



**Wathaurong Aboriginal Co-operative
Annual General Meeting 2020-2021
Sunday 20 February 2022 Minutes
700-850 Little River-Ripley Rd, Little River**

Present: Beth Davis, Simon Flagg, Chris Murphy, Alice Knight, Stacie Murphy, Cameron Craig, David Tournier, Andrea Tournier, Nellie Flagg, Sandra Brogden, May Owen, Megan Frazer, Sandra Manning, Judy Dalton-Walsh, David Flagg, Wendy Brabham, Naomi Surtees, Melissa O'Donnell, Adele Welsh, Mark Shaw, Duane Luki, Peter Surtees, Yohan Kumaran, Vicki Figg, Jenny Megee, James McKinnon, Emily Shelley, Tahlia Landrigan, Bronwyn McColl, Penny Henderson, Richard Fry, Tahlia Dempsey, Todd Fry, Cheryl McMurrick, David Barnes, Judy Rosson, Alfie Oram, Fiona Ryan, Phill King, Jayden Hickey, Ebony Hickey, Kristie Fraser-Lange, Naomi Edwards, Jamie Butcher, Lillie Butcher, Shannon Ryan, Kylie Clarke, Shane Clarke, Jasmine-Skye Marinos, Renee Owen, Greg Cooper, Mick Ryan, Hayley Couzens, Kay Edwards, Lyn McInnes, Reg Abrahams, Jessica Brady, Tahlia Flagg, Crystal McKinnon, Carys Herbert, Lynne Lancaster, Joylene Walsh, Eileen Smith, Jannalli Lilburne, Vicki Figg, Kevin Chang, Brian McKinnon, Andrew Clarke.

Minute taker: Fiona Ryan

1. **Welcome** – Traditional Welcome to Country performed by Wadda-wurrung Traditional Owner Aunty Judy Dalton-Walsh
2. **Respect Protocol** – 1 minute silence
3. **Apologies:** Jo Chester, Joleen Ryan, Jackie Brown, Georgina Brown, Kristi Watts, Samantha Watts, Stephen Walsh, Simon Thorne, Michael Thorne, Mark Edwards, Craig Edwards, Jordan Edwards, Lachlan Edwards, Shellee Strickland, Linda Tanner, Patrick Tanner, Kerrie Black, Jordyn Flagg, Kaitlyn Flagg, Dale Owen, Laurie Owen, Margie Hayes, Allan Murphy, Christina Secombe, Megan Howell, Ricky Abrahams, Kiralee Hogema, Kerrie Alsop, Glenn Shea.
4. **Acceptance of Minutes**
 - a) **21st March 2021**

Wathaurong's CEO – Simon Flagg noted and responded to the listed action from the previous 2020 AGM Minutes:

Action 1: Upload the Financial Report 2019-2020 video presentation onto Wathaurong's website in member's section with password protection.

This wasn't able to be actioned as the website doesn't have the capability to securely upload a video. Currently we're looking at a member's portal to be established on Wathaurong's website, so members who can't make it to a meeting can access presentations through this portal. QR codes are also being considered as a way for members to access meeting information.

 - Wendy Brabham asked if there were any questions from reading the previous 2020 AGM Minutes
 - Nellie Flagg stated that she hopes that the member's portal won't take away from face to face Community meetings, as it's important for us to come together and to maintain that connection with Community.

NOTE: All members present satisfied with the 2020 AGM Minutes

Moved: Richard Fry

Seconded: Nellie Flagg

Minutes Carried

5. Financial Report 2020-2021

Wendy Brabham noted that Sripathy Sarma from our auditors LBW Chartered Accountants was an apology; and invited Wathaurong's Chief Financial Officer, Yohan Kumaran to present the financial report. Yohan presented the Financial Report to the Community as a PowerPoint presentation with the following noted:

Page 52 – Statement of Profit or Loss and Other Comprehensive Income

- Wathaurong increased its revenue, going from \$13,542,755 in 2020 to \$18,030,072 in 2021.
- Wathaurong's expenses have increased too. We have hired more staff to implement the additional services we have provided; and this has led to an increase in the staff training and development expense.
- Wathaurong's surplus (profit) for the 2020-2021 financial year was \$24,814.
- In Yohan's presentation last year – Wathaurong conducted a review on all of its funding and deliverables, and that created the big surplus we had in the previous year financial year. However, this year Wathaurong will breakeven. Wathaurong have ensured that when any extra funding is received that a plan is put in place and the money is spent according to the purpose it was provided for.
- The Movement in Asset Revaluation Reserve has increased to \$1,310,770.
- This significant increase in the Movement in Asset Revaluation Reserve was from the revaluation in Wathaurong's properties. Wathaurong revalues its properties on a rotational basis, so this growth was due to the increase in land and building value of Wathaurong's rental properties.
- Wathaurong's Total Comprehensive Income for the year was \$1,335,584.

