



My name is Russell Grove and I have owned a house in Beryl Boulevard since 1996 and have lived permanently in the village since 2011 when I retired.

Prior to my retirement I served in a senior role in service of the NSW Parliament for 41 years with 21 years as Clerk of the House. This career and life experience allows me to bring a broad range of professional and interpersonal skills to fulfil this role with the Progress Association including senior administrative, management and organisational skills whilst being able to maintain an objective perspective. I believe I have a capacity for consensus outcomes and team building.

During my time as a volunteer serving this community over the last 15 years I have been directly involved and responsible for numerous activities some of which include Anzac and Remembrance Day ceremonies, Santa Claus duties at Christmas Carols, working with committee members to organise the installation of the beach defibrillator, initiating Summer Holiday family-orientated activities and supporting various community dinners and events, facilitating sponsorship for raffles and other fundraising activities. As President and community leader during COVID lockdowns the community came together with various inventive activities to raise funds and to keep spirits up week to week. Through this time we also saw the restoration of the War Memorial (facilitated by Mary Knaggs) and the creation of the Community Memorial Hall as a safe place (facilitated by Paul Toohey) in the case of the need for evacuations given our bushland environment. I have successfully worked with others across previous Progress Association Committees to regularly advocate for our community's needs with local members and council officials to ensure representation with government organisations, whilst meeting fiscal responsibilities for our local hall that relies on the financial contributions of our own community.

In the broader community I am an active Rotarian engaged with initiatives at a local and a district level as a Rotary Community Leader, contribute to local school communities as a trained mentor for young people with the Raise Foundation, share time with people who benefit from the Dementia Cafe in Umina and consult in a voluntary capacity on several 'Good Governance' and 'Democracy Advisory Boards'.

If elected it would be my intention to be part of an active forward thinking Executive Committee which hopefully would embrace new ideas, while at the same time valuing and enhancing those events that have worked well to date. This means being responsive to the expectations of the whole community in all its diversity.

I seek your support so I can continue to serve all sections of our community without fear or favour in a unified way forward.

Russell Grove