

## **Sustainable Living Armidale Inc.**

### **Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on 5th July 2018 at 7.05pm at Kent House, 141 Faulkner Street, Armidale**

**Present:** Iain MacKay (Convenor): Jan Brahe, Joy Bowles, Brian Connor, Priscilla Connor, Joc Coventry, Dale Curtis, Sue Elliot, Jody Evans, Tom Fisher, Mahalath Halperin, Craig Johnson, Jo Leoni, Martin Levins, Terry Manley, Peter O'Donohue, Liz O'Hara, Eddie Schloegl, Jeff Siegil, Bruce Stevenson, Helen Stokes, Helen Webb.

**Apologies:** Patsy Asch, Bar Finch, Sarah Johnstone.

#### **1.0 Confirmation of Minutes**

The minutes of the previous AGM held on 7th July 2017, which had been circulated in advance, were moved Jo Leoni and seconded Jody Evans and were confirmed.

#### **2.0 Business Arising**

There was no business arising from the minutes.

#### **3.0 Convenor's Report and Welcome to country**

The Convenor, Iain MacKay, welcomed members, and stated that SLA was now 10 years old and that the visioning forum on the anniversary had three ideas come to fruition in the last six months. He then asked the Convenors of the groups to present a brief report from their group to the meeting as follows.

##### ***Community Garden***

- A year of steady progress rather than highlights;
- Two pomegranate trees added - total of food-bearing trees now 25;
- Garden beds becoming deeper and more fertile;
- Pathways becoming more clearly defined and navigable;
- Perennial beds - asparagus, Welsh onions, strawberries - all becoming well established; and
- Ongoing publicity for garden in book *Our New England Table*.

##### ***Armidale Action on Coal Seam Gas and Mining (AACSGaM)***

- 3 years of National Highway Actions
- Leard and Pilliga CSG and Coal Mining Tours
- Member of North West Alliance
- Submissions re Santos 7000 page EIS
- Work with Wando Conservation & Cultural Centre
- Films 'The Bentley Effect' & 'Cultivating Murder'
- Knitting Nannas

##### ***Energy***

- Every two years we hold a Sustainable House Tour. The next Tour will be this September 8th 9<sup>th</sup>;
- In March we initiated an ongoing series of articles, published weekly in the Extra, under the title *Climate Matters*; and
- The energy group is also looking for new participants and a new project.

##### ***AASCGaM***

- Tag-Along Tours to the Pilliga continue
- Screening of "Sacrifice Zone"
- Maules Creek Community still fighting for the implementation of the Water Trigger

##### ***Transport***

- Obtained \$3,800 RMS funding for 2017 Bike Week
- Held Bike Week event being a group ride from UNE along the cycleway, to then participate in a Rivercare working bee on Dumaresq Creek in September 2017
- Followed public debate regarding proposed New England Rail Trail and developed draft policy position
- Developed submission to Armidale Regional Council to justify up to \$15,000 expenditure on new Bicycle Strategy and/or Integrated Transport Strategy
- Developed \$3,500 funding application to RMS for Bike Week 2018.

### **Armidale Local Food**

- Continuing involvement with Farmers Market stall with at least 4-6 local growers each month;
- Our New England Table cookbook participation;
- Attempts at events very poor attendance;
- Stepping down so open for anyone interested.

### **Waste & Boomerang Bags**

- Boomerang Bags involvement, every Saturday, ~ 200 bags so far;
- Pre-Ban the Bag pre-empted by Coles and Woolies banning anyhow;
- Water bottle ban harder, with UNE not interested as is big revenue raiser for them.

Iain thanked all the Convenors and groups for their on-going efforts on behalf of SLA.

## **4.0 Treasurer's Report for the year end 30 June 2018**

The Treasurer, Jody Evans reported that it has been another steady year of operations for Sustainable Living Armidale, with the following highlights. Nor was she aware of any significant outstanding payments to be made, nor any unbanked outstanding receipts.

- Bike week, in September, was again supported by a generous grant from Roads & Maritime Services;
- The Community Garden continues to finance its' operations with strong produce sales at the farmers markets;
- However, it is the support from the community, through donations, attendance at monthly forums and the RAB Community Partnership program that continue to provide financial backing for the group's ongoing activities, raising awareness of issues relating to sustainability;
- As at the end of the financial year, having realised a profit of \$3,220.08, the combined SLA account balances held at Regional Australia Bank came to a total of \$36,527.78. This amount comprises general funds of \$18,980.93, AACSG&M fundraising monies held in trust to the amount of \$971.22, Boomerang Bags fundraising monies of \$161.45, (also held in trust) as well as \$16,414.18 held in the separate Community Garden account. The figures shown on the SLA Financial Statement reflect the net position of the Community Garden account and the AACSG&M and Boomerang Bags trust funds. There are separate detailed financial statements available for anyone who is interested in taking a closer look; and
- As of the end of financial year, SLA had 42 financial members. All membership subscriptions become due and payable at the AGM on 5th July, 2018.

## **5.0 Election of Office Bearers**

Iain MacKay assumed the Chair, declared all positions vacant, and invited nominations for the following positions.

- **Convenor:** Mahalath Halperin nominated by Joc Coventry, seconded Peter O'Donohue. There were no further nominations, Mahalath elected unopposed.
- **Secretary:** Sarah Johnstone nominated by Jody Evans, seconded Mahalath Halperin. There were no further nominations, Sarah elected unopposed.
- **Treasurer:** Jody Evans nominated by Mahalath Halperin, seconded Jan Brahe. There were no further nominations, Jody elected unopposed.

Iain advised that the following delegates had been recommended by their Action Groups, and following endorsement by the meeting, become members of the Coordinating Committee.

Patsy Asch (Energy);  
Tom Fisher (Transport);  
Jo Leoni (ALF - temporary);  
Jo Leoni (Community Garden);  
Jan Brahe (AACSGaM);  
Peter O'Donohue (Waste); and  
Iain MacKay as web/SLAM etc

## **6.0 Close of meeting**

A motion from the floor thanked Iain MacKay for his role as convenor for the last six years.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 7:28pm, and was followed by July Forum.