

**NAMBUCCA VALLEY CONSERVATION ASSOCIATION**  
**Annual General Meeting held 25th February 2010**

**President's Report for 2009**

I stepped into the seat as NVCA President in February, 2009, at the last Annual General Meeting. The year 2009 has been hectic for me, to say the least. With increased family responsibilities and pressures, I have not been in a position to devote as much time and energy to NVCA as I would have liked. Nevertheless our small committee has once again come through our year of challenges and achievements, and continued to wave the banner in defence of fellow species, and overall sanity in environmental conservation governance.

During the year we finally received approval of the acquittal report on the Sustainable Integrated Growing Systems (SIGS) Project. In particular, my thanks go to Lyn Orrego, for seeing this project through to completion – printing, publishing etc., and to all committee members for putting up with my tantrums about the inordinate work which eventuated, for the final acquittal report to be accepted by Envirofund, the funding body. Thanks also, to David McCormack, and Richard Laxton, for addressing the problems of audit requirements for that report.

We also took on our esteemed Council in the Land and Environment Court. As far as I am aware, we still do not have the final outcome of the Court's ruling, and, we are quietly confident of a positive finding in the case regarding the DA approval while Council was in 'caretaker mode' just prior to the last Council election, and the fact that the approval meant the destruction of many core koala habitat trees on site.

We are indebted to the Environmental Defender's Office's Ian Ratcliff, the koalas' hero, Stephen Phillips, our enthusiastic barrister, Mark Seymour, and to Wendy and Paul, who travelled to Sydney for the Court case, to be our representatives there.

During this year NVCA succeeded in 'launching' its new website, finally achieved after bringing in a professional, Ben. Thanks go to Ben, and huge appreciation to those executive members and others, who worked alongside Ben to bring this project to fruition.

The following submissions were despatched from NVCA:

- Draft Growth Areas for Regional Strategy (Feb. '09)
- Community Land Link Road (May '09)
- Draft Rural Residential Land Release Strategy (June '09)
- Submission re proposal to GDH (August '09)
- EIS on the off-river storage proposal, Integrated Water Catchment Management Project (August, September, November '09, January '10)
- State of the Environment Report (September '09, October '09)
- Draft LEP (Dec. '09)
- River Red Gums

The NVCA also commented formally on: RDM's Nambucca River Master Plan (May '09) and Proposed roading through SEPP 14 wetland at Bellwood (August '09).

My deep appreciation goes wholeheartedly to those who contributed so very much to the formulation of all those extensive documents, and, as well, to Karen Caves who has come on board during these last few months, with wonderful input based on rigorous scientific research, adding immensely to the substance of our submissions.

Carol Margolis has sustained us throughout another year as our patient and thorough Treasurer – Thank you Carol, who also stepped in and took on the agenda and minutes tasks, when I was no longer able to do so.

Wendy the wonder woman of the publishing world, produced our regular Newsletters throughout this year, as well as working in co-operation with Lyn, and Ben, our new website design and service person. Thank you wondrous, calm, Wendy.

My deep appreciation goes to our esteemed Vice President, Phil Margolis, for being available at all times, especially during Court hearings.

Also NVCA's sincere thanks go to John Craven for his expertise and input on matters of water quality and work on Scotts Head Master Plan, and his ongoing general planning advice.

Our meetings have been greatly enhanced by the presence on many occasions, of guest Councillors, Paula Flack, and Anne Smyth, whose comprehensive Council reports have always been enlightening. The support of these two Councillors is greatly appreciated by all of NVCA.

Our stalwart member Maureen has continued to be a beautiful inspiring presence in our midst, who regularly surprises us with amazing art works, donated to our cause. You are a treasure to us all, Maureen.

Our ongoing presence on the Reference Group for the Integrated Water Catchment Management Project 'fizzled out', due to the inept way in the which the whole dam proposal has been presented and handled. Let us hope that the exorbitant costs, and the excellent submission we lodged, may in the end, lead our Council to seek more sustainable ways to secure our water futures.

I thank you all, for the support, understanding and 'shoulders', throughout this last year, during which my family commitments have certainly tested my endurance!

Thank you all, Georgette Allen,  
President.

