

**Wathaurong Aboriginal Co-operative
Community Meeting
Monday 24 February 2020
62 Morgan St, North Geelong
Commenced 5:30pm**

Attendees:

Judith (Judy) Dalton-Walsh, Kailani Jones, Doreen Griffiths, Malakie Jones, Shantelle Lucas-Crane, Jan McGilvray, Kay Edwards, Shellee Strickland, Jordan Edwards, Ebony Hickey, Kevin Chang, Jayden Hickey, Naomi Edwards, Savanna Couzens, Kevin Bartlett, Eileen Smith, Megan Frazer, Rhys Jeffs, Kristi Watts, Kiri Wicks, Naomi Surtees, Alastair Vick, Vicki Figg, Hayley Couzens, Joylene Walsh, Kylie Clark, Fiona Ryan, Wendy Brabham, Gary Hamence, Sue Tapping, Aunt May Owen, Aunt Margie Hayes, Sandra Brogden, Ian Young, Lachlan Edwards, Linda Tanner, Jasmine-Skye Marinos, Lisa Briggs.

1. Welcome by Chairperson

Chairperson Craig Edwards not able to be present, so Wendy Brabham and Judy Dalton-Walsh co-chaired and opened the meeting; and Judy performed the Welcome to Country.

2. Respect protocol – minutes silence

Judy Dalton-Walsh asked that we observe a minutes silence for those who have passed.

3. Apologies

Mick Ryan, Jordyn Flagg, Maree Marston, Jo Chester, Fiona Schlenso, Joleen Ryan, Gwenda Black, Patrick Tanner, Kerrie Black, Alison Wellington, Wayne Wellington, Kristie Fraser-Lange, Helen Sullivan, Craig Edwards, Lyn McInnes, Sandy Manning, Stephen Walsh, Michael Thorne, Simon Thorne, Daniel Walters, Stacie-lee Murphy, Alan Murphy.

4. Previous minutes

a) Business arising from previous minutes

- None

b) Acceptance of 16th December 2019 minutes

Moved: Doreen Griffiths

Seconded: Joylene Walsh

5. Housing

Lisa Briggs provided the Community with an A4 flyer with an update about Housing from Housing Manager Fiona Schlenso.

Lisa Briggs also noted:

- For the Douglass St units requiring repairs, we are awaiting quotes for the repairs and is slow due to chasing up a police report. Our properties were surveyed by Aboriginal Housing Board and survey yet to be completed as 7 properties were not done.
- Wathaurong's Housing Manual is being reviewed by Fiona Schlenso.
- Victoria Aboriginal Housing – we are addressing the issue of homelessness and still working with them to be the standard.
- Victorian Premier Daniel Andrews promised 1000 new houses for Aboriginal Housing; in our service area to meet housing demands we'll need ten (10) new houses every year for the next five (5) years.

6. Finance Update

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

- Justin Haas has joined the finance team as the new assistant accountant; this will reduce the risk within the finance area.
- Budgets – still incomplete for this year, with 95% completed.

- Currently have \$60,000 in surplus but by end of financial year we are looking at a \$250,000 deficit.
- The roof to the administration building at Morgan St site has been completed.
- From the 2 March, scaffolding will be erected within the administration building to replace thatching ceiling as it may contain mould.
- The shade sail in the court yard has been retentioned as required.
- Kevin asked if there were any questions, there were none.

Motion: Finance Update is noted and accepted by those present.

Moved: Naomi Surtees

Seconded: Hayley Couzens

7. Presentations

a) Seeking Community feedback on engagement design of the Police Aboriginal Liaison Officers

Unfortunately, Jordyn Flagg was unable to present at this Community Meeting but this presentation will be at the next Community Meeting.

NB: Aunty May was not yet present for agenda item 7.b) LAECG presentation, the meeting moved forward with agenda item 8. Other General Business, until Aunty May arrived then we returned to 7.b) LAECG presentation.

8. Other General Business

a) Announcement of the Executive Board Position

Lisa Briggs noted that the Wathaurong's Board of Directors positions are as follows: Chairperson – Craig Edwards, Deputy Chairperson – Wendy Brabham, Secretary – Judy Dalton-Walsh, Director – Mick Ryan.

b) Board Meeting Outcomes

i) Dental Service

Discussion: Wathaurong's current dental service by Barwon Health is not enough for community, Shellee Strickland (Health Service Manager) will be checking if acquiring a dental van is a better option. Shellee introduced new staff member Dr Kevin Cheng, he will work four days a week. Dr Cheng moved from Albury where he previously worked at Albury Wodonga Aboriginal Health Service. Shellee also mentioned that an Aboriginal GP from up north, who is an Elder in their Community, will be joining Wathaurong's Health Service in 6 weeks' time.

ii) Aged Care

Discussion: Lisa Briggs noted that Wathaurong needs an Aged Care facility. Currently working on a business plan but need consultation with Community/Elders/other ACCO's. It will cost \$10 million to build. The biggest barrier though will be locating the land size to build it.

iii) Early Years (Child Care)

Discussion: Lisa Briggs stated that Wathaurong currently have Milla Milla playgroup but that a Wathaurong Child Care facility would support a child's development, lessons and the family as a unit. We need to engage someone to plan this Child Care facility, planning will include consultation with Community. We have the infrastructure to support Early Years and can embed LAECG within it.

