

Adelaide Hills Farmers Markets Chairs report -2020-21

The Adelaide Hills Farmers Market is held on the lands of the Peramangk People, and we acknowledge that they continue to be custodians of the region and pay our respects to their elders past and present

Thank you for your attendance at this AGM. We hope this new timeslot helps you attend our AGM. We value your support and membership of the market. The market has performed well. We have had new customers and new stallholders. The market shows signs of refreshing itself and is gradually capturing new arrivals in the district to the market.

Covid- 19 has been good for the market in many ways though we would have been better without it. Covid- 19 has provided many challenges in keeping the market open and complying with changing regulations that at times do not make sense. This is mainly because the regulations are written for others, and we have some exemption lines for food markets. Nikala & then Kara-Jane has done a good job in managing the market to comply with the regulations and our customers have been well behaved in trying to be covid safe. Covid -19 did help in that there has been a sentiment again to do things locally which has encouraged more people to attend our market and become members. The inability for other markets to operate did help keep our winter stall numbers up as we could continue to operate. This has helped our finances with stall holders up, membership up and the government contribution to small business and not for profit organizations.

The committee has been united in rebuilding governance and operational processes. Over the years with manager changes, cloud storage systems and us struggling to find secretaries with strong admin overview skills we had lost and misplaced many policies and operational documents. We have now reproduced many of these and reviewed the remainder. Updated rules and policies will be distributed soon. Our financial position is strong, and we thank Janine for her efforts in getting our financial recording and reporting more professional. We have also stopped being registered for gst following the recommendations made at last year's AGM.

We do have one of the best markets for atmosphere during late spring and autumn with members and shoppers able to relax at the market on the lawn with great entertainment. We thank management for coordinating our buskers. As we come out of covid restrictions we can continue to develop and expand our demonstration and education program including cooking, gardening and environmental management.

Kara-Jane has taken over as market manager and through her leadership our processes and reporting have become more professional, allowing the committee the time to get back to focusing on our strategic plan. The strategic planning objectives included, Growing the Market, Nurturing the Friendly atmosphere and broader Community Connections, Value and promote our 'Brand' & ensuring we have ongoing sound administrative infrastructure. A continuing challenge is to reach out and include new residents in the district into our community

I would like to acknowledge the work of Rosie for her market set up work and administrative assistance during a difficult period for the market. Her professionalism ensured the market worked smoothly and her innovation helped us access many of our records in a timely way.

The committee has had many changes in the last twelve months which has had some significant effect on us to be making progress. I do thank the committee for their support of me in continually managing change.

I would like to thank those committee whose term has expired or who have resigned. Finally, I would like to thank you the members for supporting us through your membership and regularly shopping at the market. I would like to thank this last year's committee for their efforts in volunteering their time in governing the market and making significant contributions to the running of the market.

Dr Geoff Page

Chair