Yohan showed a bar graph with the breakdown of Wathaurong's revenue into Government and self-generated income (non-Government) funding. The bar graph showed that a large portion of 2021's revenue came from an additional \$4.1 million in government funding; and a further increase from last year of \$300,000 was shown in Wathaurong's self-generated income. The growth in self-generated funds came from Medicare income which increased from \$943,684 in 2020 to \$1,053,311 in 2021, NDIS and Aged Care income which increased from \$435,166 in 2020 to \$472,665, and also from ensuring we bill external organisations whenever they use Wathaurong services for example renting office space or even when Wathaurong's staff are asked to attend external meetings or contribute to programs outside the organisation. Yohan congratulated Wathaurong's front line staff for continuing to increase Wathaurong's self-generated income which is in line with Wathaurong's goal of self-determination; and praised the back end corporate services team who continued to improve our processes and systems to facilitate this increase as well. Yohan noted that this was the first year Wathaurong received close to \$30,000 in donations. This was made up of notable donations from NG Hayes fundraiser (\$18,000) and Planetshakers (\$5,000); Yohan thanked Wathaurong's donors.

Yohan showed a bar graph displaying Wathaurong's total assets and total liabilities. He stated that the majority of our current assets are in Cash and Cash Equivalents at \$7,194,594. This shows that Wathaurong is able to meet its short term debts when and as they fall due. The majority of Wathaurong's liability relates to Unspent Grants and Grants Received in Advance at \$5,437,539. The Current Liabilities bar graph showed that Unspent grants had reduced from the previous year which shows that Wathaurong has delivered on all its current programs in 2021.

However, there was a large increase in other current liabilities due to a change in the accounting standards (AASB16). The new accounting standard has a new rule that anything you lease, such as properties and work equipment, needs to be treated as an asset and a liability. Refer to note 13 on page 64 of the financial report to view that huge increase in lease liability. This new rule increases both assets and liabilities by the same amount. The increase in leased property comes from the fact that we are now leasing the Albert Street building.

Page 53 – Statement of Financial Position

The Statement of Financial Position or Balance Sheet reports what we own (Assets), what we owe (Liabilities) and our net worth (Equity).

- Yohan noted that Wathaurong holds a healthy cash position. This also means that Wathaurong Aboriginal Co-operative is a solvent organisation and we have the ability to meet our debts as and when they fall due.
- We have \$7,194,594 in Cash and Cash Equivalents held in cash and term deposits as part of our Current Assets. Our Total Assets are \$29,824,465.
- The majority of our Current Liabilities are made up of Grants in Advance and leave liabilities. Our Total Liabilities are \$9,405,578.
- Our Total Equity or our total net worth is \$20,418,887 which shows a healthy balance sheet.

- Wendy Brabham asked if there were any questions about the financial report.
- Andrew Clarke asked what do Wathaurong spend the self-generated funds on?
- Yohan Kumaran answered that the self-generated funds are spent on Corporate Services, IT systems upgrade, lease for Albert St, to cover the needs for programs that government funding doesn't cover.
- Andrew Clarke asked if that includes the men's group program?
- Simon Flagg replied that Wathaurong don't receive a lot of funding in that space and through self-generated funds we want to fund these programs. At the start of every year a discussion is needed to outline what we want to do in those programs and look at the budget to see what we can do and how much additional funding is needed to achieve program activities.

- a) Adoption of audit report for financial year 2019-2020;

Moved: Richard Fry

Seconded: Mick Ryan

Motion Carried

- b) Confirmation of auditors for 2021-2022

- Wathaurong Aboriginal Co-operative will remain with LBW Chartered Accountants.

Moved: Nellie Flagg

Seconded: Ebony Hickey

Motion Carried

6. 2020/2021 Annual Report

Wendy Brabham asked the Community to take a moment to read through the 2020/2021 Annual Report.

Short presentations were given on each area instead, with the following noted:

Board Report pages 4-5

Wendy Brabham stated that the Board focused on Community and Cultural responsibilities so as to ensure that the Co-operative meets the needs of our Community. The Board are elected to advocate and work for our Community. The Board achieve this by considering what the priorities are for our Community and made decisions based on guiding principles and their experience which is then implemented through the strategic direction and governance of the Co-operative. Wendy acknowledged that Covid-19 has tested the Board and staff in their roles, and she thanked all staff at all levels for their dedication and commitment during the pandemic.

CEO's Report pages 6

Simon Flagg spoke on behalf of former CEO Lisa Briggs.

A lot of things changed during the 2020-2021 period, with staff engaging community by telehealth, online video calls to conduct meetings, cold-calling check-ups on community. Covid-19 really changed our operations and we are looking forward to getting back together as a community for events, meetings, appointments. We said farewell to our CEO, Lisa Briggs and we thankful to Lisa for all her work over the past few years to bring our organisation to where it is today. Tony McCartney also stepped down from the role of Executive Manager of Family Services, with Shellee Strickland moving into that role and Duane Luki stepping

into the role of Acting Health Services Executive Manager. Finance Manager Kevin Bartlett retired at the end of 2020, and we welcomed Yohan Kumaran as our new Chief Financial Officer. Despite Covid-19 limiting events, we were able to celebrate NAIDOC with a virtual Flag Raising and when restrictions eased we held family days and participated in the Pako Festa, see page 10 to 11 of the Annual report for more listed events. Wathaurong staff used technology to connect and engage with Community making sure to embed culture into everything we do.

