**Wathaurong Aboriginal Co-operative**

**Community Meeting**

**Sunday 23 June 2019**

**62 Morgan St, North Geelong**

**Commenced 11:30am**

**Attendees:**

Doreen Griffiths, Kailani Jones, Malakie Jones, Megan Frazer, Sarah Milo, Jordyn Flagg, Kiralee Hogema, Fiona Ryan, Stephen Walsh, Mick Ryan, Naomi Surtees, Judith Dalton-Walsh, Kristi Watts, Sophie Johnson, Hayley Johnson, Ebony Hickey, Kristie Fraser-Lange, Linda Tanner, Vicki Figg, Emily McDonald, Wendy Braham, Luke Searle, Hayley Couzens, Shane Clarke, Stephanie Lamont, Patrick Tanner, Duane Luki, Lisa Briggs.

1. **Welcome by Chairperson**

Wendy Brabham opened the meeting and 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 –**  **minutes silence**

Wendy Brabham asked that we observe a minutes silence for those who have passed here in our Community and across the state in other Communities.

1. **Apologies**

Craig Edwards, Kevin Bartlett (Finance Manager), Edel Conroy, Shellee Strickland, Jo Chester, Joleen Ryan, Jackie Brown, Tayla Marshall, Justine McCarthy, Michael Thorne, Kerrie Alsop, Reg Abrahams, Samantha Watts, Gary Hamence, Tony Meagher, Gina Chapman.

1. **Previous minutes**
   1. **Business arising from previous minutes**
2. The Wurdi Youang IPA Plan of Management application has been put forward to the Department of Prime Minister & Cabinet, we will apply to the Commonwealth to obtain implementation funds so we can implement the Wurdi Youang Management Plan.

**Discussion:** Judy Dalton-Walsh brought up that she is concerned that the dance circle at Wurdi Youang has been changed into more of a diamond shape by visitors to our property and she’s not happy with this change as there’s been a negative effect both culturally and spiritually because of this change. Judy stated that the dance circle itself was created by our local Community together; and that she would like for Wathaurong staff to consider there be a committee for Wurdi Youang so it can be utilised for more Cultural events. Wendy Brabham stated that she has concern for cultural events if Judy has issues with the dance circle and the spiritual connection being loss there; and believes that it is a discussion for the Traditional Owners to have. Stephen Walsh made two recommendations: 1) that a Wathaurong Community Day is to be held at Wurdi Youang within the next 6 weeks; and 2) that members of the Community form a Working Committee to handle cultural events. Lisa Briggs added that this needs to be an ongoing discussion with Community, to discuss what we will be doing with the property through IPA as well.

**Action: Wathaurong are to hold a Community Day at Wurdi Youang within the next 6 weeks.**

1. NAIDOC Update – the NAIDOC Ball is sold out and Community can access the holiday program that runs through NAIDOC celebrations on our website or Facebook page.
   1. **Acceptance of 29th April 2019 minutes**

* Moved with the following amendments from **1. Welcome by Chairperson** page 1:

*Wendy Brabham opened the meeting and acknowledged a Community Elder’s recent passing, Aunty Phoebe Nicholson from Wamba Wamba and Barapa Barapa.*

**NOTE: All members present satisfied with amendments made to the Community Meeting Minutes**

**Moved:** Kiralee Hogema **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, Lisa provided the following Finance Update:

* Funding reforms affect how much we get allocated. Reduction in Kinship which affects how much service is delivered. Milla Milla not mentioned in the IAS funding but new funding stream opened and we put in for funding for Early Years. Also new funding through PHN for Youth.
* IPA Wurdi Youang application submitted to Commonwealth – we will let members know of outcome and prepare for IPA funding for implementation of workplan.
* Health Services Funding application – we received $1.2 million; we put in application for extension to Health Services building and for a satellite clinic both are pending.
* Some Family Violence funding has been received to help support educational health and we have been invited to apply for additional funding to provide therapeutic support to families affected by Family Violence; and to apply for funding to capacity build within this area.
* DHHS Aboriginal Workforce Development Initiative – we partnered with Kangan Institute and we’ll be advertising shortly for 16 possibly 32 places for a 5 week construction course. Bus services provided to Broadmeadows and back. This course starts in August 2019.
* Unspent Grants Funds is low and will impact the bottom line as some unspent funds from 2018/2019 financial year will be taken back at end of financial year.

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

**Moved:** Judy Dalton-Walsh **Seconded:** Ebony Hickey

1. **Presentations**
   1. **ACJP – Community Justice Program**

Luke Searle was invited to speak by Lisa Briggs as the original speaker Justine McCarthy was an apology. **Discussion:** Luke advised that the Aboriginal Community Justice Panel (ACJP) is a membership of volunteers based in the Community which was bought about by Elders in the past to support those people in custody and ensure that it’s culturally appropriate. At the moment there’s a call for volunteers to be a part of the ACJP as currently there is only two people on the panel. It’s as simple as submitting an Expression of Interest and attending training day on 3rd & 4th July.

The data for 2018 showed that there was 500 community member call outs. The role of the volunteer will be as a call out, on a roster with a call out phone. They’ll be on call for Geelong, Queenscliff, and Colac. They’re to check in with the person in custody as a welfare check, this is to prevent deaths in custody. Depending on the membership of new volunteers being on call could be for a day or a week.

* 1. **Treaty Update – speaker Hayley Couzens**

**Discussion:** Hayley Couzens introduced herself as the Treaty Enrolment Officer for our local area and stated that the enrolling to vote and elect your representative to the First Peoples’ Assembly of Victoria is essential to have your voice heard. She noted that the dates have been extended for people to nominate as they are now opened until 16 August; and that voting will now start on 16 September to the 20 October.

