

**foke**



FRIENDS OF  
KU-RING-GAI  
ENVIRONMENT INC.

## **PRESIDENT'S REPORT 20 MAY 2020**

*“Today, many Australians face an uncharacteristically bleak future. Urged to settle where the planners and pundits prefer, they’re stuck in places both unaffordable and inhospitable, as part of a needless governmental drive to make life there more like that of the more congested, socially riven metropolises of Britain, the U.S., or China. What’s at stake are many of the long-established pleasures of life Down Under.”*

**Joel Kotkin is the Presidential Fellow in urban futures at Chapman University and executive director of the Center for Opportunity Urbanism USA.**

As I prepare to write the President’s report in March there is great concern over the COVID-19 pandemic which has spread across 151 countries including Australia. People across the world are being told to self-isolate and keep a social distance from people, all but essential businesses and medical offices are staying open in the hope of bringing the Pandemic under control. It will be months before we know what the Coronavirus impact will be on our health, economy and social lives.

In the meantime, due to the Pandemic, FOKE has had to make the decision to defer the Annual General Meeting (AGM) to a time later in the year in the hope life may get back to some normality again in the coming weeks and months.

As reported last year Sydney and Ku-ring-gai is expected to plan for a significant population increase and massive increase in new dwellings in the form of medium and high density dwellings. The State Government appointed the Greater Sydney Commission headed by Mrs Lucy Turnbull (who recently resigned from the position) to oversee the Greater Sydney Plans.

This will mean more people, more development, more traffic, more congestion and even greater loss of our environment and heritage. For Ku-ring-gai it will mean 10,660 new dwellings and a 41% population increase to 2036 which we believe to be completely unsustainable.

Politicians and planners who are planning to turn Sydney into a global city and increase the population by up to 50% need to take stock and learn from what is happening in New York and other congested cities affected with the COVID-19 pandemic.

As a community group, we are continuing to lobby State politicians, Council and the North District Commissioner, Dr Dearing, as what the State Government is proposing for Sydney and Metropolitan councils is ecologically unsustainable and will only create a city and an urban lifestyle that will impact the health and livelihood of families into the future.

### ● **KU-RING-GAI PLANNING**

We have been advised by Dr Dearing and MP Jonathan O’Dea that the 4,000 proposed new dwellings are already built into the current plans. However, council staff are advising councillors more rezoning for dwellings will be expected. Councillors are being asked to decide whether to increase new dwelling numbers by planning for either taller buildings or by spreading the density into existing residential areas.

As advised in earlier newsletters FOKE has been monitoring the data from the Department of Planning for the number of new dwellings approved since 2004. Ku-ring-gai’s data records approximately 13,000 dwellings approved and approximately 9000 completed by 2018. The existing target set by the State government in 2002 was to be 10,000 dwellings from 2004 to 2031. However, the goal posts have moved yet again and the new dwelling agenda is set for 2036.

Essentially, the community were misinformed by Council in 2012 as to the actual dwelling yield contained within the combined Local Centres Local Environmental Plan (LEP) and Ku-ring-gai Principal LEP, advised by staff at the time, to yield 10,320 dwellings. However, it is now evident from Ku-ring-gai dwelling data that we have well exceeded 10,000 new dwellings since 2004. **Additionally, upwards of 4,000 dwellings are still available in the existing LEPs within the designated six local centres, which are yet to be developed.**

Subsequently since the gazettal of the LEPs, several council-owned properties have now been reclassified from ‘community’ to ‘operational’ land, allowing council owned properties to be sold and/or redeveloped. Council has zoned some of these properties for high-density residential unit development up to seven storeys in height and potentially more in the case of the Lindfield Hub. The reclassified properties include council car parks, facilities such as libraries and halls. Council is now working on development proposals for the Lindfield Hub, the Turramurra Hub which includes developing the Turramurra’s Little Village Park, the Lindfield Library site, the Gordon Council Chambers and the Gordon Golf Club. Council’s calculations for the Local Centre’s LEP never included the new dwellings on council owned land and properties.

We will continue to speak out, question and monitor planning and resultant development and lobby Ku-ring-gai’s State Government representatives and Council. We aim to inform as well as gather community support and encourage public submissions to prosecute the fact that Ku-ring-gai’s 2031 target has already been exceeded.

