

Newsletter *for our valued financial members*

February 2019



(This might be the last time for a while that you see this lovely panorama image (by Terry Cooke) which shows a broad overview of the city of Armidale without obvious water - something we are seeking to change one day! We are changing our imagery - see below.)

Getting our message out ...

Facebook

Below is an image from our recent Facebook page which reached over 1,100 people in the region. It resulted in several comments giving us feedback on what the community sees as important issues. Importantly, there is a lot of support out there for our association's concepts.

If you are on Facebook, please follow us to see any posts we publish. And please tell your friends to Like and Follow us on Facebook to spread our message further.

We especially want to excite the interest of the next generations who will benefit if we can create a more alive artery along the entire breadth of our beautiful city.

Visions for Armidale Creeklands Published by Jim Scott [?] - January 16 at 5:32 PM - 🌐

It's dry, isn't it? Here are some images of Dumaresq Creek in Civic Park on January 3, 2019 which confirms zero flow at the moment. If you agree with our association's revised, expanded Aim: "To assist in the careful planning, design and development of beautiful, healthy and safe public spaces featuring wetlands, lagoons and billabongs, connected by flowing water along the Armidale Creeklands" why not join us? We have a lot of work to do in 2019 to get our ideas refined and adopted by those who can approve them. We need YOUR help, energy and ideas too! Please join us at: <https://www.armidalecreeklands.org.au/> ?



1,162 People Reached **167** Engagements [View Promotion](#)

Our website

When you visit our website (<https://www.armidalecreeklands.org.au/>) remember to check out more of our pages - there is lots to see! Recently, we have implemented a Members Only tab to place items that only our financial members (that is, you!) can see. We want to reward our members with more information over time.

NB. When you click on the Members Only tab, you will be challenged for a password - for now, that password is 'visions'. If we change the password, we will let you know. If you have any feedback about this development, please email us (mail@armidalecreeklands.org.au). The first items under the Members Only tab relate to the results of our Surveys 1 and 2.

Revamped brochure

Our new brochure is ready for printing - complete with our brand new logo - thanks to the design talents of one of our committee. We hope you like it! We plan to put the brochures out and about in cafes, the Information Centre, etc. Let us know if you want some to distribute.

Here is a glimpse of the two sides of our new brochure ...




VISIONS FOR ARMIDALE
Creeklands INC.

Re-imagine Armidale's Creeklands

Our aim is to assist in the careful planning, design and development of beautiful, healthy and safe public spaces featuring wetlands, lagoons and billabongs, connected by flowing water along the Armidale Creeklands



Generations of residents of this region have wanted to improve our creeklands environment

Join our association to work in a positive, constructive and collaborative way to see Armidale's Creeklands realise their potential

www.armidalecreeklands.org.au
@armidalecreeklands

We support the development of user-friendly infrastructure such as attractive bridges, paths and cycle ways, play and recreation areas, along with performance and creative spaces which will complement water features and improve the quality of life, economy and beauty of Armidale

More water features will encourage tourism, grow the economy and provide educational and research opportunities

Visions for Armidale Creeklands Inc aims to collaborate with the wider community by seeking the visions of the aboriginal community, sporting associations, recreational users, the business community, residents and visitors of all ages and those wanting environmental protection, stream health, wildlife corridors, native vegetation and deciduous colour

 VISIONS FOR ARMIDALE
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Learning from history ...

We can learn a lot from Armidale's history of water. Our association's Vice President, Graham Wilson OAM, suggests you may like to read some of the relevant history about the creeklands

under the headings of **Bridges, Floods** and **Water and Sewer** at Armidale Regional Council's website pages describing [Our History Our Stories](#).

