



# From the President

September 2010

VALLEY WATCH INC  
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*Creating a sustainable future*

## The AGM - numbers down but hopes are up

Members away, 'flu rampant and a dreary drizzle combined to keep the numbers low at the AGM on September 19, yet the hardy dozen who turned up had a great time hearing what had been accomplished in the year 2009 - 2010.

Outgoing President Athena drew attention in her report to some of the year's highlights, including:

- the significance of Billie Roberts' *Management of Urban Flying-Fox Camps* (commissioned by Valley Watch) which was the basis for the Maclean Flying-fox Working Group
- the complete overhaul of the Constitution, thanks to Imelda Jennings and Cath Clark
- the request by Clarence Valley libraries for multiple copies of the Valley Watch commissioned *Biolinks Study* by Mark Graham
- establishing a Climate Change position and working group
- re-establishing the practice of having observers at meetings of Clarence Valley Council
- having members sit and report on CV Council's Coast and Estuary Management Committee and Climate Change Advisory Committee

- VW's contribution to the final CVC Biodiversity Management Strategy and Koala Plan of Management
- VW's donation to each primary school in the Lower Clarence of the beautiful book *Stellaluna* by Janell Cannon, the delightful story of a baby fruit-bat who is raised in a nest of three baby birds



- the website, which contains so much valuable information about Valley Watch and its activities. Thanks to Ronny for such diligence
- the wonderful VW stall at the Yamba River Market every month under the direction of Ros Woodward, which raises funds, educates the public and keeps the VW profile high
- Gary Brisbane's great work in keeping the Committee 'social'.

Foundation President Peter Wrightson conducted the elections which saw the following Committee elected for 2010 -2011:

**President:** Gary Whale  
**Vice-President:** Athena Batcheldor  
**Secretary:** Ronwyn Lopez  
**Treasurer:** David Lopez  
**Committee:** Gary Brisbane  
Carolyn Jeckeln  
Barbara Whale  
Ros Woodward

As incoming President I pointed to a lack of succession planning as a shortcoming that I wanted the Committee to address, and nominated three 'big picture' areas which I felt should be the focus for the coming year:

- Clarence Valley Council's governance
- Biodiversity and sustainable living
- Climate change

I have adopted as a motto the old Latin phrase *Festina lente* or 'Make haste slowly' so that the decisions we make and the actions we take as a Committee are performed with a proper balance of **urgency** and **care**. That way tasks are not rushed and good long-term results are achieved.

*Gary*

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