



PRESIDENTS REPORT

The 2015/16 year finished with BAG recording a net profit of \$20915.58. This was a considerable improvement on the \$9272.88 recorded in the prior year. The BTB is the main source of BAG's income and although its continued production is assured for the coming year it is hoped that this can continue beyond that point.

During the past year, BAG continued its traditional range of activities with the production of the Calendar, the continued production of the Tourism Brochure, Christmas in the Park and of course, Late Night Shopping. It was really pleasing to see that BAG was awarded the Community Event of the Year Award for the 2015 Late night Shopping program. Many thanks to all of the participating businesses and the community who patronised this event.

In addition to the usual calendar of events, BAG was able to host the community forum for intending Local Government Mayors and Councillors. That function was attended by approximately 80 locals and the vast majority of candidates. I feel sure most found it informative and our thanks go to all those candidates who made the effort to be present. While still on the matter of Local Government, it is truly pleasing to note that BAG meetings are now fortunate to have regular Council representation. This provides an important conduit between Council and the community and an important foundation to build on as BAG ramps up its activities in the present year. The efforts of Council in opening this avenue and of Councillor Chambers and those Councillors who attend are greatly appreciated.

In the current year, BAG has stepped up the pace after making the crucial decision to fund a full time position for 12 months. It was always apparent that without a full time presence, little could be achieved despite all the best efforts and good ideas in the world. Jane and Jeff have already made some inroads into repositioning BAG to fill some of the community leadership space left vacant after amalgamation. There are also some encouraging signs that the community is interested in getting on board and it is hoped that given success and interest the position will become self-sustaining into the future. On the agenda for the coming year is the development of a Community Strategic Plan, the development of a Mitchell and District website and of course, the staging of the Mitchell New Year's Eve Beach Bash, planning for which is well underway. While on the matter of staff, our heartfelt thanks go to Gigi Robertson who after several years of sterling service producing the BTB and organising other BAG functions has left to see the other less interesting parts of Australia.

Also underway in the current year is the rejuvenation of the gardens and surrounds at the BAG Cottage under the watchful eye of Darryl Betzien and our thanks go to Darryl and Rose Betzien for this and to Mick Cummins who so kindly keeps the yard mowed. Membership renewals have been sent out for the current year and are continuing to be returned. The Men's Shed is busy restoring the Notice Boards for the Main Street and Darryl has also selflessly undertaken to refit them as they are finished and to keep them up-to date with information.

In closing, I must, on behalf of BAG, thank all those who have helped so tirelessly during the past year. Without your efforts and support, BAG would not have lasted the 25 years it has let alone be positioned as it is now to hopefully move to a higher level of operation. We move into the current year full of hope for bigger things to come and grateful for the opportunity to be able to make a serious effort at Community Rejuvenation.

Rob Cornish

President