, Blayney Council has adopted a more aligned approach with the MVC using the Village Enhancement Program scheme and also other major programs to enhance the village.

Other major activities throughout the year include the following;

- The Sesquicentenary celebrations were a major success: community participation on a number of different projects and programs: Golden Memories Museum photographic exhibition; completion of Stone entrance wall; 150th historic homes of Millthorpe and district; 150th Ball; new walking trail and visitors guide; Millthorpe Public School memorial path and picnic.
- Millthorpe hosted the biggest Garden Ramble in its 13 year history.
- The Publicity Officer with the Executive conducted a review of the communications policies and new website and social media administration and content with record numbers of hits on both village and Facebook sites.
- The opening of Redmond Oval was a huge success showcasing all the new facilities including tree planting, new tennis court fence and water bubblers.

- Thanks to the Blayney Council's VEP program, residents and visitors can continue to enjoy the tree planting and street scape improvements in a number of village streets.
- Blayney Council announced the opening of the new carpark at the Station Precinct with notice boards soon to be finished.
- Darrin Yates established the Millthorpe Youth Club – welcoming in many young people to the community.
- Millthorpe is now a proud member of the new Regional Tourism Organisation (formally Brand Orange) which allows further access to all their social media, e-news letters and the introduction of the village with stalls in Orange and Barangaroo.
- Commencement of process to conserve the Police Stables and Paddock.
- Significant increases in MBC and Garden Club memberships.
- The Millthorpe Executive have written submissions to BSC re proposed land-use and land re-zoning after residents and the community raised concerns.
- Hosted a team of students from the Big Lift program of UTS – a program that gives back to rural communities.
- Access ramp for disabled residents and tourists and for prams completed in Park Street
- Revision and approval of the new Millthorpe Community Plan 2018-2022.

THANK YOU MR PRESIDENT

After 15 years as President of the Millthorpe Village Committee, John Mason, now hands over the reigns to the new President, Sam Yeates.

John Mason has worked tirelessly over the many years even prior to his Presidency and contributed a great deal to the enhancement of the village.

"I was there back in the day protesting to keep the Millthorpe Railway Station alive and put forward a proposal for a grant with a group of people for the upkeep of the railway station and to organise a 'stop on request' for tourists, said Mason.

"We are now so excited with the announcement from the Hon. Paul Toole that a Stop on Request is now going through with an extension to the station.

"This is a major achievement.

"I felt that the time was right for me to step down as President and continue to be part of the village in the background."

New President, Sam Yeates commented that the village owes a lot to John and Marnie Mason for all their community work over the years which includes many activities and events.

"Marnie has also kept the niche wall going with a group of people from the MVC gardening committee.

"Millthorpe is in debt to all their work and we give a heartfelt thank you to both of them for all their enormous contributions."

MILLTHORPE SPECIAL AWARDS

Every year, the Millthorpe Village Committee honours the many volunteers and families for all their hard work throughout the year and presents special awards at the end of year Christmas drinks on Mill Green to those people who have contributed a great deal of time and effort.

New President of the Millthorpe Village Committee, Sam Yeates congratulated everyone for all their work throughout the year especially the many volunteers who helped create many of the events such as the Millthorpe Garden Ramble and Millfest.

“The Millthorpe Village thrives on all the hard work maintained by an eclectic group of volunteers who have passionately donated their time and energy in contributing to build this village to where it is today,” said Yeates.

“We recognise a lot of people are involved with helping pull together not only all the major events but also the additional activities that came about in 2017 due to the 150th anniversary.

“We also have annual awards to recognise those that have performed magnificently and beyond the call of duty in their own time with their contribution to the village.”

The process for selecting recipients for these awards, from the Millthorpe Village Committee, is;

1. MVC Members are asked to put forward nominations for anyone who they feel has contributed to the community.
2. The MVC Executive decide on who they feel are the most deserving (and current members of the MVC exec are not eligible)
3. Awards are made at the MVC Christmas gathering which is open to all residents

“We had quite a number of nominees for 2017 and decided to award most of the selected nominees due to their enormous amount of work over the years.”

Millthorpe 2017 Awards went to;

Brad Ashton – chief organiser of the festival Millfest

John Boag – Millthorpe 150 anniversary Dry Stone Wall Entry

Brendan Cooper – maintaining visual history of the Village and events

Mary Dowrick Debere – driver of the Village Facebook

Ray Crossley and Vince Murphy – Inala Residents Spokespeople, showing courage and composure during the change of ownership with the Inala Units

John and Marnie Mason – for their ongoing long time service to the community and the Village Committee

John & Lois Willing, Rosemarie Amos, Hayley Lavers, Jacki Irvine & Ann Harrison – The Millthorpe Historic Homes and District Book

Amanda Watts & Millthorpe Post Office and Pharmacy Staff – assisting communication of Village activities to all locals

Michael Truloff – Chairman of the Redmond Oval Committee, service to the local youth including the MY Club, and actively involved in sport & recreation

Peter Whiley – founding member of the Golden Memories Museum and current President, contributor in many other ways to the community

Darrin Yates – formation of the Millthorpe Youth (MY) Club

MILLTHORPE COMMITTEE AND EXECUTIVE CONTINUES STRONG

With the outgoing President, John Mason handing over the hat to Sam Yeates, the Millthorpe Executive of the Village Committee with working together to maintain the momentum to continue helping build this community, businesses and the village as a whole.

The Executive consists of President, Sam Yeates, Vice President, Russell Keogh, Treasurer, Sue Marsh, Secretary, Nick Anagnostaras and Publicity Officer, Pip Frogley.

‘Anyone can join up to the MVC and come to the meetings, it is only ten dollars and meetings are held on the third Wednesday of the month starting in February at 5.30pm at the Slow Wine Company, so please come along.’ said Yeates.

SOMETHING FOR THE ENEWS?

Do you have a local story for Millthorpe Matters? Contact Pip Frogley on pip@pipcomm.com 0411 137 201 or PO Box 166 Millthorpe 2798.

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