



Annual General Meeting 26 September 2021

President's Report

Planning Matters Alliance Tasmania, known as PMAT. My modus operandi as President of PMAT has always been **"Everyone Matters Alliance"**.

You know how the typical pattern of organisations is meant to be Forming Norming Storming. PMAT formed in 2016, launched and developed our Platform Document in 2017 and incorporated in 2018. In my view we are still norming, at the same time as we are storming - it gets pretty hectic!

We see ourselves as a community service not-for-profit organisation.

Education and information sessions are important, as we continue to advocate for best practice planning and to help the Tasmanian community understand the planning reforms.

I have been a proactive President, working with our State Coordinator Sophie Underwood and the Board, looking for opportunities to inform ourselves and others, linking with planning practitioners all over, and dealing with media and government. Building networks has been fundamental to the way I see the role, and I have endeavoured to balance the strategic and important with the urgent.

Achievements in 2021

- The PMAT Board developed a Strategic Plan, the 4 main streams being Planning Excellence, Strategic Partnerships, Community Planning Leadership and Organisational Resilience. I commend it to all our member groups. It is a living document and will be subject to review in future. Hard copies are available here to take back to your groups, it will soon be available on our website.
- 3 projects have been identified, which Sophie is actioning. Biodiversity and heritage are the focus of 2 State Policies we are developing. We are also developing planning provisions which will deliver sustainable and strategic planning in some of Hobart's suburbs. In 2022, the Residential Standards will be reviewed by Government. Watch this space as your input will be crucial.
- We developed strong ties across the professional planning community, greatly appreciated the advice and assistance of the EDO (Environmental Defenders Office), PMAT was invited to sit on the University of Tasmania Advisory Committee for the Masters in Planning, and we have stayed in touch with planning authorities.
- We made many very detailed submissions to government, including to PESRAC (Premiers Economic and Social Recovery Advisory Committee).
- We worked hard to connect across the Alliance, with the wider community, to build databases, manage risk and support Sophie. All our work is about ensuring transparency around planning.



The support from our very generous sponsors and partners never ceases to astound

People more and more understand the critical role PMAT plays in advocating for best practice planning which is strategic, sustainable and where the community has a voice. Our donors also understand the central importance of State Coordinator Sophie Underwood, and how her work is not only valuable, but essential. Thank you to all the inspiring contributors who keep PMAT going and solvent.

I am proud of the people who came together to form Tas Planning Information Network (TasPIN) back in the early days of 2015: Nick Sawyer, Robert Vincent, Chris Needham, Wayne Burgess, Ted Pitman, Glenys Jones, Eric Pinkard, Indra Boss, Jess Feehely, Brian Corr, Peter Black, Peter McGlone and Sue Carter (sadly deceased). These were joined later by Peter Edwards, Kerry Burns and Margaret Taylor.

I am immensely proud of these people, and the fact that in late 2016 Nick Sawyer introduced us to Freycinet Action Network, The Wilderness Society, Tasmanian Conservation Trust, National Parks Association, North East Bioregional Network and others to set up this state-wide Alliance. Vica Bailey and The Wilderness Society support was crucial in those early PMAT days. Thank you all - the flame was lit back then.

I am proud of the Campaign Advisory Group (CAG), brought together by Sophie to work with and help each other. This group of 36 community leaders from right across the state, representing many Alliance groups, advises and helps identify the way ahead for planning advocacy. All members of CAG are busy in their own area, and through belonging to this Zoom network, help each and every group, as well as PMAT leadership. Fiona Brine, who is volunteering with PMAT and part of the CAG, is working on our projects and a communications action plan. Thank you to all on the CAG and thank you Fiona.

I am proud of PMAT's volunteer Board. Trust me! They work so hard to keep PMAT safe, strong, solvent and effective. There is a wide range of skills, depth of experience, and a solid understanding of planning. I am very glad they are all re-nominating for their positions and we welcome Anna's nomination as Secretary and Louis as a Board member. I am especially thankful that Kerry Burns is nominating as Acting President. Kerry is very experienced and knowledgeable with links to many Hobart groups, and he will be an excellent continuing President and a safe pair of hands. Thank you honorary PMAT Board.

Special thanks also to our very committed and wise Public Officer Eric Pinkard. Good work Eric.

As a heads up, all Alliance groups will hear from the PMAT Board in 2022 as they endeavour to place PMAT on a solid financial footing. Groups will be asked for their feedback on how this can be achieved, including exploring if there might be a membership fee.

I am proud of Sophie Underwood, our State Coordinator, working in a consultancy role. With limited hours, Sophie does a massive job and does it in outstanding fashion: building the Alliance, implementing PMAT's strategic plan guided by our Platform Document, and being accessible to all of us, especially me. Thank you for giving 110% Sophie, and for all you do for Tasmania.

I am proud of all Alliance member groups. It's been an immense pleasure to touch base with you regularly and a real honour to represent you as your President. Just the other day, I



had a conversation with the Mt Roland Preservation Society Secretary. Robin told me they appreciate, respect and love PMAT very much for the work we do together.

Above all, huge thanks to all you good people who have given so much for Tasmania. Thank you for what you do in your areas, and as part of PMAT.

Let's keep going: think big, work strategically, doing what's important, not just what is urgent.

Please remember that with PMAT it's not just a Planning Matters Alliance, **it is truly an Everyone Matters Alliance**.

Anne Harrison
President
Planning Matters Alliance Tasmania