When we think about how dry it has been lately (January/February 2019), it is worthwhile remembering that we do get floods too! An interesting quote from the **Floods** history document:

"The August 1949 flood was described as 'Armidale's biggest flood for at least half a century'. It inundated 230 acres (93 ha); flooded fifteen homes and affected the swimming pool, steam laundry, gasworks and Brinad timber mills. It covered Rugby League park, Harris Park hockey field, Curtis Park children's playground; destroyed the O'Dell Street footbridge; put the Douglas Street sewage pumping plant out of action and flooded the sewer and gas service mains. The Armidale Express, 29 August 1949 reported that only twice in 69 years had the rainfall in any one month exceeded 10 inches (254 mm). In February, 1895, it was 1003 (pts) (or 255 mm), and in February, 1928, it was 1031 (262 mm)."

This means, of course, that any changes to the creeklands will have to be planned carefully - and our association is committed to this approach.

Federal politics interested in urban rivers and waterways ...

It was interesting to read recently in the [Guardian online](#) about the announcement from Labor that stated: "for too long, our rivers, creeks and wetlands have been treated like industrial waste drains, ending up polluted, dirty and littered with shopping trolleys".

"That's why Labor will engage state and local governments, local councils, community groups and local environmental organisations to bring urban waterways and habitat corridors back to health."

Under the \$200m plan local environmental action groups will be able to apply for small grants for projects such as building wetlands to filter stormwater, revegetation, turning cement waterfronts into natural river banks, and creek education programs.

Late in 2018, we sought a meeting with our Federal Member, Barnaby Joyce. Although he declined a meeting, he wrote that he would make representations on our behalf to the relevant Federal Minister and to our local State Member, Adam Marshall.

State politics

We met recently with our local member, Mr Adam Marshall, who you may remember launched our association back in March 2018. We told him what we have been up to over the past year. He was very supportive of our approach to improve the creeklands and encouraged us to apply for grants so that we will be in a better position to influence decision makers.

Armidale Regional Council

Your committee has continued to reach out to Armidale Regional Council - as we realise that it is only through a collaborative approach that anything will be achieved.

Late last year, we accepted an invitation for a representative of our association to join Council's new Floodplain Management Committee.

Next week two of our committee are due to meet with Mayor Simon Murray and CEO Susan Law. We will attempt to learn about the changes to their planning process which apparently is now seeking to integrate a number of plans into an integrated whole over the coming year. We will be keen to see how our association might get involved in that process as we know you, our members, have lots of ideas to contribute.

Engaging with the University and other groups ...

The University of New England is, of course, such a crucial part of Armidale - separated from the CBD by a few kms of creeklands! Late in 2018, we met with representatives of the University's Office of External Relations and UNELife and more recently with the Coordinator of Science Honours projects. We are keen to encourage students to study aspects of our creeklands to help gather the facts about water flows, vegetation, aquatic ecology, remediating contaminated soil, design of constructed wetlands, infrastructure changes, etc. so that our plans for change will be based on evidence.

Some of the others we have met with include representatives of the aboriginal community, Landcare, the Sports Council and the Armidale Urban Rivercare Group.

Seeking Funds ...

Since our formation in June 2017, we have relied on membership fees and some significant donations to run our non-profit association. With the help of all members over recent months, we have now clarified our aim and objectives. Your committee is currently actively seeking funds from a range of sources to support several potential activities - from grants to support research activities to sponsorships to fund prizes for competitions aimed at school students.

We are also applying for charity and tax deductible status and are considering forming a Foundation.

Changes to our Committee ...

Recently we have had two resignations from our committee due to their other commitments. We thank Dr Kirsti Abbott and Dr Izabel Soliman for their support and energy and are pleased that they remain as financial members of our association..

When the next AGM comes up, perhaps in winter 2019, please consider if you might be able to help us achieve our aim. If so, please think about standing for election at that time.

Seeking more members ...

Even though we have increased our numbers four-fold, from a low base, over the past year, we still want to attract more members so that we represent the views of as wide a cross section of our community as possible.

Please help us increase our membership by telling your friends - and anyone else who might be interested - to join us as financial members. New members can join by clicking on the JOIN US tab on our website. More members will help us be more effective in seeing our creeklands improved.

Remember, we won't ask you to sell raffle tickets! Your membership fees (\$20 pa) go towards things like promotional materials, our website, some subsidised legal advice, etc. When your membership renewal is due, we will notify you via email.



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