### ● **KU-RING-GAI CHASE NATIONAL PARK UNESCO LISTING**

As reported last year, in October 2018 Friends of Ku-ring-gai Environment (FOKE) resolved to commence a campaign to call for the World Heritage listing of Ku-ring-gai Chase National Park (KCNP). A sub-committee was formed, comprising Ursula Bonzol and Janine Kitson, to commence to investigate the UNESCO listing process, research and prepare the necessary documentation to meet the selection criteria.

Over 2019, the FOKE sub-committee has spoken to a range of experts on the geology, flora and fauna of Ku-ring-Gai Chase National Park (KCNP). In addition, we have researched a list of unique and endangered plants and vegetation, indigenous history and significant geology. Having also spoken to advisors in the area of UNESCO World Heritage Listing, and evaluated the detailed criteria, we have made the decision to initially nominate the area as a UNESCO Global Geopark.

We see this an important first step in engaging the appropriate groups to assist in the further development of any potential World Heritage Listing. Specifically, KCNP has had Commonwealth Heritage Listing since 2006.

UNESCO Global Geoparks are single, unified geographical areas where sites and landscapes of international geological significance are managed with a holistic concept of protection, education and sustainable development. A Global Geopark does not afford any additional protection to the area other than whatever is in place through government legislation and regulation. In establishing a UNESCO Global Geopark, it becomes the responsibility of the Geopark managing authority to both respect any existing regulatory protection measures, as well as put in place appropriate geoconservation measures or controls not already provided by the NPWS.

Reviewing the Application criteria for a UNESCO Global Geopark it is clear that KCNP and adjacent parks and reserves already meet many of the criteria. Specifically, community engagement and support, natural and cultural heritage, management structure and geoconservation.

However, before any nomination is lodged, it is planned to first obtain State Government approval to 'brand' these areas with a proposed State Geopark designation. It is anticipated that this process of engagement with communities, and with Local, State and Australian Government agencies, and hopefully for nomination to and approval by UNESCO will take some years to achieve.

We thank Angus Robinson from the Australian Geoscience Council (and a longstanding FOKE member) and Dr John Martyn of STEP, and members of the Geotourism Standing Committee of the Geological Society of Australia for their on-going assistance and professional input to the development of this project.

#### ● **NATIONAL TRUST HERITAGE FESTIVAL**

For the past several years FOKE has participated in the National Trust Heritage Festival. FOKE committee made the decision not hold any events in 2019 due the State Elections falling within the Festival timetable. Similarly, FOKE will not be organising events in 2020 due to the COVID -19 virus national emergency and the requirement for social (physical) distancing and self-isolating to get the disease under control.

#### ● **THE BETTER PLANNING NETWORK NSW (BPN)**

BPN continues to respond on behalf of its member groups (FOKE being a founding member) to State Government planning policies including a submission to the NSW Legislative Inquiry into the Building Industry.

FOKE supports the recommendations made to the Government inquiry.

The BPN considers the following steps to be the minimum required to begin the process of restoring public faith in the building industry:

1. Improved training and education for all those involved in building construction work; including in the areas of compliance standards in all trades.
2. Comprehensive training and education for all construction-related disciplines through fully accredited TAFE course and apprenticeships.
3. A mechanism that ensures all Principal Certifying Authorities are fully accredited and have a comprehensive understanding of the complex requirements of large-scale building where relevant.
4. Any nexus of dependence between certifiers and developers be removed, preferably by returning the certification process to public/government bodies or instrumentalities.
5. Strengthening the powers of the Building Professionals Board and/or of Councils to take quick action against failures of certifiers to achieve timely rectification.
6. The enactment of legislation that effectively prevents the practice of developers being allowed to effectively rid themselves of liability for faulty construction by folding up their companies.
7. The enactment of legislation that protects the rights of all owners to fully rectify faults caused by shoddy construction methods to a high standard.
8. The restoration of full Home Building Compensation cover to all high-rise buildings and that such cover extend to 10 years.
9. A system whereby architects and engineers, when required, continue to be engaged throughout the construction phase instead of the current "design and construct" model.
10. Significantly improved inspection and compliance enforcement, as strengthened and improved regulation is insufficient in itself unless also implemented.

The Better Planning Network believes that all the regulation in the world is worthless unless approved plans and conditions of consent conditions are strictly enforced. We agree.

With planning across NSW as a central issue in public debate leading up the NSW State elections in March 2019 and building on widespread community concern about both the quantity and quality of development, the committee re-released the *Planning for People Community Charter* which all member groups and their members were asked to support and sign, with every copy being automatically sent to key NSW election candidates. Leading up to the elections the BPN committee published a *Candidates Planning Questionnaire* for use by local groups in their state electorate.