7. Presentations

b) LAECG presentation

Aunty May Owen provided a verbal presentation to Community about the importance of LAECG in the Wathaurong Community.

Discussion: At the last Community Meeting Aunty May Owen announced that she was retiring from the volunteer position of Local Aboriginal Education Consultative Groups (LAECG) Chair and advised the position needs to be filled.

- There are 32 chairs in state of Victoria and Barwon is just one of them, they visit Melbourne 4 times a year.
- LAECG train teachers to have a Cultural perspective with the framework.
- LAECG is under the Victorian Aboriginal Education Association Inc. (VAEAI) umbrella. VAEAI started in 1978 when it was decided that we needed an Aboriginal voice in education and schools.
- 10-year plan – Marroong Plan – we have 16 out of 83 to go with training teachers.

- Aunty May explained that as Chair you may advocate for students, eg. If someone is going to be expelled the Chair would look at who does what to support the student which is a process that's a bit like AFLDM.
- LAECG have never elected a Chair there's always been someone who volunteers themselves when recruiting for this position.
- Lisa Briggs offered that Tahlia Demsey and Kristi Watts could possibly co-chair and that Wathaurong need to find a way to strengthen our support. Sandra Brogden added that she attempted contact with Kristi Frazer-Lange with no reply. Lisa will follow up with ChildFirst.

Action: Lisa Briggs to follow up with ChildFirst.

- Judy Dalton-Walsh stated that a Cultural Framework is being developed for Wathaurong as well. Judy enquired about a list of KESOs with the schools they're allocated to. Sandra advised that the list is provided every year to Wathaurong's managers and placed in the newsletter.

8. Other General Business

c) 40th Anniversary – Lisa Briggs provided the following update:

- We have engaged Glenn Shea to facilitate 40th Anniversary events.
- We are starting to develop the events calendar; the calendar will go to the Board first for review.
- Wathaurong's registration date, 22nd May, will kick off formal proceedings of celebrations.
- Gwenda Black developed a collection of memoirs on a Facebook page; it contains individuals' memories of the Co-operative over the last 40 years.

d) I.T. Outage – Lisa Briggs advised the following:

- We have four servers onsite at Morgan St and a lightning strike blew up three; this has affected our landline and internet connection at Morgan St.
- Health Services today was running with dongals for internet access.
- It will take 10-12 days for this issue to be fixed.
- We have placed a mobile contact number on our Facebook page and notified those with appointments by sms.

Action: Letter updating members of I.T. outage to be place on Facebook page and sent out by post.

e) Crown Land – Lisa discussed that the surrounding area at Morgan St was not for sale but that we are enquiring with COGG to see if we can acquire adjacent crown land by lease.

f) Other news

- Judy Dalton-Walsh revealed that the West Gate tunnel project exposed contaminated soil (asbestos and another carcinogenic substance); and will be transporting 1.5 million tonnes in Wyndham Vale. There are two schools proposed near the dump site. There's a Facebook action page if you would like more information and to protest this dump site happening.
- Joylene Walsh asked for clarification on Aged Care/PAGs having problems with lawn mowing. Lisa replied that Liz Abrahams advised to go through Jims Mowing but that we are looking at casual work for anyone in community that would do lawn mowing, as long as they have both the Police Check and Working with Children Check done. Sandra Brogden mentioned that Forster St needs mowing as well.
- Wendy Brabham asked that an agenda item be added for next meeting on how to best utilise Forster St.
- Kylie Clarke invited Community to the event 'Connections with Community Gathering' at Geelong Arts Centre (GAC). Kylie added that GAC are looking at a Reconciliation Action Plan next Thursday 5:30pm-7:30pm, Shu Brown was commissioned to do the artwork, and performances by Jessica Lloyd, Mick Ryan & Renee Howell as well.

9. Meeting closed 7:10pm – Wendy Brabham and Judy Dalton-Walsh reminded everyone that Pako Festa was on this Saturday 29th February and thanked them for attending. Gobata.