**Wathaurong Aboriginal Co-operative**

**Community Meeting**

**Monday 26 August 2019**

**62 Morgan St, North Geelong**

**Commenced 5:30pm**

**Attendees:**

Kiralee Hogema, Gwenda Black, Eileen Smith, Naomi Surtees, Tahlia Dempsey, Shantelle Baillie, Lisa Briggs, Fiona Ryan, Wendy Braham, Kelly Clifford, Kylie Clarke, Jenny Megee, Emily Shelley, Shaun Coade, Kristi Watts, Allison Wellington, Wayne Wellington, Jordan Wellington, Ebony Hickey, Kristie Fraser-Lange, Vicki Figg, Tony Meagher, Kevin Bartlett, Megan Frazer, Lachlan Edwards, Craig Edwards, Jordan Edwards, Jordyn Flagg, Sandra Brogden, Duane Luki.

1. **Welcome by Chairperson**

Chairperson Craig Edwards opened the meeting and asked Lachlan Edwards to perform the Welcome to Country which he did.

1. **Respect protocol – minutes silence**

Wendy Brabham asked that we observe a minutes silence for those who have passed but before we do asked Lisa Briggs to speak. Lisa noted the passing of Tania Webber; she worked for a few years as Wathaurong’s AoD worker. Lisa also noted the passing of Shellee Strickland’s brother. Condolences to Tania’s and Shellee’s families.

1. **Apologies**

Mick Ryan, Edel Conroy, Shellee Strickland, Judith Dalton-Walsh, Maree Marston, Jo Chester, Joleen Ryan, Stephanie Lamont, Justine McCarthy, Aunty Margie Hayes, Donna Sinclair, Doreen Griffiths, Phil King, Samantha Watts, Kerrie Alsop, Mark Edwards, Naomi Edwards.

1. **Previous minutes**
   1. **Business arising from previous minutes**
      1. The Wurdi Youang IPA Plan of Management application has been put forward to the Department of Prime Minister & Cabinet (PM&C), and nothing formal has come back to say that it’s approved. Interim CEO Lisa Briggs will keep pushing for a response from PM&C.

**Discussion:** Wurdi Youang to be discussed further at a Board Meeting with Traditional Owners regarding how Wurdi Youang is utilised for Community. Craig Edwards noted that his youngest son will be running a cultural event there in the next few weeks.

* + 1. Aboriginal Housing Victoria (AHV) Report – Lisa Briggs noted that AHV have finalised the housing report and that we will put a link up for people to access the report if AHV approve to share

**Action: Link for AHV Report to be placed on Wathaurong’s website, once they approve us to share it.**

* + 1. ACJP – Ebony Hickey advised that they need 4 volunteers from community for training and need an ACJP Chairperson
  1. **Acceptance of 23rd June 2019 minutes**

**Moved:** Kristi Watts **Seconded:** Ebony Hickey

1. **Housing**

Lisa Briggs to provide Community with an update about Housing.

**Discussion:**

* Lisa Briggs noted that the AHV Report previously mentioned, highlighted the need for 660 three-bedroom houses to be built over the next 10 years – which will cost $8 million. There were discussions about the possibility of home ownership with assistance from AHV – HomesVic initiative.
* Kristie Fraser-Lange spoke to State Government about shared youth homes, looking at what that model would look like.
* Lisa added that Wathaurong need to develop mental health home with 10 beds for men and 10 beds for women as part of accommodation.
* Craig Edwards enquired about the status of Wathaurong Housing.
* Lisa advised that Wathaurong housing consists of 22 properties. The waiting list was updated after a call out to members. Currently 2 units need repairs not viable for tenants and a 4-bedroom house is vacant.

