



NEWSLETTER 27th July

In last month's Hinterlander, Tom Blake confirmed that the old 'Hall Committee' had promised the Department of Education and Training (DET) funds to upgrade the new Hall on Graceleigh. The funds were to come from the sale of The Old Hall and its surplus assets.

At one stage, before the BER funding, the local council was also looking at selling the Beechmont Community Centre. The plan was later scrapped following strong local opposition.

There is no doubt in my mind that people involved in making these decisions were acting in, what they considered to be the best interests of the community – after all it was these same community leaders whose efforts secured the BER funding for the Hall on Graceleigh – but it's clear there were many in the community who felt 'locked out' throughout the decision-making process.

I remember recruiting new members to join the old Hall Committee so that we could use their votes by proxy. These people trusted me to use their votes wisely and I did so with the community's best interest at heart, but when I look back I now realise that there should have been more community consultation. But the past is the past and now every group on the mountain has a chance to benefit from the assets BRASA holds.

As a community we are in great shape: we have the Hall on Graceleigh; which as it stands is a wonderful asset available for community use, we have Graceleigh Park Oval; which has never looked better and is set for substantial improvements. The rejuvenated Tennis Club has just secured a major grant to repair its courts and is thriving; and of course we still have the charming Community Centre at the old school site.

With its new deck on show, the centre recently hosted the most successful Zest Fest Festival yet.

At Lower Beechmont, Syd Duncan Park is in good hands.

The Beechmont Parks Project Group (a sub-committee of BRASA) was recently allocated \$30,000 in funding by the Gold Coast City Council to improve its facilities.

And to top it off we have BRASA holding approx. \$380,000 in funds!

What a fantastic situation to be in for a community of only 800 households!!

The results of the BRASA survey sent out at the beginning of the year indicated that the overriding majority of members were in favour of BRASA supporting grant applications with funds up to 20% of the total.

This includes supporting grants to improve the Hall on Graceleigh through the P&C.

The P&C, an incorporated body, recently helped the Tennis Club win a \$16,000

grant to fix the courts. A great team effort!

With grants and careful planning, the above \$380,000 can be used for leverage for projects worth more than \$1.5 million dollars right across Beechmont.

We all want what's good for the Beechmont community, that's a given. If we can keep on working together as a combined force and in the same direction it won't matter who is serving on the BRASA executive committee and Beechmont will finally get the facilities other communities take for granted.

It's a great time to be living on Beechmont Mountain!

Greg Slater

President Beechmont Recreation Arts & Sports Association (BRASA)

BRASA meets with Scenic Rim Regional Council

A productive meeting was held between committee members of Beechmont Recreation Arts & Sports Association (BRASA), Cr Virginia West and a Council Officer from the Scenic Rim Regional Council (SRRC) at Graceleigh Park on 7 July 2015.

BRASA has made a formal request to Council to lease North Graceleigh Park for community use. The Council Officer advised, "this could be achieved in stages by obtaining permission to add an area to the Graceleigh Park lease for specific purposes, such as the multi-purpose court, or a camping ground and car-park."

One of the needs identified in the survey sent out to the BRASA membership earlier this year, was a shower block to allow visiting teams and our own players to clean up after a match. These could possibly be installed on North Graceleigh Park to enable a wider community access and long-term benefits.

The installation of a bore or water tanks to irrigate the oval was also discussed. A bore would also serve the cricket club, should DET disconnect the water supply, as has been suggested. BRASA will need to obtain a grant to undertake this solution.

In addition, the Cricket/Soccer Clubhouse is too small to adequately serve both clubs. Council agreed to the installation of a secure cyclone meshed area for storage of soccer goal posts, etc.

There have been complaints from the school community, sports players and other park users about ongoing problems with dog litter on the Park. Council will therefore erect signs advising that offenders will be fined and as stated by the Council Officer, "the best deterrent is enforcement."

Much of the discussion will necessitate further action by both BRASA, which holds the lease over Graceleigh Park, the SRRC and consultation with the BRASA membership.

By Janis Rossitter



Great Beechmont Art Show

Friday night (17 July) opening; what a buzz! What a crowd! Everyone catching up with friends they hadn't seen for years. Many came back on Saturday and Sunday to have a really good look at the artists' work. The talent of twelve local Beechmont artists was well represented.

Laurel Cottage is a small venue that lends itself well to art display. Although Kokoda Walk weekend was very busy for the proprietors of Laurel Cottage, it was also an excellent opportunity to showcase art to a much wider public. Feedback included, "Very talented", "Didn't know there were so many artists on the mountain", "Most enjoyable."

