

## **NVCA President's Annual Report, 1st February, 2015**

NVCA's recent year has been quiet, in that we have not engaged in any major campaigns – as an organisation. However, our stalwart members have been very busy and effective in supporting specific campaigns, with conjunction with allied groups, throughout this last year.

I speak of Lyn Orrego's work on the Koala Study, the results of which are reflected in the significant report despatched by Ashley Love, Dave Scotts and others. This scientific research has undoubtedly informed the recent announcement by Opposition Leader, Luke Foley, MP of Labor's proposal for a Great National Koala Park. Well done, and thank you, Lyn! ... as well as Ashley, Dave and the people at Bellingen Environment Centre!

Our executive member Wendy Wedge attended the launch of that Koala Report, and felt justly proud of NVCA's contribution (via Lyn, and Paula).

We have continued our input, by way of member involvement and energy, to our local 'Lock the Gate' group – Lock the Nambucca Valley. That group remains strong and active.

We supported Lock the Nambucca Valley at the Nambucca River Festival in November, which was a great success for our community, and brought renewed focus to our river, and the problems faced by our water catchment in general.

Throughout the year, our meetings have been regularly attended by the core group of committee and general members. Thank you to all our membership! We would warmly welcome any members who have time and energy to join us, at our monthly meetings.

Re our executive committee – our faithful Carol once again carried out the duties of Treasurer, as well as Secretary, while Phil, as Vice President, provided his stable viewpoint and valuable perspective on documents which go out, in our name. The contribution made by Phil and Carol can never be over-estimated. Their tireless energy forms the foundation of our administrative output, by way of correspondence, input on submissions, etc. Thank you Phil and Carol!

Other research and input has been provided and much appreciated by Doug Blackwell, as well as his peaceful demeanour and generous heart, along with lovely Allyson, not to mention their fantastic healthy snacks, at our meetings! Thank you, Doug and Alison!

Our Newsletter has gone out, as always, via the magic technology employed by Wendy, out Newsletter Co-ordinator. Every edition is a goldmine (*inappropriate analogy?*) of information, highlighting issues of importance to the environment, local and national, as well as reporting on any 'wins' gained by community-based groups and organisation working for a greener and kinder world. Bowraville Technical Support Centre (BTC) continue to donate all the computer time required for Wendy to produce our Newsletter. Thank you to the BTC! Wendy also oversees NVCA's website. Thank you Wendy!

This year our very long-serving member, and for so long Committee member, Maureen Gallagher, has chosen to move to Coffs Harbour. You will be sadly missed, Maureen, and we all wish you loving nurturing friendships, in your new home. This means Wendy will now be our mail collection person. Notwithstanding that so much of NVCA's correspondence is transmitted via e-mail, the business of maintaining the postal collection remains important and necessary, and much appreciated. Thank you, Wendy!

Of course, limitless thanks go to our tireless member, Councillor Paula Flack, who

provides us with comprehensive Council reports which are most helpful with valuable information regarding current projects of Council, funding available, issues of importance coming up on Council's agenda, etc. Thank you Paula!

This year NVCA has made submissions supporting the NSW Nature Conservation Council's initiative to have a review conducted into the management of the Environment Protection Authority.

We also wrote submissions to Nambucca Shire Council on the Draft Community Facilities and Public Open Space Study, proposing that Faringdon Fields be returned to the Aboriginal Community in accordance with Council resolution back in 2008; and a submission to Council re the proposed reclassification of Community Land at Valla Beach; and provided support to residents of Kingsworth Lake Estate, Nambucca Heads, regarding Council's proposed reclassification of the Community Land area around the lake at Kingsworth Estate. Council has resolved to reclassify the Kingsworth Estate Community land to Operational, leaving the stakeholders to 'fight a rear-guard action' on that issue.

Similar proposals are afoot regarding Community Land at Valla Beach, and we remain vigilant, with our focus being on 'No change'. We believe there is no need to reclassify our Community Land to Operational, in order to sell it to the developer of the adjoining land! This position was put to Council in a submission, as well as a delegation to Council meeting, late last year.

This year we have also provided support, via Lyn Orrego for a campaign to stop cable logging on Mid North Coast catchments. We have joined with the North Coast Environment Centre, North East Forest Alliance, and the Bellingen Environment Centre to stop this proposed catchment destruction. NVCA is providing support for a film which will highlight the danger of cable logging, and showcase the areas which would be devastated by such irresponsible practices, if the proposed trials go ahead. Watch this space! Thank you, Lyn and all those in the above organisations.

Thank you to our general membership, for your continued faith in what can be achieved by a small group such as ours. Your ongoing loyalty is much appreciated. Thank you also, to Joy van Son, in continuing as our Public Officer. Thank you Joy! Appreciation also goes to Rudy van Drie, for taking the position of NVCA's delegate at the meetings of the Nambucca River Creeks, Estuaries and Coastline Management Committee. Thank you, Rudy!

I offer my personal thanks to each and every member of our 'band', for your acceptance of my foibles, your love and mutual respect for one another, and your generous giving of time, energy and other resources to our cause. I am happy to continue as President, if nominated and elected.

May we continue, and flourish! Thank you, one and all!

Sincerely,  
Georgette Allen,  
President, NVCA