#### ● **HERITAGE CONSERVATION AREAS (HCAs)**

Over the past 16 years Ku-ring-gai has witnessed the gradual degradation of the National Trust (NT) classified 28 Ku-ring-gai Inter War Heritage Conservation Areas which were studied in 1997. Currently numerous parts of these National Trust identified areas remain unprotected from inappropriate development. Whilst a number of heritage conservation areas have been listed and gazetted since 2012, a number of areas proposed for heritage protection in earlier council remain unprotected. We believe some have been deliberately avoided to allow for future development rezoning.

We believe Council needs to continue the examination of potential future HCAs and actively promote a proper and informed community understanding of the benefits of an HCA to both the area, residents and with regard to their positive impact on property values, before more zoning proceeds. This would help counter the negativity that exists in some neighbourhoods to heritage listing.

With the likelihood of Council rezoning more residential land within 800 metres of the rail stations over the next two years with the planning of a new housing strategy, there is concern that what were relatively intact Inter-War and Federation homes will face demolition for development. Some areas which were originally recommended by Council's heritage consultants for heritage conservation areas were not given the protection due to objectors and council decision making. Without protection these areas will now be targeted for medium and high density development.

### ● **FOKE WEBSITE AND FACEBOOK**

FOKE's *FriendsofKuringgai* Facebook page, established five years ago is steadily building its profile and content. The internet is allowing FOKE to communicate with the wider community and receive feedback on issues related to news stories on planning and the environment on a daily basis.

FOKE's webmaster Ursula Bonzol continues to update the FOKE website with the assistance of a web developer. The web address remains [www.foke.org.au](http://www.foke.org.au) It is a time-consuming job to constantly update the stories and information on the website and we thank her sincerely for the wonderful job she is doing.

### ● **FOKE'S SUBMISSIONS - GOVERNMENT POLICIES AND PLANS**

FOKE made several submissions over the past year in relation to public exhibitions of policies and plans by the State Government, Ku-ring-gai Council, and the Greater Sydney Commission that impact Ku-ring-gai.

#### **Draft Local Strategic Plan**

During the year Ku-ring-gai Council prepared a draft 20 year Local Strategic Planning Statement (LSPS) for Ku-ring-gai that meets the objectives and population targets established by NSW Planning, and its implementation arm, the Greater Sydney Commission. All Councils are required to do likewise.

Commencing in the latter part of the year there were a number of policies being put forward for community comment to further inform these planning objectives. In November we were asked to complete a Housing Survey to inform Council as to our expectations of appropriate housing for the future of Ku-ring-gai.

Council's statement that the projected increase in Ku-ring-gai's population over 20 years of an additional 31,000 people, 'represents a relatively modest growth compared to many parts of Greater Sydney' fails to mention the fact that since 2006 the population of Ku-ring-gai has increased by 20% to 2018 (as stated in the LSPS). Council fails to take into account the cumulative impact of the earlier period since 2004 when Ku-ring-gai was targeted for high growth.

This new target projects another increase of 21% up to 2036. This is a dramatic 41% population increase over 30 years. This is not a modest growth...this is a rapid and destructive growth target.

This resulted in a draft Housing Survey on exhibition in early 2020. We were also requested before Christmas to complete the survey on a Draft Urban Forest Strategy and Draft Recreation in Natural Areas Strategy, as well as a Draft Community Participation Plan.

The draft LSPS was approved by Council on 19th November with minor amendments, though much more were sought by the community. It is a sign of the speed of this process that no baseline studies have been undertaken in the preparation of the Draft Local Strategic Planning Statement to inform the document. As mentioned earlier, an improved process was undertaken in 2000 in preparation for the Ku-ring-gai Residential Development Strategy, where 4 baseline studies (Environment, Heritage and Local Character, Traffic and Transport and Infrastructure) were undertaken the Plan was drawn up.

Key studies critical to the LSPS remain unfunded such as the Local Character Study, Urban Forest, Green Grid, Open Space Sport and Recreation, and Creative Arts Strategies. Funds must be allocated to ensure these studies are completed in the short term. We would also think it is imperative that an environmental study is undertaken to assess the cumulative impacts of the past two decades of development on the critically endangered ecological communities.

