

FOOTHILLS FOUNDATION AND CHARITABLE TRUST
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING – 5 OCTOBER 2021
PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Good afternoon, everyone.

Well, it has been a hell of a year.

I want to thank every one of our Board Members and Trustees for sticking with us through what has been a tough couple of years.

I am also really proud of the way that we have stepped up to help community agencies during the pandemic in grants to fund food and other essentials for those disadvantaged people in our community who have really needed a helping hand in these difficult times.

When you hear stories like the one from Melba Support Services and Anchor making and delivering 700 meals from the grant that we gave them, that tells you that we are having a positive impact on our community.

Thank you to our grants committee of Bruce Stewart, Tegan Rose and Mandy Maguire for the outstanding job you have done this year. Requests for support are always very quickly and efficiently and fairly dealt with and we have really positive relationships with the agencies that we work with.

Of course, we have done this without the benefit of our normal fundraising sources – the 3 signature events, namely the Tour de France Dinner, the AFL Finals Lunch and the Charity Golf Day – none of which have run last year or this year.

We have had the benefit of a couple of significant donations which has helped. Having said that, we could not have weathered the pandemic as well as we have without the fabulous work done by previous Boards in building the funds base to make the Foundation sustainable. Thank you to Daryl Stevens and everyone involved in that.

We have also continued to develop the relationship with IOOB through Simon Wheelton who has become a really good friend of the Foundation. There are great opportunities for us to collaborate and co-fund projects that fall within our respective guidelines. We have entered into discussions with Simon and Anchor about how we can all work together and this should provide a model that we can use with other agencies.

We did manage to squeeze in the Christmas Rendezvous event at Mr Foxx between lockdowns and that was a terrific evening that was well attended. At that event, we heard wonderful stories from a special grant recipient in Jodi Piper and other organisational grant recipients. We also celebrated the wonderful life of community service of our own Paul McPherson with the Clinton White Award and the contribution that Steve Atchison has made to the Foundation with life membership. Congratulations and thank you again to Paul and Steve.

A highlight of this year is unquestionably the High Tea event that we had in May. Three of our Board members – Natalie Hallett, Tamara Lloyd and Lauren Gordon – literally worked their butts off to get this up and running. They departed from the normal formula of having a celebrity or two and did it all with local community leaders including themselves and our other female Board member, Tegan Rose.

I am particularly appreciative of the fact that you did all of this (and made other contributions to the Foundation) while dealing with the challenges of the pandemic as business owners and employers or full-time employees and as parents/home schoolers and in looking after your own wellbeing.

This event raised over \$9,000 and I am sure it is here to stay. Thank you, ladies for what was an outstanding achievement especially in the circumstances. We all need to get behind this event next year and beyond.

I was somewhat humbled and chuffed at the same time to hear a number of these Board members tell the audience about the day that I asked them to go and have a coffee which of course led to them putting their hands up to join the Board.

Tegan, Tamara, Natalie and Lauren have all brought abundant energy and enthusiasm and a wonderful blend of skills, experiences, knowledge and networks to the Board which are all extremely valuable.

Natalie has very generously taken on website hosting, development and management at no cost to the Foundation for which I am really grateful. She has also sourced someone to help with graphic art for event promotions in Naomi Jaremczuk of the Brand Advisory. Thank you, Natalie.

Similarly, Tamara is donating the services of her Marketing & Multimedia Manager to help produce and manage our social media which is also very generous. Thank you, Tamara.

Thank you also to Pasquale and Melinda Piccioli who have similarly supported us with website and printing for the last few years. They played a very important part in our transition to a more modern and better equipped organisation.

It isn't all that long ago that the Board was all male and that is very different now.

Currently, we have 5 male and 4 female Board members but that is also about to change.

This year, Tony Wright is stepping down from the Board as he transitions to spending more time at his place down on the Bellarine Peninsula. He will still be helping out as a Trustee and with legal advice when needed. Tony has been an extremely loyal servant of the Foothills Foundation and of Croydon Rotary for decades and has made a wonderful contribution to our local community. He is also a primary reason for the sponsorship arrangement that we have with Bendigo Community Bank Mooroolbark whose Board he also sits on. Thank you, Tony for everything and your continued commitment to the Foundation albeit in a reduced capacity.

Looking forward, we have a new nominee for the Board in Colleen Sinclair who also brings a strong community commitment, business experience and acumen and her own skillset and networks.

Some of our older Board members have indicated a desire to step down from the Board in the next couple of years so we need to keep the process of Board renewal going.

For myself, my intention had been to step down as President this year having served in that role for 4 years. Because of the pandemic and the impact that this has had on everyone especially our Board members who are looking after both businesses and young families, I have agreed to stay on as President for a fifth and final year. I know that we now have a number of Board members who are more than capable of succeeding me in that role.

Thank you to everyone who has supported the Foundation in any way and may we look forward to a bright future in the years ahead (hopefully with all of our events running and with a greater community footprint than we now have).

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Peter Maguire', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Peter Maguire
President
The Foothills Foundation and Charitable Trust

5 October 2021