

Presidents report for 2018

I don't have to tell you that this has been a very unusual year for the MPC. For the first time since being founded we were put in the unusual situation of being locked out of our Clubrooms, owing to an asbestos discovery. This in turn forced us to cancel some important functions that had been planned. The most important of these being the Christmas party, where it was intended to honour the founder members of our club. Of the original eleven, we managed to contact five, who agreed to attend. It was also intended to award two well-earned Life Memberships; to Founder members Victor and Jean James and long-time members Bob and Brenda Wallis. This ceremony was later undertaken during a social evening at the Gosnells Hotel.

Because of this situation, it was also agreed to postpone the AGM until now. We had no sooner been given permission to return to our home, when we were advised verbally that our tenure would be terminated at the end of September. Being vacant during our absence hadn't stopped the dust covering our exhibits, so on our return a lot of work was required to get it cleaned up. Added to this, our vacancy attracted the 'less than honest' and we were subjected to two break-ins. We are still discovering our losses, which I think will continue for some time.

The threat of being evicted has forced the situation of requesting members to remove their personal property by the end of June. Letters were also sent to non-financial members advising them to remove their property.

I feel I should mention here that unfortunately we have sadly lost three members this year. Bert Tyler and Jim Riddle, who were both former past presidents, and long-time member Jack Bellotti.

Now, to look on the bright side, since the last AGM we have made several improvements for members benefit. Firstly, to our meeting room, which now includes notice boards, kitchen area and safety equipment. A Defibrillator First Responder kit has been purchased, which hopefully we shall not need to use.

A good display of Club owned and MRW exhibits add a nice touch of what we are all about. There have had been some very successful and well supported rallies and socials run during this year. One of the best was I think was at the Kalamunda 120th Show.

We have somewhat changed our direction with the club's exhibits and focused on the MRW plant, in a bid to emphasise our desire to save this historic West Australian historical and industrial past. We are supporting this with a collection of MPC owned exhibits and a comprehensive collection of ex WA Tafe and UWA apprentice training equipment. Thanks must go to the well-supported Tuesday 'Greasy Gang' for the hard work put in for the cleaning and setting up of this gear. I think the monthly sausage sizzle has been a great incentive.

It is also intended to continue supporting local shows, by displaying member's exhibits. These as you will be aware, are very important to the financial support of our club. When the MPC was informed of our impending eviction it was decided that we seek support and advice from political sources. To this end we have approached our local Member of Midland Michelle Roberts, and she is currently assessing to situation. We were also paid a visit by Lauren Palmer, the Labour Candidate for Hasluck; and we also have a planned visit by the sitting Liberal Member for Hasluck, Ken Wyatt, in July.

Meanwhile we are still in involved with the Swan Community Workshops project, and we can now only wait for a good outcome for the club. While we are aware of pending bad news, we have not let it

diminish our hope for the success of our club. A great atmosphere exists amongst the membership, and this I know will continue to be the way forward.

To close, I would like to thank each and every member of the club for the support they have afforded myself and the Committee for the time we have been in office.