Yes, we know the display was only the tip of the iceberg when it comes to artistic endeavour here on Beechmont and the question was asked many times, "When is the next art show at a venue where all mediums can be represented?"

Are you up for it, Beechmont artists?

Do you want to be part of an arts extravaganza at Hall on Graceleigh late this year or early next?

We want to include sculptors, potters, woodworkers, mosaics, craft, music and film. An event of this magnitude will take time, effort and many willing helpers to organise, so don't hold back, don't wait to be invited.

If you would like to participate, please contact brasacommittee@gmail.com as soon as possible.

Janis Rossitter

JUNIOR SOCCER

The Sporty's Warehouse award this month went to Lucus Luthi because of his improvement and achievements this year. He has really stepped up to the plate and has concentrated extremely hard on improving his skills. The Junior Soccer Club has changed its training to 2 days a week now and Lucas has been to almost every training session.

We are very proud of his efforts and commitment and believe he is the most deserving of the award this month.

We hope the award will boost his spirits, make him proud of himself and add to his self-esteem.

Penny Conlan



NETBALL

Congratulations to Janine and her team for the amazing effort they put in to successfully hosting the annual Scenic Rim Netball Carnival.

This was made possible through the generosity of the Tambourine Netball Association allowing us to use their facilities –not to mention their hands on assistance.

It is great to see the bond between the two mountains forged by the Mount of Origin competitions we started years ago. It was the success of those competitions, which inspired the creation of this Scenic Rim Carnival.

To top it all off Beechmont did us proud winning two of the age divisions.

The Tigers and the Bandicoots were undefeated throughout; a fantastic effort considering the size and population of Beaudesert, Boonah and Tamborine Mountain.

Hopefully next time round Beechmont can boast its own courts allowing it to host this competition at home; a proposition massively supported by all the other clubs.

Holiday fun at Syd Duncan Park

Sparky Do Dah' was a hit with the kids at Syd Duncan Park during the recent school holidays. The Nature-Play-endorsed entertainer had the little people wide-eyed and smiling as they showed up to enjoy his outdoor activities. Division 9 of the Gold Coast City Council funded the event and the two sessions ran on the 4th and the 8th of July.

From Tug-O-War to balance games it was clear that outdoor play is very popular up here and proved to be a great activity for the school holidays.

It was also a nice relaxed opportunity for a catch up with many of the parents/caregivers who brought picnic mats to settle in and enjoy the fine weather.

Over at the Zest Fest it was a gorgeous winters day this year with lots of friendly and familiar faces rolling up to try some delicious lemony lentils or potato and leek soup.

Special thanks to Sara, Victoria and Emily along with Jasmine, Karen, Julianne and Eleanor for their help with cooking and manning the stall. The raised funds will go towards re-energising Syd Duncan Park.



Sarah Browning Lower Beechmont Park Project

Golf Day '4211 Classic'

An intrepid group of BRASA members journeyed to the beautiful surrounds of the Canungra Golf Club on Sunday, 26 July for the Beechmont '4211 Classic'. Mixed fours ensured teams were fairly evenly represented as to skill level, but as always with this annual event, the pleasure is in the making and re-kindling of friendships.

While the "boys" generally outnumber the "girls", the girls are always made welcome at any of these community events and more wives/girlfriends are welcome to attend next year's event. As one courteous gentleman said, "The ladies add to the colour of the day".



Tennis Club

Congratulations are in order to Beechmont Tennis Club.

A grant of \$16,000.00 has been awarded to the Tennis Club under the auspices of the Beechmont State School P&C (an unincorporated club has to be recommended by an incorporated club).

The grant has been received from the State Government Community Gambling Benefit Fund (your gambling monies at work) and will be used by the club to repair one of the tennis courts. Over the years the courts have received a bit of wear and tear and these monies will be well spent.

It is good to see our clubs here on the mountain being proactive and seeking out community grants.

Again congratulations!

Popcorn Machine At Zest Fest

Congratulations also go to the organisers of this year's Zest Fest.

Each year Zest Fest gets better and better and this year was definitely the best yet. An event like this takes a lot of time and effort on the part of a very hard working, dedicated group of volunteers.

Using the proceeds of a successful grant application BRASA has recently purchased a popcorn machine and has used it on a few occasions previously. It fed many small and not so small mouths on the day of Zest Fest.