

## **Incoming Presidents Report (Clive Burrows)**

I firstly would like to thank Murray Gellert for the excellent job he has done over the last 3 years in his role as president. He and his team have achieved some very notable milestones.

I was happy to step in and give Murray a well-deserved break. The association has been helping Newport residents protect their homes, their investments and their lifestyle for over 30 years. I have been involved as the first secretary in 1985, in incorporating our Association and on various committees over the intervening years.

In the hand-over from Murray, I have found the Association to be in good financial and operational health with an excellent team on the committee.

This team includes Howard Battersby tightly controlling our finances, Norman Davey our secretary providing outstanding control of documentation, Jocelyn Davey our membership registrar providing first-rate members records, Pamela Bauze our long-standing and very valuable Newport Watch coordinator (and Vice President), who always achieves superb social and organizational results.

Other valuable team members are John Casella and Joshua Kindred who provide valuable input and advice as well as sound fund raising ideas. We also have an extremely valuable new committee member Susanna Rossetto who with a young family and full time job has still found time to volunteer her skills and bring us into the 21<sup>st</sup> century with a Re-invigorated "Newport News". This newsletter is "Our Voice" to the wider Newport community advising of Newport security risks, Council negotiations, Social activities for members and finally attracting new membership.

One of the aspirational goals I intend to pursue this year is to increase the NWPOA membership to 700 Newport homes in 2019. In 1985 we had 98% membership 149 of the 152 homes were members. Currently we have less than 50% participation from available residents.

A second aspirational goal will be to involve the community more, and seek input and new ideas. The committee is not the only source of ideas and with over 300 members we should have 300 new ideas on how we can make Newport a better, safer and more social community.

One simple idea was the community shared trailer (which I personally underestimated), but it has been quickly embraced by members and has also become a very valuable incentive for new membership. One day free use of this trailer will save you more than 4 years membership.

A past example of community participation was in 1987 when NWPOA members selected the canal names. We polled members with names such as, (1) Fish (2) Shellfish (3) Nautical terms (4) Coastal Rivers (5) Sea & Coastal Birds (6) Quiet names "tranquility, serenity etc." (7) Sea Prefix "Seafarer, Sea breeze" etc. Community Common Sense prevailed and Sea & Coastal Birds won, and this is how we, (as a community) achieved naming of canals, and petitioned local government.

2018 is a year for change, where the Newport committee will be seeking your valued input of ideas on how we can work smarter not harder, to improve services to the greater Newport Waterways community, and to lobby local government where necessary to support these ideas

For example; we will be seeking contact people in future Newsletters to co-ordinate shared social interests such as golf, sailing, fishing, billiards, running, walking, bowls, dancing, knitting, skydiving or any other favorite pastimes you wish to share with Newport community members.

Thank you, very much, I look forward to working with all you guys in 2018, to make Newport a more vibrant and inclusive village.

Clive Burrows