**Wathaurong Aboriginal Co-operative**

**Community Meeting**

**Monday 29 April 2019**

**62 Morgan St, North Geelong**

**Commenced 5:30pm**

**Attendees:**

Kiralee Hogema, Justine McCarthy, Ebony Hickey, Ollie Hickey, Doreen Griffiths, Margie Hayes, Renee Delamere, Bri Ampa Hayes, Naomi Surtees, Wendy Braham, Hayley Couzens, Sharni Couzens, Lisa Briggs, Esther Broome, Judith Dalton-Walsh, Emily McDonald, Fiona Ryan, Edel Conroy, Shellee Strickland, Jordan Edwards, Lachlan Edwards, Colleen Gibbs, Debbie Miller, Megan Frazer.

1. **Welcome by Chairperson**

Wendy Brabham opened the meeting and acknowledged a Community Elder’s recent passing, Aunty Phoebe Nicholson from Wamba Wamba and Barapa Barapa. Wendy noted that Chairperson Craig Edwards was an apology for the meeting and asked Judy Dalton-Walsh to perform the Welcome to Country which she did.

1. **Respect protocol –**  **one minute silence acknowledging those who have passed**
2. **Apologies**

Kevin Bartlett (Finance Manager), Mark Edwards, Kristie Fraser-Lange, Louise Warner, Mick Ryan, Jo Chester, Joleen Ryan, Jackie Brown, Sandy Manning, Craig Edwards, Stephen Walsh, Michael Thorne, Samantha Watts, Kristi Watts, Tahlia Dempsey, Joel Hayes, Gwenda Black, Tayla Marshall, Reg Abrahams, Lyn McInnes, Patrick Tanner, Linda Tanner.

1. **Previous minutes**
   1. **Business arising from previous minutes**

No business arising.

* 1. **Acceptance of 18th March 2019 minutes**

**Moved:** Justine McCarthy **Seconded:** Doreen Griffiths

1. **Finance Update**

**Discussion:** Lisa Briggs advised that as stated earlier, Wathaurong’s Finance Manager Kevin Bartlett is an apology as he is on leave. However, Company Secretary - Edel Conroy provided the following Finance Update:

* Income
* Our total income is slightly below budget at 64% or around $7.6 million. It should be noted that these figures are from February 2019 and therefore will still have 4 months to go before End of Financial Year (EOFY).
* Grant funding is on par with budget and some IPA funding has been received and a further third quarter payment received in March.
* Unspent Grants funds is low due to currently unfilled positions which may mean a reduced amount of Administration recovery available. Both of these thing will impact the bottom line.
* Other income remains above budget
* Expenses
* Total expenses of $7 million are below budget at 63% which is similar to income; Salaries and wages costs of $5 million are just under budget.
* Adjustments to annual leave and long service leave provisions will need to be made by EOFY.
* Other items noted: Computer costs are currently down but anticipate future costs and Wathaurong are looking at a different IT provider; Motor Vehicle costs are under budget with insurance due in May 2019; Security costs are over budget, however the budget was incorrectly set at a significantly small amount; Training & Development costs are slightly over budget
* Most other expense items remain within or close to budget. The surplus to date has increased to $653,000 or 83% - well above budget. However we will need to readjust for any changes and other issues by EOFY.
* Lisa Briggs noted that all Commonwealth/State funding contracts come to an end as per the usual 3 year contract ending. Family Violence funding is a certainty but funding for Health Service is the uncertainty, we will need to wait until after election to tell you more.

Wendy Brabham put forward a motion that the members note the Wathaurong Finance Update presented by Edel Conroy.

**Moved:** Kiralee Hogema **Seconded:** Hayley Couzens

1. **Presentations**

* None

1. **Other General Business**
   1. **Wurdi Youang**

**Discussion:** Edel Conroy presented information on Wurdi Youang noting the following:

* Wathaurong received 4 years of funding for Wurdi Youang’s Management Plan; and the funding won’t continue past 12 months for this year (ends 30 June 2019) if we don’t successfully register Wurdi Youang as an Indigenous Protected Area (IPA). There has been an enormous amount of work at Wurdi Youang with limited funding.
* Edel presented information on Wurdi Youang and what it would mean for this site to become an IPA site. IPA requirements: consultation with Traditional Owners and Stakeholders, include relevant monitoring program within Department of Prime Minister & Cabinet, copies of Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with relevant agencies, letters of support. Once Wathaurong has Wurdi Youang registered as an IPA site, we will be eligible for additional Commonwealth funding for the Ranger Program.
* Wathaurong Aboriginal Co-operative and Wadawurrung meetings were held by a consultant. Three consultation meetings were held. The Department of Prime Minister & Cabinet were advised that other parties weren’t forthcoming with information.
* Judy Dalton-Walsh noted that Wathaurong has been a part of negotiations regarding Wurdi since 1999; and that Wathaurong has always had a Traditional Owner on its Board. This IPA will allow Wathaurong to proceed with management of Wurdi Young.