Corporate Services Report pages 16-21

Simon Flagg advised that Wathaurong employed an average of 165 employees at any one time, of those 51% identified as Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander. We employed Community to make masks and as delivery drivers for Feed Me Bellarine. We had 14 staff members successfully complete their Diploma of Community Services Training, as well as over 175 staff members participate in elective training programs. A new payroll system (KeyPay) was implemented in March 2021. The Board have made housing a priority which means the creation of a maintenance team to assist in bringing our 22 properties up to standard, and creating a tenancy committee. For Wurdi Youang we are looking at how do we engage more with culture and use this site more. In Colac, we are looking at what do we do to further strengthen our services there. I.T. created Wathaurong's intranet, we are transitioning from deskbound organisation and becoming more mobile, staff are using laptops and doing more events offsite, and updating our security systems.

- Richard Fry asked what's the timeline for that I.T. infrastructure?
- Simon flag responded estimated 5 years

Family Services Report pages 22-35

Kristie Frazer-Lange provided report as Family Services Executive Shellee Strickland has resigned. Covid-19 made deliverables difficult but gave us different opportunities and ways in which to engage with Community. Wathaurong have now engaged a strategic policy lawyer. Melissa O'Donnell is a Practising Lawyer who is supporting our leadership team to provide strong advocacy on policy and legal reforms as well as supporting Wathaurong's position when it comes to attending and supporting in the court rooms. Melissa O'Donnell has been an absolute asset in providing stronger legal advocacy regarding child protection. Our Family Services staff works hard to ensure that our Family Services programs are delivered in a cultural way whilst also in a professional, empathetic manner, and that client needs and the best interests of the children are at the forefront of everything we do. Next financial year there is significant change being made to our Family Services programs as we see our ASF and C2K funding streams merge into the FPR funding stream. Whilst we are excited at the new opportunities that this is going to bring in training and support for our staff, we do see there being some slight barriers to the intake process for our community. Our team has been and will continue to push back against the governments departments to ensure that our programs are being run the best possible way for our community. Milla Milla playgroup engaged clients with online programs, as did Early Years with online videos teaching skills in cooking and gardening. In Justice we have legal engagement to assist community in working off fine debts.

Health Services Report pages 37-43

Duane Luki acknowledged the Health Services team for steering through Covid-19 and the Community for their patience. Engagement has grown from 2,700 active patients to 3,000+ utilising health services. Highlight is the Feed Me program servicing 240 families and Wathaurong being able to employ 5 of our youth for the service. Delivering 1340 meals per week to Community.

- Andrew Clark asked if food parcels are being continued?
- Simon flagg answered that Feed MeBellarine operate that program but we can assist in registering community

- Duane Luki added Covid-19 packs are available to support those with Covid-19 and also stated that 89% of 16 + years Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander people in Geelong region are fully vaccinated and that we are still continuing to vaccinate our mob from 5 years old and up, at the Ford Factory Vaccination site.

Wathaurong Glass and Arts pages 44-45

Wathaurong Glass has been impacted by Covid-19 with profit decreased from the previous year.

Motion: That the members accept and endorse the presented 2020/2021 Annual Report.

Moved: Richard Fry

Seconded: Mick Ryan

Motion Carried

7. Election of Directors (two vacancies)

Wendy Brabham advised the Community on the process of the Election of Directors.

In accordance with the Act, the Wathaurong Board called an Annual General Meeting, with a notice calling for nominations to fill two vacancies. This was advertised in the Geelong Advertiser on 18th of December 2021 and within Wathaurong's December 2021 community mailout.

No nominations were received and as such no paper ballot election process is required. As per the Constitution, if at the Annual General Meeting at which an election should take place, and with the position of any retiring directors not filled, the Board will treat these two unfilled director positions as casual vacancies. Wendy also encouraged members to put their hand up to sit on the Board, stating that it is an honour to sit on the Board

- Naomi Edwards asked about a specific staff and/or junior position on the Board.
- Wendy Brabham replied that constitution revision is required at a Special General Meeting to make the change to ensure young people are sitting on our Board.
- Joylene Walsh asked if there is training provided.
- Wendy Brabham responded that governance training is provided and was previously delivered by VACCHO in Melbourne.

Wendy Brabham acknowledged and thanked Craig Edwards and David Flagg for their time on the Board and for fighting for Community.

8. Meeting closed

The Acting Chairperson, Wendy Brabham thanked all for attending today. Wendy thanked the rest of the Board, Simon Flagg and Wathaurong's staff, and then called the meeting closed at 12:20pm.