



Our apologies for not issuing a September Newsletter but we were all extremely busy preparing for the Annual General Meeting and preparing applications for grants so that we can offer our members the ultimate in services that will prove to be unmatched by any previous home owners association, that is our pledge to our members.

The AGM

Thank you to all our members that were able to attend the AGM at Beenleigh on the 26 September. The food was a little late arriving but when it came there was plenty for everyone and the general feeling throughout the meeting was certainly one of good will. We were able to explain and demonstrate the work that the committee we had done over the last year. This included a 70 page review of the 2012 QCAT Act and around the same number of pages of suggested amendments to the *Manufactured Homes Residential Parks Act 2003*; this work takes many weeks of research and preparation.

The Review of the Act

The Minister for Housing and Public Works the Honourable Tim Mander MP very recently announced the beginning of the review of the Act and also released a Survey Paper for home owners to complete and we do urge all home owners in residential parks to take part in the survey. Home owners without computers can telephone 32278992 and request a copy to be sent to your home address. Those with access to a computer and internet can log onto manufacturedhomesreview@hpw.qld.gov.au and complete the survey on line.

The ARPQ Consultation Paper

A big thank you to all those that completed the ARPQ consultation Paper Q and A, this was also a mammoth task but was necessary because it came from home owners for home owners and the response was overwhelming to say the least. Fortunately we have some pretty smart people on the ARPQ committee and our treasurer Ms Judie Dewar designed a small computer programme for dissecting and totalling the answers that we now have to prepare a report on and to be presented to the Department of Housing at meeting on Wednesday 9 October. We have always claimed that the key to improvement in the legislation is setting a "fair balance of interest" between park operators and home owners and the department to date agree with this very important principle. All we ask is to be treated fairly and not be treated as though we are institutionalised and pull the rogue operators into line or get them out of the industry. It will be interesting to see if this LNP government is as good as its word. We all vote!

Why this Review is so Important

The Act in its existing form falls well short of fairness to home owners and does not give the protections thus claimed, it never has. In fact, the Act is silent on so many issues arising out of residential park living and any reference to other laws such as the *Fair Trading Act* which incidentally is the main object of the Act governing residential parks, is totally ignored by the Tribunal system which is charged with dealing with disputation. In essence, the current legislation including the QCAT Act has failed home owners completely. Remember this when completing the Government Survey.

A Friendly Reminder

We have sent out the renewal of membership notices and we trust that our ever growing membership will be retained. ARPQ has now the largest home owner membership base in Queensland and to continue our work we need your support and membership contribution.

Your new committee is:

Chair Person-Glen Franklin

Vice Chair Person-Ian Morgan

Treasurer- Judie Dewar

Secretary-David Paton

Committee members-Robert (Bob) Beasley and Alan Scown (the final member is being decided)

David Paton

Hon Sec