

# Wathaurong Aboriginal Co-operative Annual General Meeting 2021-2022

## Meeting Minutes

10:30am on Sunday 26th February 2023  
700-850 Little River-Ripley Rd, Little River



**Present:** Judith Dalton-Walsh, Renee Layton, Jan McGilvray, Doreen Griffiths, Simon Flagg, Wendy Brabham, Stephen Walsh, David McLachlan, Beth Davis, Joleen Ryan, Megan Frazer, Alley Taylor, Robert Harley, Jordan Edwards, Lily Graham, Eileen Smith, Josephine Chester, Phill King, Mikali Harrison, Kylie Clarke, Ben Silva, Glenn Shea, Finn Reilly-Shea, Mia Reilly-Shea, Fiona Schlenso, Ciarnah Schlenso, Sandra Brogden, Ammie Howell, Merryn Daley, Kristi Watts, Wayne McEwan, Darren Martini, B. A Pratt, K. Cassidy, Vicki Figg, Nellie Flagg, Lyn McInnes, Richard Fry, Joel Apma Hayes, Bri Apma-Hayes, Jenny Megee, Todd Fry, Ryan Trickey, Genine Trickey, Nikki Carroll, Kay Edwards, Patrick Tanner, Linda Tanner, Shannon Secombe, Rhiannon Saunders, Karen Scanlon, May Owen, Ilona Rose-Sliwa, Renee Howell, Colleen Howell, David Tournier, Simon Thorne, Andrea Tournier, Gwenda Black, Jessica Brody, Kristie Fraser-Lange, Ebony Hickey, Jayden Hickey, Phil Knox, Catherine Gibbs, Trevor Reg Abrahams, Louise Warner, Craig Edwards, Duane Luki, Jamie Butcher, Brian McKinnon, Jill McKinnon, Jasmine-Skye Marinos, Alfie Oram, Jason Kanoa, Mark Thompson, Piper Knox, Hayley Couzens, Shane Clarke, Nicole Kirby, Joylene Walsh, Jess Rhall, Cass Surman, Siarah McDermid, Taige Crossman, Jess Eagles

**Minute taker:** Megan Frazer

### 1. Welcome by Acting Chairperson

Wendy Brabham welcomed Wathaurong Members to the 2022 AGM.

### 2. Welcome to Country

Judy Dalton-Walsh delivered Welcome to Country in Wadda Wurrung language.

### 3. Respect Protocol – one minute's silence

Wendy Brabham acknowledged our Elders, Family and Community Members who have passed.

### 4. Apologies

Rose De Jong, Layla Boseley, Emma Brown, Merrin Kelly, Jordyn Flagg, Kaitlyn Flagg, Mick Ryan, David Flagg, Fiona Ryan, Rhys Jeffs, Michael Thorne, Daniel Walters, Jackie Brown, Georgina Brown, Tahlia Dempsey, Megan Howell, Belinda Foley, Cohen Apma-Hayes, Corey Baulch, Greg Cooper, Dale Owen, Laurie Owen, Denise Charles, Jasmine Knox, Naomi Surtees, Jannalli Lilburne, Sharelle McGirk, Kerrie Black

### 5. Acceptance of 20 February 2022 AGM Minutes

Wathaurong Acting Chairperson Wendy Brabham gave Members time to review the 2020-2021 minutes and invited questions or comments, of which there were none. There were no actions arising from the previous minutes.

**Motion:** Wathaurong Members accept the 2020-2021 AGM minutes of 20 February 2022.

**Moved:** Lyn McInnes      **Seconded:** Kristi Watts

**Motion Carried**

## 6. Financial Report 2021-2022

### a) Adoption of audit report for financial year 2021-2022

Wathaurong's Chief Financial Officer Yohan Kumaran presented the Financial Report as at 30 June 2022 with auditor Jackson Donnan from LBW Chartered Accountants, noting the following:

- Wathaurong experienced significant growth over the last 4-5 years
- An operational profit of \$100,000 was forecast but due to recruitment challenges that resulted in reduced spending, the actual profit was \$259,123. There is no requirement to return the surplus as the targets set by funding bodies were still met
- NDIS Aged Care income increased to \$518,241 due to additional community care package delivery; while Medicare income decreased to \$948, 448 as bulk billing consults reduced
- Wathaurong has enough cash and property assets to cover all potential liabilities

In response to questions from Members, Yohan and CEO Simon Flagg advised the following:

- The Board of Directors ongoingly oversee the finances by reviewing all the monthly financial reports at their Board meetings, aided by the Finance, Risk and Audit Committee
- Wathaurong leadership are exploring different avenues of self-generated income to fund activities not covered by government funding such as Community engagement and events, and this does not jeopardise Wathaurong's Not-For-Profit status
- This audit was the smoothest for over a decade in part due to improved internal processes

**Motion:** Wathaurong Members adopt the audit report for financial year 2021-2022.

**Moved:** Richard Fry      **Seconded:** Gwenda Black

**Motion Carried**

### b) Confirmation of auditors for financial year 2022-2023

**Motion:** Wathaurong Members remain with auditors LBW Chartered Accountants for financial year 2022-2023.

**Moved:** Richard Fry      **Seconded:** Nellie Flagg

**Motion Carried**

## 7. Annual Report 2021-2022

Wendy Brabham acknowledged that the 2021-2022 financial year was good for the Board in terms of consistency, their productive working relationship with the CEO and Executive Managers, and the introduction of the Finance, Risk and Audit Committee to review and endorse financial reports to the Board.

