

ANNUAL REPORT FROM CITTASLOW GOOLWA 2009-2010



Cittaslow Goolwa has built on its solid beginning as the first Cittaslow-accredited town in Australia. In the three years since accreditation, the community of Goolwa, the businesses in the area and the Alexandrina Council have continued to develop a strong working relationship. We recognise that there are still many areas in which we can improve, but it is pleasing to report the progress made over the past twelve months.

The management of Cittaslow Goolwa has been undertaken by an enthusiastic group of local residents who have brought many talents and great experience to their responsibilities. Mayor of Alexandrina Council Mr Kym McHugh is the Patron of Cittaslow Goolwa.

CITTASLOW GOOLWA INC. MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

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| President | Lyn Clark |
| Vice President | Edward Booth |
| Secretary | John Clark |
| Treasurer/Membership | Michael Masters |
| Other members: | Heather Masters, Gayle Mitchell, Kaarel Lume, Jane Booth, Scott Woodsmith, Hans Dansen, Anne Prestige, Keith Prestige |
| SABA Representative | John Clark |
| Food & Wine Representative | Rebekah McCaul |
| Garden Representative | Keith Prestige |
| Heritage Representative | tba |
| Environment/Infrastructure | Edward Booth |
| Tourism | tba |

Under the guidance of President Lyn Clark and new Treasurer Michael Masters, Cittaslow Goolwa successfully gained funding from the South Australian Tourist Commission, Alexandrina Council, Federal Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs. The grants were used to establish the Cittaslow Goolwa Community Garden and to run community events. Other funds were gained from fund-raising activities like the annual Cittaslow Dinner, Cittaslow Diary and Calendar as well as membership fees from residents and businesses.

Over the year, other smaller committees and groups organised activities or undertook projects that have added to improving quality of life for all involved with Goolwa.

Community Garden and Barrow

Thanks to the generosity of the Alexandrina Council and especially its outdoor staff and the unstinting efforts of its volunteers, the new Cittaslow Goolwa Community Garden is now functioning well. Produce from the garden helps to supply the weekly Fruit and Vegetable Barrow that operates under the supervision of Keith and Anne Prestidge every Thursday morning. Profits from the barrow help to further develop the garden as its infrastructure is developed and maintained.

Seasonal activities and BBQs have brought together the garden volunteers and community members to celebrate their achievements. The garden has provided a wonderful backdrop for Goolwa visitors to learn more about Cittaslow.



Food and Wine

Led by Marty Kay and Rebecca McCaul, two very talented and enthusiastic local young people, the Cittaslow Food and Wine group has provided a full program over the past year. Some of their activities include:

- **Sausage making** – local butcher James shared some of his secrets of sausage making in the Caffè de Carlo restaurant where those present were able to taste some of the sausages with some local Ballast Stone wines.
- **Smoke off** – Nearly 200 people in 16 teams, participated in a challenge to smoke hams ready for Christmas. Advice was provided by a representative from Webber Kettles, music provided by a local jazz band, wines from Ballast Stone with funds raised going to the local Currency Creek Country Fire Service and Cittaslow. The Community Garden provided vegetables and the local butcher provided top quality hams.
- **Dinner** – A special Cittaslow Dinner was hosted by the Currency Creek Estate Winery Restaurant. Local produce was a feature of the dinner cooked by chef Michael Douchow. The food was complimented by a range of local wines.
- **Local producers** – Presentations and tastings from local producers like Cleland Beef and The Goods.
- **Cittaslow Local Produce Tags** – Selected wines and produce that reflect local identity can now carry Cittaslow neck tags which describe Cittaslow ideals and direct attention to Goolwa and its hinterland. Leading winery, Ballast Stone Estate Wines, trains its staff and sales representatives in the philosophy and principles of Cittaslow.

Events

Cittaslow Goolwa has been closely involved with many events held in the town and is helping to promote tourism activities in the region.

- **Gopher Grand Prix** – Edward Booth and his team hosted the first Goolwa Gopher Gymkhana. With participants ranging in ages up to nearly ninety and with encouragement from radio presenter Peter Goers on the microphone, the event gained publicity on the state television news that night and can be viewed on U-Tube.
- **Santos Tour Down Under** – Goolwa was the finish for a stage for the 2010 cycling Tour Down Under. As well as welcoming the many international cycling teams that begin their year in Australia, Goolwa welcomed over 8,000 amateur riders who rode sections of the official route and finished in Goolwa. Whilst promoting the Tour Down Under at the World Road Cycling Championships, organiser Mike Turtur passed on greetings from Goolwa to the Swiss Cittaslow town of Mendrisio which hosted the World Championships in 2009.
- **Goolwa 180 Captain Charles Sturt** – Cittaslow Goolwa was involved in organising this community event which marked the first visit to Goolwa by famous explorer Captain Charles Sturt who was the first white person to travel along the River Murray to its mouth. Activities included a re-enactment, a period dinner and the launch of a book about Sturt. Cittaslow Goolwa also provided funds for the printing of the book.
- **Around Goolwa** – Supported by Cittaslow Goolwa a series of events were organised to support History Week. The activities encourage visitors and residents to spend a little time exploring the heritage of the region. Despite a strong chilly wind local people enjoyed a Cittaslow picnic and then visited the



Currency Creek Cemetery where guides Bob Williams and Peter Smith pointed out leading Goolwa pioneers and paddle boat captains who now rest there. The Australasian 1858 hosted guided tours of their heritage building that is now a leading accommodation place in Goolwa.