**ACTION: The Wurdi Youang Business Plan to be placed on Wathaurong Aboriginal Co-operative’s website.**

Lisa Briggs put forward a recommendation:

That the Wathaurong Aboriginal Co-operative members attending the Community Meeting held on Monday 29th April 2019 at Wathaurong Aboriginal Co-operative Limited 62 Morgan St, North Geelong endorse the Wurdi Youang IPA Plan of Management, action steps and directions that were presented by the Board, which will be submitted along with this recommendation to Prime Minister and Cabinet (PM&C) Indigenous Affairs Branch for approval of IPA status.

**Moved:** Hayley Couzens **Seconded:** Naomi Surtees

**Abstained:** None  **Recommendation Unanimously Carried**

* Wendy Brabham thanked Lisa Briggs for having conversations with PM&C and to Edel Conroy for the Wurdi Youang presentation. Wendy also stated that we have to acknowledge how we are privileged to work with Traditional Owners on significant sites.
  1. **Community Announcements**

1. **Community News**

**Discussion:**

* Margie Hayes acknowledged her newborn grandson (Mundarra Edwards) who attended his first Community Meeting and a warm congratulations were given to parents Jordy and Lily.
* Lisa Briggs thanked Shellee Strickland and Duane Luki for organising the School Holiday program, we expected 20 kids but actually had 100 kids attend.
* Duane Luki thanked Luke Searle, Kylie Clarke and Gary Hamence for their assistance as well.
* Lisa Briggs advised that there will be a Community Day in partnership with the Belmont Lions Sports Club. It will be held on 8 June and it’s the 4th time the Belmont Lions are hosting the Indigenous Round at Winter Reserve, it should be a great day for all.

1. **NAIDOC celebrations**

**Discussion:**

* Lisa Briggs advised that the NAIDOC calendar be finalised tomorrow and invited Ebony to speak more about the NAIDOC Ball.
* Ebony Hickey stated that the NAIDOC Ball will be held on Saturday 29th June. We’re looking at holding the Ball at Mount Duneed Estate with Corporate/Government sponsorship to help cushion the cost of tickets.
* Lisa Briggs then discussed the need for members and non-members ticket prices which will include the price of the required $50 alcohol fee if agreed to by those present.

Lisa Briggs put forward a motion that the Wathaurong Aboriginal Co-operative NAIDOC Ball will have a $50 alcohol fee per ticket for members.

**Moved:** Margie Hayes **Seconded:** Kiralee Hogema

* Ebony Hickey advised everyone to check Wathaurong’s Facebook page for updates on the NAIDOC events and the NAIDOC calendar.

1. **Health Services Announcements**

* Geelong Cats are holding a Healthy Heroes Family Night on Tuesday 30 April – this is a free event.
* Breast Screen Victoria and VACCHO along with Wathaurong Health Service are partnering to create ‘modesty shawls’ – so if you would love to, volunteer your time to participate in an artistic working group
* Health Check appointments now available – Adults receive a $25 Woolworths groceries gift card on completion. Children who complete one are eligible for the Back to School Packs filled with goodies.
  1. **Topics for next Community Meeting**

**Discussion:** Wendy Brabham asked for topic to be discussed at the next Community Meeting.

* Shellee Strickland suggested a discussion with Community on how to improve attendance at Community Meetings or getting feedback on why people are not attending. Hayley Couzens stated that there’s 110 staff at Wathaurong and not many attended tonight. Wendy Brabham encouraged everyone to bring someone to the next meeting. Lachlan Edwards suggested the next meeting be held on a Sunday as they were previously held then with a lot more attendance
* Justine McCarthy agreed with Lachlan that meetings used to be held on Sundays from 11:30am. Justine recommended ACJP – Community Justice Program as an agenda item.
* Renee Delamere spoke in her traditional Māori language and performed an Acknowledgement to our Elders past and present. Renee then introduced herself as someone who lives and works in Geelong, that it was her first time attending one of our Community Meetings, which she felt honoured to be here and listen to our discussions. Wendy Brabham thanked Renee and acknowledged the pain of other First Peoples especially with Treaty and Land Rights.
* Jordan Edwards asked that a Treaty Update be added to next meeting’s agenda.

1. **Meeting closed 6:44pm**