

CCASA President's Report

It has been an honour to lead CCASA over the last 12 month, in my third year as President.

The ongoing support and commitment of the CCASA Executive team is key to the success of CCASA. My sincere thanks to Michael Robertson, Brenton Hill, Greg Billington, Valda Baker-Wells, Arun Ramchand, Sharon Callaghan and Chezie Hill for their commitment in ensuring CCASA continues to provide value to our members.

I would also like to thank Janet Miller for her ongoing assistance in the management of CCASA's financial records and reporting requirements. While Janet is not a member of the CCASA Executive, her ongoing support in assisting in managing CCASA's financials is greatly appreciated.

In January 2020 Liz Peter resigned as CCASA Secretary to focus on other business opportunities full time. While Liz was only with us for a relatively short period of 12 month she was very active in the further development of the CCASA website, coordination of the Monumental Mason WHS licencing system and coordination of the successful 2019 Information Day held at Victor Harbor. I thank Liz for her contribution to CASSA during her time as secretary and wish her all the best for the future.

Following Liz's formal notice of resignation, Valda Baker Wells expressed an interest in taking on the role of CCASA secretary and in late January stepped down from her role as CCASA Executive member to take on the role of secretary. Given Valda's extensive experience in the cemetery industry she has been able to step into the secretary role with little need for induction and training. I thank Valda for her valued contribution to CCASA as a member of the Executive team and I look forward to continuing to work with Valda over the next 12 months in her new role of secretary.

The CCASA Executive has continued to work on several key projects over the last 12 months. A summary of these key projects is provided as follows:

1. CCASA Website

Further improvements to the CCASA website have taken place over the last 12 months, particularly regarding site presentation, ease of navigation and location of key information. Members are encouraged to regularly visit the website for information and updates. Feedback or suggestions from our members is always welcomed.

2. Plain English Statements

In response to the legal review of the Plain English Statement (PES) in late 2018, it was identified that a separate PES is required to be given for the "Issue of an interment right"; Renewal of an interment right"; and "Transfer of an interment right".

All three PES have been printed in pads of 50 sheets and are available for purchase at cost price through the CCASA website.

3. Cemetery Safety Training

In early 2019 CCASA was successful in receiving grant funding through Service Skills SA "Industry Skills development Grant" in the amount of \$15,000 to subsidise the cost of offering an accredited Cemetery Safety course to CCASA members. A two-day course was held in both Adelaide and Berri in September 2019, with 26 participants completing the training.

CCASA will continue to work with members in identifying industry training needs and opportunities, and coordinate such training in consultation with members and suitable training providers.

4. Monumental Standards

CCASA has remained directly involved with the review and update of the Australian Standards for *Headstones and cemetery monuments* (AS 4204). CCASA was represented on the Standards Australia Technical Committee BD-071 by CCASA Executive member Michael Robertson. I thank Michael for his efforts in attending the Committee meetings and representing CCASA in what is a very important industry standard.

The new standard is welcomed, particularly the requirement that headstones be pinned to the foundation.

The new standard (AS4204:2019) is available for purchase from the SAI Global website.

5. Monumental Mason Licensing System

Unfortunately, the CCASA state-wide monumental masons licence system was placed on hold during 2019 following questions around the system's compliance with competition policy.

Legal advice was therefore sought from a private law firm and the Crown Solicitors Office, who both advised that only allowing approved CCASA licenced monumental masons to undertake monumental work in cemeteries can be deemed anti-competitive.

The CCASA Executive is therefore considering an alternative registration system that will continue to assist members in assuring monumental masons have the necessary WHS and insurance information to work in cemeteries. This system would simply involve providing a list of registered monumental masons on the CCASA website where members can access and download the relevant WHS and insurance information as required.

A dedicated session has been included in the Information Day Program 2020 to propose a new monumental mason registration system and identify the level of support and interest from members in the implementation of a new system commencing July 2020.

6. Advice and Support for Members

A key role of CCASA is continuing to provide advice and support to members in response to enquiries. The CCASA Executive continues to receive on average 25 enquiries each year from our members. As has been the case in previous years, the majority of these enquiries relate to records management, interment rights, memorialisation, burial on private land, the sale of cemeteries, etc. Many of these matters continue to present challenges for cemeteries. A session has once again been included in this year's Information Day program to discuss common questions raised by members.

7. SA Cemeteries Listing

CCASA continues to maintain a comprehensive listing of cemeteries across the state for access via the website. The listing currently provides details of each cemetery, its location and contact details for further information. The cemetery listing is considered a valuable resource for members, monumental masons and the general public. Maintaining the cemetery listing database will be an ongoing and evolving process. Members are encouraged to advise CCASA of any required changes or additions to assist us in keeping the listing up-to-date.

The majority of CCASA members come from Local Government or are local community volunteers whereby the curating of local cemeteries is just one of your many tasks and responsibilities. It is important that CCASA remains aware of this fact and continues to provide the necessary information and support to our members. It is the ability to support our members in managing and improving their local cemeteries, that make the role of President and that of the CCASA Executive so rewarding.

Most importantly, CCASA is extremely grateful for the continuing support of our sponsors, namely Arrow Bronze, Pheonix Foundry, Everlon, OpusXenta and SD Tillett Memorials. I also take this opportunity to acknowledge Nalty Memorials for their past sponsorship of CCASA and thank them for their valued support over many years. I am however pleased to announce and welcome Harrison Funerals and Adelaide Cemeteries Authority who have recently joined CCASA as Gold Sponsors.

It is only through the support of our sponsors that CCASA can hold our annual Information Day. I take this opportunity to sincerely thank all our sponsors for their ongoing support.

CCASA will focus on a number of key projects over the coming 12 months, including the review of CCASA's constitution, proposed reestablishment of the monumental masons registration system, continue to provide members with PES books as required, continue to assist members in providing advice and support in the operation of their cemeteries, and of course provide the opportunity for members and sponsors to attend the annual Information Day in 2021.

I look forward to continuing to work with the CCASA Executive and our members in completing these projects over the coming 12 months.



Michael Rusby
President