FOKE recommended that it be a requirement for council staff to prepare a Ku-ring-gai Map overlaying all development which has occurred in the past 15 years since the Residential Development Strategy and subsequent LEPS were put in place since 2004, covering the projected 800 metres from each local centre, and 400 metres from neighbourhood centres, as required for high or medium density in the LSPS. This will need to be overlaid with Ku-ring-gai fire zones, riparian and sensitive bushland areas, heritage conservation areas, heritage homes, areas of high slope and slip, developed SEPP 5 and Seniors Living development sites, dual occupancy and boarding house development which has been approved and built etc. This is essential in order to assess the constraints and the cumulative impact and layering of development which has occurred within Ku-ring-gai since 2004. Only then will we be able to assess a realistic target for growth.

FOKE will continue to pursue informed and proper process and the feasibility of this additional population with Ku-ring-gai Council, our councillors and our local representatives. It is clear that Ku-ring-gai's heritage and environment has been impacted and degraded from the last two decade's urban consolidation programme.

### **Draft Housing Strategy**

Ku-ring-gai Council is preparing yet another Residential Housing Strategy, a planning process driven by the NSW Government and NSW Dept of Planning to periodically rezone more and more of our established garden suburbs for ever denser and taller apartment blocks.

As we have expressed in earlier FOKE newsletter articles, Council is expected by the State Government to plan new housing for a population increase of 31,000 people from 2016 to 2036, this is another 21% increase or a total 41% increase in population since 2006!

This 'new' housing strategy is being completed via a series of community workshops that began in December 2019. In total, approximately 15 workshops to gauge community views. However, will these be listened to, or is this just tokenistic as part of the process laid down by the Greater Sydney Commission and Council in its attempt to appear consultative.

FOKE and other community groups have participated in these workshops and responses from the initial workshops have raised a number of concerns, that:

- Council decisions are being overridden, by the State Government, Sydney North Planning Panel and Land and Environment Court.
- Need to better protect the local character, heritage, and our 'green' environment.
- Development of the strategy should include accompanying studies on water, sewerage, parking and infrastructure; the need for affordable housing not just luxury units; the impact of overseas investment, where the local character is not valued.
- Council is not addressing areas that require more urgent focus: new facilities, new parks, footpaths, run off, impacts of an increasing population, congestion and development of an urban forest strategy.
- Detached houses should remain the predominant dwelling type as this is the preference of residents.
- Preference for medium density (townhouses/villas) rather than high density (apartments) for new dwellings.

The timeline as published on the Ku-ring-gai Council website stated that February would see the completion of the Community and Stakeholder workshops/focus groups, with the Draft Housing Strategy being presented for exhibition in April to May. (It had an exhibition period that finished 8<sup>th</sup> May 2020)

We questioned where are the updated Baseline studies that were essential in the development of the last Residential Development Strategy in 2002? The four baseline studies were Heritage and Neighbourhood Character, Infrastructure, Environment and Traffic and Transport Studies.

These studies assisted council in developing their residential strategy while protecting the heritage and the environment of Ku-ring-gai. The cumulative impact of the layering of development must be considered before planning for more development and whether it is ecologically sustainable.

Again, and again our growth targets are being updated over short timeframes and approved growth not included in the revised targets. Council has acknowledged that the 4000 new dwellings required for Ku-ring-gai as part of the North District Plan during the 5-year period from 2016 to 2021 will be met through existing approvals and zonings. The net new dwelling targets for Ku-ring-gai are currently 10,660 to 2036.

Excluding the 4,000 already agreed as deliverable, that leaves 6,660 net new dwellings remaining over the remaining 15 years. FOKE contends that more than half of this can be dealt with under existing zoning, especially around town centres. As such only minimal, if any, rezonings will be required to reach the 2036 target.

We expect Council to adhere to the statement on their website, that they ‘can deliver the additional dwellings while protecting and enhancing our much-loved local character’. While writing this report Council placed the Draft Housing strategy on public exhibition for 6 weeks. FOKE’s detailed submission was sent to Council and copied to Ku-ring-gai PMs, Planning Minister and the Greater Sydney Commission.

### **Waterhouse Camellia Sasanqua Hedge – Gordon Station**

We reported last year that FOKE submitted that upgrade works at Gordon Railway station would threaten the station gardens, particularly the rare heritage sasanqua camellia hedge which we believe was planted with Professor Waterhouse’s camelias. Gordon Railway station is a State Heritage listed railway station. The sasanquas that were removed have been replanted and are successfully growing in their new location alongside the new parking area pathway up to the city platform.

