

**16 October 2020**

**President's Report**

On behalf of the Committee of the Fraser Coast Hospice Association [ FCHA ]. I would like to welcome everyone to the Annual General Meeting. Your FCHA committee has made great progress towards our intended goal of providing a dedicated, six bed, state-of the art and purpose-built facility for those in our community requiring end of life care. The Hospice will provide a Place of Peace – providing to the needs of the terminally ill in a homely environment, where family members can step back as carers, and revert to their former support roles.

The Committee has met regularly, and we have been diligent with reporting requirements to the Federal Government Department of Health and Human Services, with respect to our Project's progress. This has been a constructive and supportive relationship. I am grateful to our Project Manager Peter Davies for providing the documentation required at each stage of the project to date – submitted to the Department.

The FCHA Committee is very grateful to the Federal Department of Health – for the seed funding of the Hospice, that has allowed the project to progress rapidly through conceptual and planning stages, to the point where we look to sign a Letter of Intent this week, for the Construction Services Phase 2 of the Project. The Community Project Grant, in part relates to the Hinkler Regional Development project, and the Committee has been represented at meetings by Denis Chapman, and I am grateful to Denis for this.

With the generous assistance of the Fraser Coast Regional Council. the Committee has secured a 25-year lease for land at 222 Urraween Road, Hervey Bay, which is well located for the Community that we will serve. I would like to thank office bearers at Fraser Coast Regional Council, who have generously given of their advice and time, with both the Lease agreement, and then later the Development Application. In particular, I would like to thank General Manager Gerald Carlyon, and Mayor George Seymour for their support of the Hospice project.

The Committee has conducted a tender process for Design Consultants, and has appointed Keystone Architects, based at Maryborough. I would like to thank Marian Graham and her team for their collaborative approach to the design of the Hospice, which has been one of the most enjoyable parts of the project so far, in large part due to the constructive listening approach to achieve what looks on paper to be a marvellous facility. The Committee has conducted a tender process for Phase 1, Construction Design Services, and has appointed Woollam Constructions for this phase. I would like to thank Rob Allen and his team for guiding the Committee through this phase, which has involved

collaboration with both Keystone Architects and our Project Manager Peter Davies, to reach the point where we are today – about to sign the Letter of Intent.

The guidance of our Project Manager Peter Davies, has been instrumental in keeping to the timetable that the Committee set out in our Grant application, and Peter's diligence and professionalism has been on display throughout the last 12 months since joining the Hospice project. On behalf of the FCHA Committee – I would like to propose a Special Vote of Thanks to Peter Davies. We seriously couldn't have done this without you, Peter, and you have been the Right Man at the Right Time – for us.

I would like to thank FCHA Secretary, Jasine Leslie, for her tireless enthusiasm and super email skills, and for Guiding our meetings and writing up our minutes and Agendas. Also, I would like to thank Jasine for fielding enquiries from the wider Community about the Fraser Coast Hospice, and tireless advancement of our cause.

I would like to thank FCHA Treasurer Sonya Chapman, for careful stewardship of our funds and liaison with our Accountant and Bookkeeper and for the transition of Accounting Services that has occurred more recently.

I would like to thank David Lee, for advising the Committee with due diligence of Legal documents and Leases, and for Leading the Governance Sub-committee as we begin the process of moving towards Operations.

I would like to thank Robyn Martlew for her enthusiastic fund-raising initiatives and for continuing in the role of Fund-raising Co-ordinator. I would like to thank committee members Denis Chapman, Dr Hayden Christie, Melinda Scheltens, and former committee members for their valuable contributions.

We have an exciting year ahead!

*James MacKean*  
*President and Co-Founder, FCHA.*