

***Buloke and Northern Grampians Landcare Network***

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**MINUTES**

**Annual General Meeting**

Litchfield Public Hall, Litchfield, VIC, 3480

**10.30 am, Wednesday 26th October 2022**

**1. Opening and Welcome by Chairperson Ken Coates**

Welcome to everyone, and well done on a fantastic turnout.

Acknowledgement of Country (Andrew Borg)

**2. Apologies**

2.1 Present: Ken Coates (KC, Chairman), Prue McAllister (PM, Vice-President/Treasurer), Luke Batters (LB, Secretary), Andrew Borg (AB, Facilitator), Hannah Waters (HW), Marnie Durie (MD), Barry Robertson (BR), Carol Campbell (CC), Jock McGregor (JMc), Leo Tellefson (LT), Brian Melican (BM), Peter Russell (PR), Adam Campbell (AC), Graeme Newell (GN), Jarred Newell (JN), Caitlin Cavanagh (CA), Andrew Falla (AF), Dougal McAllister (DM), Anne Hughes (AH), Anna Arkoudis (AA, Buloke Shire)

2.2 Apologies: Deb Borg, Amy Smith, Rob Youl, Alison Youl, Michael Birchall, Fiona Birchall, Barry Golding, Shawna Dominelli (NG Shire).

**Moved:** LB **Seconded:** PMthat the apologies be accepted. **Carried**

**3. Minutes of the last AGM held December 24th February 2021**

The Minutes were circulated prior to the meeting, and no-one present required them to be read out.

***Resolution 1*** *That the minutes of the previous AGM be* accepted

**Moved:** CC **Seconded:** MD **Carried**

**4. Business Arising from the Minutes**

**a) Victorian Landcare Facilitator Program (VLFP)**

The Contracts for both Facilitator Funding (with Landcare Victoria) and the Facilitator (with Andrew Borg) have been approved, signed and executed.

**b) Development of BNGLN Awards**

AB stated that the response thus far from Groups has been relatively poor. The awards are an important component of acknowledging the Network’s history and recognising the efforts of the Network’s volunteers. AB will continue to implement an awards system and hopes that the Network and its Member Groups will support this initiative.

**c) Number of Ordinary Committee Members**

***Resolution 2:*** *That the number of ordinary Committee Members for FY22/23 be kept at 6 or less, with a minimum of three required.*

**Moved:** AH **Seconded:** HW **Carried**

**5. Chairperson’s Report (KC)**

The Chairperson’s report was tabled at the meeting and is available in the 4th edition of The Babbler (the BNGLN newsletter) and on the BNG Landcare website (www.bnglandcare.org)

***Resolution 3:*** *That the Chairman’s report be accepted as read.*

**Moved**  KC **Seconded:** BR **Carried**

**6. Treasurer’s Report and presentation of audited Financial Statement (PM)**

The signed Annual Financial Report and the Audit Letter from Knights Norfolk were circulated before the meeting. PM highlighted the key points of the financial statement provided by Knights Norfolk.

***Resolution 4:*** *That the Treasurer’s report be accepted as read.*

**Moved:** PM **Seconded:** BR **Carried**

***Resolution 5:* That the Audited financial Statement be accepted as read.**

**Moved:** PM **Seconded:** BR **Carried**

**7. Network Facilitator’s Report (AB)**

The Facilitator’s report was tabled at the meeting, and is available in the 4th edition of *The Babbler* (the BNGLN newsletter) and on the BNG Landcare website (www.bnglandcare.org)

***Resolution 6:*** *That the Facilitator’s report be accepted as tabled.*

**Moved:** AB **Seconded:** PR **Carried**

**8. Election of Office Bearers**

AB took the Chair and all positions were declared vacant. The Nominations and electees are as follows:

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Position** | **Nominations** | **Nominated & seconded by** | **Accepted & Carried** |
| President | **Ken Coates** | LB & PM | Yes |
| Vice President | **Marney Durie** | KC & PM | Yes |
| Treasurer | **Prue McAllister** | KC & BR | Yes |
| Secretary | **Luke Batters** | KC & PM | Yes |
| General Committee | **Hannah Waters** | KC & MD | Yes |
| General Committee | **Peter Russell** | PM & KC | Yes |
| General Committee | **Barry Robertson** | KC & HW | Yes |
| General Committee | **Dougal McAllister** | KC & CC | Yes |
| General Committee | **Carol Campbell** | PM & KC | Yes |

As elected President, KC resumed the Chair.