1. **Finance Update**

**Discussion:** Wathaurong’s Finance Manager Kevin Bartlett provided the following Finance Update:

* IPA is funded for another year (2019-2020)
* Applied for $1.5 million for infrastructure – to build second storey onto administration building
* Therapeutic Family Violence funded $280,000 this year
* Wathaurong have received a $90,000 grant from VACCHO to replace the roof to the administration building, work begins in early October
* $120,000 grant also received from VACCHO for updating our IT system
* End of Financial Year (subject for audit approval)
* Operating results looks like we will break even, the issue being we get funding and can’t spend it
* Increase in property valuations - over a 3 year cycle our properties get revalued, the sites revalued were: Surrey St site value increased, Colac buildings of which we have a 50% share and the value remained the same, 42 Cloverdale value increased, major asset is the land at Morgan St valued at $857,000 and this is reflected in Wathaurong’s Comprehensive Income
* Lisa Briggs noted that we applied for $7 million with the Commonwealth to expand the Health Services and they only approved $1.2 million
* Lisa added that the Commonwealth have added Wathaurong to the expansion list as we required 6 new consult rooms, an additional 10,000 sessions – we need to consider building 6 new consult rooms ourselves which will cost $900,000 and we will need a further expansion to ensure all services are at Morgan St site.

1. **Presentations**
   1. **Best Start – Mingo Waloom (Beginning Steps) – speaker**

Wathaurong’s Aboriginal Best Start Facilitator, Shantelle Lucas-Ballie presented a 12 page document to Community and noted the following:

Best Start has two **long term outcomes**:

* Children engage and participate in early childhood education.
* Children and families actively engage with MCH services.

Best Start have six possible **short term outcome** areas to choose from for the annual logic model:

* Service accessibility
* Service continuity and collaboration
* **Cultural Safety for Aboriginal Families** (Mingo Waloom Aboriginal Best Start 2019)
* Relationship based practice
* **Active outreach and engagement** (Mingo Waloom 18 month KAS visits)
* Family awareness and beliefs
* These outcomes will be decided through a community reference group
* Shantelle listed Mingo Waloom’s partners and stated that we can affect positive change within these organisations for our kids in Early Years and Maternal Child Health
* There is an Expression of Interest for community to join the reference group and if interested Shantelle can be contacted via the Co-operative.
  1. **FosterCare Recruitment – speaker Steph Lamont**

As previously noted, Steph Lamont is an apology due to being unwell, she will be asked to present at the next Community Meeting.

Kristie Fraser-Lange noted that there was a Forster Carer meeting coming up and that we need more Kinship Carers and encourage more Community to attend that meeting. Kristie added that we accredited our first foster carers recently and can’t stress how much we need foster care for 24-hour care or weekend care.

* 1. **GPA Health Service Accreditation feedback – Afterhours and Waiting times**

**Discussion:** Lisa Briggs announced that Wathaurong passed our GPA Health Service Accreditation but noted that we need to improve waiting times; and afterhours services – we have a provider for Geelong where you call and they will attend to you but you won’t receive that service in Colac. We are looking into extended hours on a Thursday night as part of an appointment system and possibly trial Saturday morning.

We’re currently advertising for 2 more GP’s and then we’ll look at how to commence trial afterhours services.

1. **Other General Business**
   1. **GPAC**

**Discussion:** Kylie Clarke and Kelly Clifford introduced themselves and noted they work for GPAC which is the Geelong Performing Arts Centre.

* Kylie runs an education program from pre-school to yr 12, which currently is 40 kids across 13 schools who attend programs like Parrwang Youth Arts program and Short Black Opera; GPAC is recognising our mob and our history of storytelling and art, and discussions on a Reconciliation Action Plan for GPAC has occurred
* Kylie explained that Parrwang Youth Arts program is connecting young Aboriginal children with Aboriginal artists where they learn dance, singing and visual arts
* Kylie added that Short Black Opera is facilitated by Deborah Cheetham for grades 4-6, and is empowering our young people through singing/performing; and from this a kid’s choir has emerged and they’re travelling Australia
* Ebony Hickey wanted to thank Kylie and Kelly for being able to provide feedback and being heard and for her kids being able to attend and participate in these programs at GPAC
  1. **Kangan Institute**

**Discussion:** Uncle Tony McCarthy introduced himself to everyone and stated that he was here to talk about the Certificate III in Civil Construction. It’s a no cost course being run jointly by Wathaurong and Kangan Institute. Wathaurong will provide uniforms and transport to Kangan Institute in Broadmeadows. We need 20 people to sign up, Lisa wants 32 and with this course there’s an assessment to ensure you’ve learnt what you need. We have a mentor to assist students and a numeracy/literacy test will need to be taken by students to assess if assistance is required. Megan Frazer added that Wathaurong’s Youth worker Tom Noulas will be there to support as well.

1. **Meeting closed 7:27pm**