Simon Flagg introduced the Annual Report, noting the following:

- Some key staff finished in their roles at Wathaurong and are thanked for their significant contributions, in particular:
  - Lisa Briggs as CEO
  - Shellee Strickland as Family Services Executive Manager
- Jason Kanoa joined Wathaurong as Community Strengthening and Health Executive Manager
- Wathaurong leadership is focused on Community with a commitment to embed Culture into everything we do
- The Morgan St redevelopment was launched with Community consultations, and starting with over \$15 million government funding for the project

### Family Services report

Executive Manager Kristie Fraser-Lange presented the report, noting the following:

- Family Services were challenged with recruitment and retention of staff after Covid
- Successes included:
  - Staff managing to conduct their regular activities including home visits, despite lockdowns and other restrictions
  - The team were one of two Aboriginal Community Control Organisations (ACCOs) who were successful in securing Family Violence Access Point funding
  - Cultural Strengthening has been a focus for Orange Door family violence staff
  - The Justice team increased by one full time employee to have a male and female worker

To questions Members raised during the report, Kristie and CEO Simon Flagg advised the following:

- Kristie and Simon have been working with government on funding models to increase foster and kinship care, and participating in a working group with the Premier Dan Andrews to develop an Aboriginal community-led out of home care model
- Models to improve mental health support for out of home care young people are being developed, including
  - how to include doctors and Social and Emotional Wellbeing staff in the Youth Hub when it opens
  - getting back to the days of direct community engagement

### Community Strengthening and Health Services report

Executive Manager Jason Kanoa presented the report, noting the following:

- Delivery of services in these departments face challenges such as:
  - Staff difficulty in engaging with Community outside of service delivery so new models are being explored
  - Wathaurong need nine full time doctors but only have three, so we are advocating to government
  - The Medical Benefits Scheme (MBS) funding has not increased with inflation, so we are voicing this to the National Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisation (NACCHO) to advocate

To questions Members raised during the report, Jason, CEO Simon Flagg and Acting Chair Wendy Brabham advised the following:

- Effectively providing support outside of business hours is something that needs further Community consultation as current funding models do not allow for this
- The Board are exploring a better complaints and feedback process, incorporating the existing Clinical Governance Committee
- Staff burnout in high pressure jobs a serious concern, Community-led solutions such as engaging volunteers with lived experience
- Wathaurong's Colac Community Development Officer said that Colac was seeking a second day of GP services and requested that this be minuted

### Corporate Services report

Acting Executive Manager Rose De Jong presented the report via a pre-recorded video as she was unable to attend in person, noting the following:

- Thanks to Mark Shaw who led the Corporate Services team through this period
- Personal achievements for staff included:
  - 13 staff studying their Graduate Certificate in Domestic and Family Violence
  - Two staff commencing AFL SportsReady Traineeships in Business Administration
- 24 staff focus groups with 105 staff members held across 2021/2022 to codesign the Strategic Plan Refresh

- Centering staff voices into anti-racism actions and advocacy
- Growth in Wurdi Youang's self-sowing native grasses
- We are informing cultural responsiveness in the development of a Colac Early Years Sector
- Service improving upgrades to IT systems and processes
- Successful completion of the Human Services Standards accreditation which acknowledged Wathaurong's risk, quality and cultural competency focus within our strong governance and operational processes
- 104 Community Members receiving NDIS and Aged Care services
- A 50% increase in Facebook and Instagram followers

**Motion:** Wathaurong Members accept and endorse the presented Annual Report 2022.

**Moved:** Fiona Schlensog

**Seconded:** Stephen Walsh

**Motion Carried**

## 8. Board Election

### a) Ballot Voting

Wendy Brabham introduced the Election agenda item, noting that the Board represents Community, before stepping down as Acting Chair. To a round of applause from Members. CEO Simon Flagg thanked the Board for their service, especially long term Directors Wendy Brabham, Judy Dalton-Walsh, Shane Clarke, and also to Ammie Howell and Craig Edwards for temporarily helping out. Simon then explained the conditions of the election, including:

- The vote will be overseen by three independent persons (all impartial non-Members): Jessica Eagles (Aboriginal Lawyer at Rennick & Gaynor Solicitors), Jason Kanoa (Executive Manager Community Strengthening) and Beth Davis (Communications and Events Manager)
- Only Wathaurong Members can vote
- Collect a voting slip and place an X in the box of your five preferred Directors

The eight nominations were:

- Judith Dalton-Walsh
- Shane Clarke
- Ammie Howell
- Glenn Shea
- David Tournier
- Brian McKinnon
- Joleen Ryan
- Wendy Brabham

The standing Board members were:

- Wendy Brabham, Acting Chairperson
- Judy Dalton-Walsh, Secretary
- Shane Clarke
- Ammie Howell
- Craig Edwards

### b) Election Outcome

CEO Simon Flagg announced and congratulated the elected Directors, in no particular order:

- Judy Dalton-Walsh
- Ammie Howell
- Glenn Shea
- David Tournier
- Wendy Brabham

**9. Meeting closed**

Simon acknowledged and thanked the other Board nominees, congratulated Community, and thanked all staff, including those involved in setting up the AGM, being Communications Manager Beth Davis, Dave McLachlan and his Works Crew team, and the Wurdi Youang team.

**Meeting closed 12:50pm**

DRAFT