- **Goolwa Alive** – Cittaslow Goolwa gained funds on behalf of the organisers of this event that showcases local produce, local artisans and other local businesses. This has become a leading event in the region.

Cittaslow Awards

In association with the Southern Alexandrina Business Association, a special awards dinner was held to recognise the customer service provided by local businesses and individuals as well as to present the first Cittaslow Awards to community groups whose activities support the Cittaslow criteria. Local state politicians Adrian Pederick and Michael Pengilly presented the awards which were well received.

2010 CITTASLOW AWARDS

Environment and Alternative Energy

- Alexandrina Council
- Alexandrina Wildlife Support Group Charity Barn
- Goolwa Primary School
- Hindmarsh Island Landcare
- Investigator College
- Signal Point Riverine Environment Group
- South Coast Dune Care
- Strath Steam
- Wildlife Welfare Organisation

Heritage

- PS Oscar W
- Rose Eden
- The Australasian 1858

Community and Tourism

- about Print
- ALEX-FM
- Cittaslow Goolwa Community Garden
- Goolwa KESAB Tidy Towns Group
- Signal Point Visitor Information Centre

Food and Wine and Local Artisans

- Alexandrina Cheese Company
- Ballast Stone Estate Wines
- Bombora@Goolwa Beach
- Café Lime
- Currency Creek Estate Restaurant
- Goolwa Central Meats
- Goolwa Craft Fair

Publications

Cittaslow Goolwa published several items over the past year. The second Cittaslow Diary 2010 was prepared by members of the Cittaslow Goolwa management



committee. Heather and Michael Masters, Jane Booth and Scott Woodsmith coordinated the production which included local poetry and short stories from the Goolwa Sandwriters group. Local businesses supported the production with their advertising. The cover was designed by Deb Smalley from the Australasian 1858 and About Print did all the printing. This was a major fundraising activity.

The Cittaslow Goolwa Community Garden produced their first Calendar, also with the assistance of About Print. This was followed by their first Cookbook, coordinated by Anne Prestidge and About Print.

As mentioned earlier, Cittaslow Goolwa published a book 'The Visitor – Captain Charles Sturt at Goolwa and the Murray Mouth' by David Brook as part of the 180th anniversary celebrations of Captain Charles Sturt's arrival at Goolwa. Captain Sturt's expedition down the River Murray and his experiences with the native indigenous population, the Ngarrindjeri people, forms a significant part of our local regional history.

Promoting Cittaslow

As well as articles in the local press and interviews on the radio, Cittaslow Goolwa has taken every opportunity to promote Cittaslow, its ideals and events.

President Lyn Clark gave presentations to a wide variety of organisations over the past year:

- International students from the University of Gastronomic Sciences learned a little more about Cittaslow during their visit to Goolwa as part of their studies while visiting South Australia.
- Business Studies students from the University of South Australia spent some time in Goolwa to learn about Cittaslow as part of their undergraduate studies.
- As part of their Open Day celebrations, a presentation about Cittaslow was made at the Milang Old School House
- The prestigious Adelaide ladies' group the Lyceum Club invited Lyn to give a presentation about Cittaslow as part of their International meetings
- Jane Booth conducts "coffee and chat" sessions with small groups of Goolwa residents
- Cittaslow Goolwa launched its new website www.cittaslowgoolwa.com.au which helps promote and educate about Cittaslow in Australia
- A newsletter is produced every second month and circulated, usually electronically to all members and other interested parties
- In the monthly issue of the Lions Newsletter a Cittadini Award is made each month to highlight the activities of a group in Goolwa and its hinterland as part of promoting community activities

Developing the Australian Cittaslow Network

This has been slow in seeing tangible progress, despite the efforts of many people. Currently Vice President Edward Booth and his wife Jane are working with the town of Yea in Victoria to gain the confidence to undertake Cittaslow accreditation. Membership costs can be a hindrance to this process. Yea is hoping to use Cittaslow as a means to regain community identity as they struggle to recover from drought and the dreadful effects of last year's fires in their region.

Scarcely a week goes by without Goolwa featuring positively in the media. We feel this means that we are getting our message out and are sharing our unique town with

the wider community, as well as giving our residents added confidence in contributing to the direction of our town's future.

