

Newsletter *for our valued financial members*

June 2019



A few things we have done over the past year ...

- We held a Public Meeting (Nov 2018) to discuss ways for our association to move forward after ARC did not release consultants report on the Creeklands.
- A meeting was held in Nov 2018 between your committee and representatives of the University, Aboriginal community, AURG and Landcare to share our views.
- Conducted a bus tour (Sept 2018) to see the entire creeklands from Lake Zot at UNE to Cookes Rd bridge.
- Another bus tour was held in April 2019 when we visited parts of Armidale's water supply with experts to discuss how we might be able to enhance flows along Dumaresq Creek.
- In May 2019, two committee members attended ARC's first consultation meeting towards a city-wide Master Plan (which will include the creeklands).
- In April 2019, we achieved Charity status for Visions for Armidale Creeklands Inc from the Australian Charities and Not-for-Profits Commission.
- We continue to put our ideas forward at every opportunity we get.

Our website

<https://www.armidalecreeklands.org.au/> We continue to evolve our web presence and currently are taking professional advice on how to make it more appealing, especially to parents and school children.

Remember, when you click on the Members Only tab of our website , you will be challenged for a password - for now, that password is 'visions'. If we change the password, we will let you know.

Links to interesting articles and websites ...

Water and the severity of our current drought is all over the media these days. We can only hope that this raises the profile of issues concerning the continuing supply of water, especially to Australia's inland cities.

We recently submitted an [op-ed](#) about the history of droughts and floods in our region to the Armidale Express which they kindly published together with information about our upcoming AGM (see below). In part, the article stated: "We believe that water is at the heart of all great cities," "We reckon that more billabongs and wetlands in our city will complement the great work the Armidale Urban Rivercare Group has done with plantings along the creek."

Of course we agree with some comments on the Express Facebook page - that is, we currently just want it to rain, rain, rain!

We agree with NSW Planning and Environment which identifies as one of their goals for our region: "A healthy environment with pristine waterways"

<https://www.planning.nsw.gov.au/Plans-for-your-area/Regional-Plans/New-England-North-West/New-England-North-West-Regional-Plan/A-healthy-environment-with-pristine-waterways>

How about this from '[Water Victoria: the science, our urban communities and our water futures](#)'. "Water, as we know, is the stuff of life. The constant cycling of fresh water from sky to land, through lakes, wetlands and rivers and onward to the sea is critical to the health of aquatic and terrestrial ecosystems – to all living creatures – including us humans."

You might also care to read [The role of the urban water industry in contributing to liveability](#) written by Sydney Water.

Armidale Regional Council

Two of your committee had a lunch meeting (Feb 2019) with ARC Mayor Simon Murray and CEO Susan Law to explain our passion and share views for improving the creeklands. Based on that meeting, we hope to see some real progress on the issue of planning for the creeklands in coming months.

Whilst it is regrettable that more time has elapsed since we made our submission to those consultants back in April 2018, we understand that with a new CEO, Council is now embarking on a city-wide Master Plan. We do trust that this will lead to sounder, broader and more integrated (and visionary) plans for the city. See report on city-wide Master Planning meeting below.

Report on ARC city-wide Master Planning meeting

We were represented at the meeting by Graham Wilson (Vice President) and Kerry Chick (Secretary). The workshop involved about 18 participants at the Armidale Town Hall on May 3, 2019.

The main aim of the meeting was to help the city town planner to form a proposal for a city and region Master Plan. Some questions and criteria posed were:

- How our city sits and performs,
- What growth and prosperity do we want for the future,
- That the master plan be inclusive of all,
- That a Regional approach is taken,
- That the qualities and assets of our region be determined.

It was stressed that ARC are not reinventing the wheel, but rather taking a much bigger picture for the future.

A well known Landscape Architect, James Hayter from Adelaide, facilitated discussion and stressed the need for a Master Plan that is dynamic, visionary, aspirational, enhances the economic viability and sustainability of the region, creates a loveable city with loveable people, that celebrates community and removes silos, is inclusive of all and is a big big picture plan.

Time was spent discussing the qualities and assets of the region, ways a master plan can be brought to fruition, every place is unique and our region's plan will be ours, not a copy from somewhere else.

We came away confident that Council, under the guidance of Councillor Diana Grey, and CEO Susan Law, will develop a suitable proposal for an excellent Master Plan. Although it will take time and much consultation, it will be inclusive of all and will create an exciting future for our community.

We feel that the work done so far by our association stands us in good stead to realise our dream of achieving continuously flowing water along the Creeklands because ARC is now very aware of what an asset that would be

The plan is not likely to be presented until at least the end of 2019 with community consultation after that - probably after January 2020 (as Armidale goes on annual leave around then).

Growing our membership ...

We have continued to grow our membership but we are still keen to grow further so that we represent a greater proportion of our community. Please invite any of your friends to join us at our upcoming Presentation and Annual General Meeting (see below).

Presentation and Annual General Meeting

You will remember an email some weeks ago that claimed the date and time (Thursday July 4, 2019 at 5:30 pm at the Armidale Bowling Club). Please come along and meet up with lots of like minded people. Also, please consider nominating for a position on our committee. More details are available at <https://www.armidalecreeklands.org.au/events>.

Feedback from members

We hope to get some brief feedback from members through a brief survey (using Survey Monkey) which will be sent out by email to members within the next few days. It will only take a few minutes to fill out - so please keep an eye out for it. Your responses will help guide us as we seek to progress our association's dreams.

Hope to see you at the AGM!

Best wishes,



PO Box 1350
Armidale NSW 2350
Australia

Web: www.armidalecreeklands.org.au/

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/armidalecreeklands/>

Twitter: <https://twitter.com/CreekVisions>