KOOYONGKOOT ALLIANCE

Presidents Report for the 2026 AGM

Welcome to all our valued friends, members and supporters who are here tonight.

It gives me great pleasure that in 2025-26 the Alliance has had another successful year in pursuing its vision for a healthy KooyongKoot.

In the past year we have successfully:

- delivered on the ground improvements projects and programs that strengthen our eco-systems, improve water quality and our connectivity along our creeks,
- supported the development of our newer fledging members,
- increased involvement in community education including conducting community focussed events of note,
- been one of the key players and funder of the GCRC's Strategic Plan for this Catchment, which was launched in July this year,
- actively engaged with authorities and other stakeholders to speak on behalf of the Friend's Groups and the community for the benefit our catchment,
- strengthened engagement and shared learnings with other catchment focussed community organisations across Melbourne

All this is in addition to the fantastic work done by our Friends Group members that is doing so much for our waterways and their environment.

Graham's Catchment Keeper Report will touch on our achievements and continuing aspirations in these areas in more detail including some astonishing statistics on the work we have collectively achieved.

Funding Support for our activities underpins all the significant achievements we have made. This will also be covered by Graham report and Gillian's treasurers report. They will talk to the Grants, funds and in-kind contributions from our valued supporters in the Councils, Melbourne Water, state and federal governments, education and other institutions and our private and corporate donors who value what we do.

There remain on-going funding challenges. Due to mainly Graham's great advocacy, we remain financially healthy, however long-term sustainable support is a goal we continue to strive for but have not yet achieved.

Our organisation itself is also fundamental to these achievements.

The committee this year continues to work well, making sure our commitments as per our registered corporation requirements including the Donor Gift Recipient Status - achieved at the end of last financial year - have been met. Special thanks to the fantastic long hours to our

Treasurer Gillian Jervis and our new secretary Francesca Keaveney and to Su Dempsey who is on call to work through the physical logistics of our meetings.

I would also like to acknowledge the work of the other members of our committee, Frank our Vice President and Sam for making time in their busy days to support the Alliance along the way.

To strengthen our committee further we intend to expand the numbers of member on the committee in 2026-2027 to better prepare for transitions in key roles and introduce new ideas.

The sub-committee structures we launched early in 2025 has led to some astonishing work being undertaken by the Projects, Clean Waterways and Marketing and Communication sub-committees – special thanks to their leaders Albert, Mark and Vicki and their teams. The other sub-committees – governance and advocacy are also active but the Education Sub-Committee which remains without a leader. All our sub-committees are interested in new members.

Our members make strong contributions through their sub-committee work and make a real difference. Vicki Scrivenger is worth a special mention. Through her leadership of the Marketing and Communications sub-committee she has been awarded the Caroline Chisholm Volunteer award this year she joins past winners who are KKA participants - Albert Toet, Sam and Su Dempsey. We are lucky to have these individuals as members. However, there are many more who contribute with their valued skills.

John McMahon who continues to work building the content for the website and Newsletter and has done an excellent contribution again this year.

The strength of our organisation and our achievements is not possible without the skills, enthusiasm, energy and commitment of Graham Ross. His effort in countless ways is the key to our continuing success. His role is nominally part time – few days a week - but I have witnessed the many more days he puts in to achieve what we have achieved.

We have some interesting **challenges in the coming year.**

- Work on the Strategic plan will require significant involvement from community to be successful in meeting the needs of the Catchment. KKA will continue to be involved but the opportunities are expanding.
- Expansion in redevelopment, evolving government policies, and other possible institutional and council changes KKA will need to be prepared to evolve its relationships to remain effective.
- How to ensure members engagement and contribution as they grapple with their own opportunities to work on improvements, manage increased pressure on their local waterways and changing demographics.

With these challenges and as we are 5 years since we originally convened, we will conduct a review in January to review how we can best tackle these challenges and continue to meet our objectives. As part of this process, we will seek members involvement and feedback.

We rely most heavily on the support of our membership, and we thank you all for your continuing interest. We acknowledge that your contributions are often beyond the boundaries of your “patch”. But with that involvement we can all have a stronger voice; our areas are better connected and all benefit.

Finally, we also need to acknowledge our First Nations people who have cared for country for thousands of years before us.

Once again thanks to all who have helped make this a successful year for the Alliance



Rex Dusting

KKA President

14 October 2026