Wendy stated that Yorta Yorta and Martang pulled out and that the 23 unrecognised groups not represented as there’s only 21 seats. There’s a lot of people with concerns regarding Treaty and suggested that people with concerns can contact Jill Gallagher.

Hayley advised that people can visit <https://www.firstpeoplesvic.org/> to see who’s nominated as a candidate and find out more information on Treaty.

* 1. **Introduction into Victoria Police – speaker Jordyn Flagg**

**Discussion:** Jordyn Flagg introduced herself as our local Aboriginal Community Liaison Officer (ACLO) for the Victoria Police (VicPol). Jordyn stated that the ACLO role was created as a result of Recommendation 231 of the Royal Commission into Aboriginal Deaths in Custody and her primary role as an ACLO is building the relationship between police and the Community. There are 13 ACLO positions across the state: Bairnsdale, Ballarat, Dandenong, Echuca, Footscray, Geelong, Knox, Mildura, Morwell, Northcote, Shepparton, Swan Hill, and Warrnambool. Jordyn’s mostly located at the Geelong Police station; however she also covers the areas of Lara, Colac and Apollo Bay.

Jordyn’s ACLO responsibilities include: Facilitating information across organisations (sometimes it may be easier to speak directly to a police member) however in situations where you have been unable to engage them Jordyn can step in and be a representative for you; Jordyn will attend community events as a representative of VicPol and where appropriate, facilitate police involvement; Raising police awareness on the importance of reporting and asking the Standard Indigenous Question (SIQ), completing the ACJP register, etc.

Her current priorities over the next 12 months are: Family violence - Increasing SIQ data on Family Violence report which are also known as L17s and developing the Aboriginal Family Violence Police Protocols (AFVPPs); Ensuring members receive cultural awareness training; Youth; Supporting victims and offenders; and Community engagement.

**Aboriginal Family Violence Police Protocols (AFVPP)**

Jordyn will focus on developing the AFVPPs over the next 12 months. The AFVPPs are an agreement between the local Aboriginal community and Victoria Police that document the local police response to family violence where a party identifies as Aboriginal. These protocols were developed due to a need to improve the police response to FV. The protocols were first piloted in 2008. Since then there are now 10 protocol sites across the division. Last year, Family Safety Victoria and Victoria Police committed to the state-wide rollout of the protocols.

Jordyn is currently working with Joey Chatfield (ACLO for Warrnambool) to establish AFVPPs. Once completed she will approach Barwon South West Dhelk Dja to identify who should be in the Local Reference Group to guide the development of the protocols and organising community and police forums to inform the protocols document. If you would like to have input into this process you can contact Jordyn Flagg to discuss.

**Police Aboriginal Liaison Officers (PALOs)**

Across the division we have 23 PALOs, these are sworn police members who hold the PALO portfolio for their police station. They hold a liaison role (both independently and in partnership with the ACLO) to resolve issues concerning Aboriginal people within their local area. If Jordyn’s unavailable, a PALO can assist in: Co-ordination and participation in community events; Raising awareness of VicPol within the Aboriginal community; Representing VicPol at meetings; and Facilitating in criminal and civil matters relating to Aboriginal people. Most of the PALOs will be completing cultural awareness training this week which has been developed by Nyuka Wara Consulting (Eddie Moore). Jordyn noted that she planned to evaluate the current PALO’s as she has recently found it hard to engage with some of the current PALOs.

**Accessibility of ACLO**

Jordyn suggested to Community that she could visit for a full day once a month at Wathaurong. Those in attendance agreed that a monthly visit from Jordyn was a good idea.

1. **Other General Business**

* **Housing – Lisa Briggs spoke on this topic before agenda item 7.1 Community Feedback**

**Discussion:** Lisa stated that there’s a framework to be develop to hold the State Government accountable. There’s a Shared Equity Program – to help low income earners achieve home ownership; and the Rent to Buy process was discussed. There’s more than one option on how to encourage home ownership for our people. Currently 660 three bedroom houses are needed by 2026, in the future Lisa would like to keep everyone updated on Housing for our Community and requested that we make it an ongoing agenda item for upcoming Community Meetings. Megan Frazer mentioned that there will be a NAIDOC stall for AHV – HomesVic, for Aboriginal people to find out more on home ownership.

**Action: Add Housing as a standing agenda item for all future Community Meetings.**

* 1. **Community Feedback – discussion on how we as a Community improve attendance at Community Meetings**

**Discussion:**

* Kristi Watts suggested transport being an issue to being able to attend meetings.
* Lisa Briggs stated we could arrange for a live stream for people unable to attend; Judy Dalton-Walsh advised that it depends on data as they would need to have the right plan to access a live stream.
* Kiralee Hogema suggested sending out a mail reminder for the people not on social media, as we already do Facebook reminders.
* Judy stated that herself and Mick discussed it and agreed that it needs to be put out there to Community that these meetings are a safe place to speak.
* Stephen Walsh suggested that a Q&A time could be added to the agenda.
* Kristi noted that she feels heard at these meetings, she also noticed that the Wathaurong website calendar isn’t updated and would like it updated for NAIDOC events.
* Shane Clarke wanted to add a suggestion regarding Wurdi Youang, that we invite the people who changed the shape of the dance circle into a shield shape to be a part of changing it back into a circle.
* Naomi Surtees agreed with Shane.
* Stephen agreed that we should invite that group of people to be a part of the Community Day at Wurdi Youang to fix the circle.

1. **Meeting closed 1:58pm**