The station has a strong connection to Annie Wyatt, the founder of the National Trust, who in the 1920s, organised her Tree Lovers League to plant memorial trees overlooking the station. State Rail has kept to their promise to not only replant some of the original sasanquas that were saved but also green the vast areas of concrete wall facing the Gordon rail station situated along the back wall of the bus terminal and new commuter parking station.

Unfortunately in the storm in November the significant lemon scented gum planted in the Annie Forsyth Wyatt Garden was badly damaged as a result of the gale force winds that tore through Gordon. The tree lost a significant number of branches and foliage but thankfully is still surviving along with the Blue Gum.

### **Submissions to Council and State Government proposals**

FOKE committee members attended the workshop and presentation on the Ku-ring-gai Council Draft Local Strategic Plan and the Recreation in Natural Reserves Strategy workshop and encouraged our members to make submissions.

Much of our time was spent in the last twelve months on preparing submissions to the Draft Local Strategic Planning Statement and the recent Draft Housing Strategy.

FOKE also made written submissions on the changes to the EPBC Act, Warragamba Dam Wall proposal, Gordon Bowling Club Planning Proposal, Roseville College Development Application, Ku-ring-gai Chase National Park Management Plan, Roseville Memorial Club Planning Proposal, sale of council owned car spaces and the Development Application, Harris Farm Planning Proposal Turramurra, and the SEPP Seniors Living Livingstone Avenue Pymble and attended a Land and Environment Court conciliation conference on site.

FOKE continued to send articles for publication in the local Independent Newspaper the “Monthly Chronicle” and the online “Village Voice” which is distributed throughout the northern suburbs of Sydney.



## ● FOKE'S STUDENT PRIZES

### **FOKE Macquarie University Prize**

In last year's report, we stated that FOKE will be funding an academic prize to be awarded to a final year student in recognition of academic excellence in Environmental Studies. The prize will be awarded to a final year student who completed their undergraduate program in 2019 in the course of Bachelor of Environment or Bachelor Environment with Bachelor of Laws.

Max McLennan-Gillings was the recipient of the 2019 FOKE Macquarie University prize. Max completed a Bachelor of Environment majoring in Earth Science and Spatial Science in 2019. In his final year of study, he was awarded the Friends of Ku-ring-gai prize for academic excellence, and, upon graduating, the university award for academic excellence. He undertook fieldwork in locations such as Broken Hill, Namibia, and New Caledonia to study the human health and environmental impacts associated with industrial mining and smelting operations. In 2019, he presented his research on indoor exposure risk from mine derived trace elements in Broken Hill at the American Geophysical Union conference in San Francisco.

We are very grateful to committee member Katrina Pickles who continues to liaise with Macquarie University on this Award.

### **Jan Langley Sustainability Award – East Lindfield Public School**

East Lindfield student Zana Williams was presented with the prize. Zana was a driver for sustainability in her school environment. The award was presented by Phillip Langley.

It is with great sadness that we announce Phillip Langley passed away on Monday 17 January from liver cancer. Phillip has been presenting the award each year in honour of his late wife Jan, since it commenced. He will be sadly missed.

### **Jean Posen Environment Award – Lindfield Public School**

This year the award was presented to Emily Baird for her passion for caring for the environment and improving sustainability practises in her school. The award was presented by committee member Ursula Bonzol.

## ●FOKE COMMITTEE

As President, I am fortunate in having the support of a wonderful committee namely, Ursula Bonzol, Carolyn Darby, Janet Harwood, Denise Hendy, Janine Kitson, Katrina Pickles, Cheryl Sutherland (who joined the committee in March), Dinah Warner and Tanya Wood and thank each one of them for the important contribution they have made to the running and organisation of FOKE this year.

My continuing thanks also go to Jill Johnstone who works so diligently behind the scenes maintaining and updating FOKE's membership address and email lists and printing labels for postage each year.

Much of the credit and my thanks must go to Ursula Bonzol and Janine Kitson who organise, write and edit the articles for the newsletter *FOKE Talk*.

Our thanks must also go to committee member Carolyn Darby. With the Council being required to hold Public Forum's a week prior to Council meetings, Carolyn keeps very busy attending both the Ku-ring-gai Local Planning Panel meetings and the various meetings held at Council Chambers and reporting back important information to the committee. With COVID-19 and the restrictions that has placed on normal council business meetings, these have been transacted by ZOOM and electronic means.