**9. General Business**

**a) Annual Subscription/Membership Fee**

***Resolution 7:*** *That the Annual Subscription/Membership Fee remain at Zero for the Financial Year 22/23.*

**Moved:** PR **Seconded:** AC **Carried**

**b) Reports by Member Groups**

i) **Avon Plains Banyena (PM):** Group priority for coming years is the Avon Plains Lakes System. The NCCMA has indicated that they will support and fund a community consultation program.

Rabbit Busters Program continues to be delivered with private landholders, Northern Grampians Shire and Parks Victoria.

Winter Warmer Wanders will be continued this year as this has proved to be a popular, cheap and easy way to engage members in a social activity whilst exploring features of our district.

ii) **Callawadda (JMc):** JMc indicated that were seeking VLG funding for the increase of Biolinks in their area. Several landowners are interested in plantings. The prospect of Windfarms in the area is of concern to Group Members.

iii) **Carapooee (BR)**: BR stated that funding had been sought for nest boxes and trees for small acreage hobby farms in the area..

iv) **Charlton:** AB advised that the Group had gone into recess again.

v) **Donald & District (PR):** PR spoke about several revegetation projects that the group had carried out previously, and that the group hoped to received funding through the VLGs for another several plantings. PR spoke about the current statis of the Lake Buloke system, and invited the members present to take part in a tour after the luncheon break.

vi) **Friends of Blue Gum Rise:** AB tabled a report on behalf of the FOBGR.

vii) **Friends of Mount Wycheproof:** No report.

viii) **Glenloth East**: No Report.

ix) **Kara Kara CMN:** AB indicated that the group was considering going into recess due to a lack of committee nominations.

x) **Kara Kara Regen Ag:** AB, LB and DM provided an overview of the KKRAG, the funding it had received and the projects that it was currently undertaking.

xi) **Kooreh:** No report.

xii) **NatteYallock:** KC indicated there had not been much activity, the Group were continuing to advance the pipeline project. Members had also undertaken a bus trip to look at properties throughout the region.

xiii) **St Arnaud Field Naturalists:** AH provided an overview of the Group’s activities; including surveys and walks undertaken by members. Ah stated that the group felt that they were too old to undertake on ground projects but continued to work with Parks and provide advice to the Dja Dja Wurrung on aspects of Kara Kara National Park.

xiv) **Winjallock:** AB advised that the group were continuing to implement their Erosion Control project.

xv) **Wycheproof (MD):** MD stated that the group had undertaken a bus tour of previous Landcare sites to assess the success or otherwise of projects to help guide future work. An Action Plan is in development and projects are being undertaken with the Wycheproof P-12 College.

xvi) **Buloke Shire (AA):** AA provided an overview of Buloke Shires’ programs, with specific emphasis on the roadside weeds program. It is vital that Member Groups in the Buloke LGA provide input to calls for responses put out by the Shire.

xvii) **Jeffcott North (AC):** AC indicated that the Group had been very quiet, but hoped to get more active in future.

**e) Other New Business**

i) **Duck Shooting.** PM requested discussion of potential Network membership and support of the Regional Victorians Opposed to Duck Shooting Inc (RVODS). The pros and cons of this were discussed, but ultimately it was agreed that there could be no unanimous decision as group aims were different, and the objective of the Network was to reflect its members wishes. No further action was proposed.

ii) **Council Role in Landcare.** PM questioned the council’s role in Landcare operations throughout the region. The members present felt that the Councils – especially the Northern Grampians Shire – was letting Landcare down and should take a greater participatory role.

***Resolution 8:*** *That it be noted that the Network would like to see better collaboration and involvement from the Shire in Landcare activities.*

**Moved:** PM **Seconded:** AH **Carried**

**10. Arrangements for Next Meeting**

Committee Meeting Proposed to be held early Spring 2023 in St.Arnaud, with preference for September/October (so it doesn’t clash with harvest).

**11. AGM Closure**

KC thanked everyone for their attendance and conversation; and to Donald Group for hosting and supplying lunch.

The meeting closed at 12.36pm for lunch followed by a tour of the Little Lake Buloke system.