

## Albert Facey Homestead Committee

On the 12th April 2000, just after the Albert Facey Homestead was relocated into Wickepin a public meeting was held and a "structure" called "**Facey Homestead Group**" was formed to meet as an open forum monthly.

The committee was made up of Wayne Leeson as Chairperson, Robyn Cail and Dani Sims as Secretary/Treasurer, Maintenance was Colin Lang and Peter Bird, Interior Contents was Linley Rose, Promotion/Education was Dani Sims and Libby Heffernan.

### **Colin Lang**

So began the contribution of Colin Lang! Colin's first task was to attend urgently to the front door of the house. Colin was a regular at meetings and worked hard to get the house ready for the opening on the 15th October 2000. Colin regularly did rosters opening up the house and enjoying a chat with visitors.

In May 2001, Colin was elected Chairman of the group and later that year he joined the Dryandra Focus Group as the Homestead representative.

In October 2003 the Group became the "Albert Facey Homestead Management Committee" and Colin continued as Chairman.

In 2004, 2005 and early 2006, Shannon Hampton from the Dryandra Visitor Centre worked closely with the Homestead and Colin was very proud when Wickepin won the GWN Top Tourism Town Award and a cheque for \$5000. The entry was prepared by Shannon, whom Colin shared a great respect for.

Colin really hit the media when he was featured in the "Outback" magazine in 2005 in article showcasing the Homestead and farming in Wickepin. A wonderful article and proud photo of Colin.

Colin continued as Chairman until March 2010, when Dave Astbury stepped up from Vice. Colin continued on with the committee until October 2015. Over the last 15 years when there was something to be fixed it was always Colin obliging, ably assisted by Dave- what a pair!

Colin was a thoughtful, caring member and Chair and his contribution to the Homestead has been long, unwavering and very much appreciated, always so willing right up until now to help out. He will be sorely missed.

Colin, enjoy your move to Narrogin and don't forget to send the tourists East to Wickepin!

## **Juli Auld**

Juli and her family moved to Wickepin in June 2001 and joined the Homestead Group a few weeks later and her enthusiasm was most welcome. Her first offer was to put up Christmas decorations in the Homestead, and what a wonderful job she did. Early in 2002 she sourced dolls and linen for the house and started work on a constitution and the Group was incorporated by August thanks to Juli's hard work and attention to detail. Unfortunately all Juli's hard work on Incorporation was to be dismantled when the Group was faced with the issue of Insurance later in 2003. To overcome this the Group became a Committee of Council and I think it was harder to "unincorporate"!

Not be deterred Juli's enthusiasm continued. She managed to sort the gramophone out and I think is the only person who knows how to work it, she did radio interviews, prepared materials for brochures and signage, cleaned the Homestead regularly until another baby slowed her down, was a great tour guide and contributed greatly to the Outback magazine article in 2005, just to name a few!

Although not listed greatly in the Homestead minutes, Libby reminded me of the huge event "Back to the Bush" that Juli coordinated back in about 2002 and the fact that the Homestead nominated her for the Citizen of the Year. Juli's contribution to the Homestead management, her amazing enthusiasm and attention to detail, never mind her love of dressing up in costume has been a huge part of the success of the Homestead and she will be remembered always as a person who gives so willingly of her time.

Best wishes always Juli and who is going to serve tea at the next High Tea!

10th November 2015

Prepared by Linley Rose