## ●REMEMBERING

### **Vale Phillip Langley**

FOKE member and community volunteer Phillip Langley passed away at the age of 82. A Council Mayoral Minute paid tribute to his family life and community volunteering. The Mayoral Minute in part stated:

*“Phillip was passionate about Ku-ring-gai’s unique environment and bush walking and wildflowers were among Phillip’s and wife Jan’s interests. He was a keen member of the Bushcare Group at Jindalee Place, East Killara for about 30 years, secretary/treasurer of East Killara Neighbourhood Watch and a committed member of the Friends of Ku-ring-gai Environment (FOKE) community group.*

*Both Phillip and Jan, who died in 2011, were members of FOKE. FOKE honoured Jan by giving a sustainability award each year in her name to a primary student at the East Lindfield Public School. Even when Phillip only had a few months left to live, he attended Lindfield East Public School to present FOKE’s 2019 Jan Langley Award. The children sitting listening to him were enthralled by his commitment even though it was obvious to them he was very ill.*

*According to FOKE President Kathy Cowley, “Phillip Langley was a committed volunteer for bush regeneration in East Killara. He understood the value of Ku-ring-gai’s environment and was a great supporting member of FOKE. By his strong volunteer ethic he and his wife Jan brought the East Killara community together.”*

*Phillip is survived by his three children, David, Abby and Justin and his grandchildren. On behalf of the Council and our community, I extend my deepest sympathies to his family on their loss. May Phillip rest in peace.”* **Mayoral Minute, Ku-ring-gai Council, 28 April 2020**

At FOKE’s request Council has agreed to the planting of a Angophora Costata in Phillip’s memory for his outstanding community volunteering, in the Gordon Recreational Park which lost many trees in the November storm.

### **Vale Jack Munday AO**

The conservation movement is in mourning following the passing of Jack Munday AO. FOKE on learning of the passing of Jack Munday, a prominent conservationist, environmentalist and union leader, has written to his wife Judy expressing FOKE’s sympathy and sincere condolences. Ann Carroll (Past President) and I looked to Jack for inspiration and guidance when FOKE was first formed and enjoyed an afternoon tea with him in his home in 1995 talking about his activism and work to Save the Rocks.

He was a mentor and supporter to so many community groups who were fighting to save their heritage and environment. FOKE received a letter of support from Jack Munday in 2009 when Ku-ring-gai Council's planning powers were taken over by Planning Minister Frank Sartor. He wrote "*Successive State Governments have treated Ku-ring-gai people with contempt. Until an elected Council assumes control of the Planning process, abuse of planning powers will continue.*"

Munday was a man of vision, drive and compassion right until the end of his life. He fought for social and environmental justice. Jack Munday will be remembered not only for his role in leading the Builders Labourers Federation and the saving of The Rocks but also for assisting countless campaigns, including those of the National Trust to save so many examples of Sydney's built heritage and foreshore bushland. He has assisted in saving many sites from the developer's wrecking ball and now preserved for future generations. There will be a State Funeral in his honour.

### ●FOKE MEMBERSHIP

FOKE celebrated a significant milestone of 25 years since its foundation in 1994. At the AGM in May we celebrated the occasion with the cutting of a cake and displayed a power point presentation of the numerous activities and projects with which FOKE had been involved over the past 25 years.

Sadly, with a community grass roots organisation that has been running for 25 years, a number of our members have now passed on or have moved out of the district. It will be FOKE's continuing objective to encourage new members to join and keep strengthening the organisation for the benefit of our members and Ku-ring-gai residents.

We encourage members to recommend FOKE membership to family and friends in Ku-ring-gai to ensure we can continue FOKE's work for many years to come.

In celebration of our 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary we arranged for the printing of a large banner which has hung in a number of Council banner positions over the past few months. The banner states "Celebrating 25 years of Caring for Ku-ring-gai" along with FOKE's contact details with the aim of raising awareness in the community and attracting new members.

We thank our members for their membership renewal each year. With the cost of public liability insurance, postage and printing, FOKE's running costs continue to mount. It has been so helpful to receive member's donations. Thank you.

### ●FINALLY

With our celebratory 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary now behind us, we look in hope to the next 25 years of Caring for Ku-ring-gai!

We wish all our members a safe and healthy year ahead and look forward to welcoming you to a COVID-19 free 26th AGM and Public Meeting in 2021.

*Kathy Cowley*

PRESIDENT  
May 2020

Kathy Cowley, FOKE President



East Lindfield student Zana Williams and Phillip Langley

