**Sustainable Living Armidale Inc.**

**Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on 2 July 2015 at 7pm**

**at Kent House, 141 Faulkner Street, Armidale**

**Present:** Iain MacKay(Chair): Patsy Asch, Bea Bleile, Joy Bowles, Kerri Clarke, Brian Connor,Joc Coventry, Carly Davies, Kevin Dupe, Bar Finch, Mahalath Halperin, Cathy Lamont, Jo Leoni, Elyssa Manley, Terry Manley, Robyn Newberry, Margaret O’Connor, Peter O’Donohue, Richelle Roberts, Pat Schultz, Margaret Sharpe, Hani Soliman, Helen Webb; Sarah Johnstone (Secretary).

**Apologies:** Jan Brahe, Tom Fisher

**Welcome**

Iain welcomed everyone, and noted that no proxies had been received.

1. **Confirmation of Minutes**

The minutes of the previous AGM on 3 July 2014, which had been circulated in advance, were confirmed.

1. **Business Arising**

There was no business arising from the minutes.

1. **Convenor’s Report**

The Convenor, Iain MacKay, welcomed members, noting that it was pleasing to see two local Councillors present, namely Margaret O’Connor and Peter O’Donohue. He introduced a visual report of the past year’s activities reminding members that SLA was about facilitating local action on various issues through such activities as Forums, exhibitions, fundraising and the Autumn Festival. As web editor, he advised the meeting that the website was now hosted in Sydney, and the performance had improved significantly. He then asked delegates from each Group to report on the past year, including the highlights and challenges as set out below.

***Community Garden***

Jo Leoni commented that the Community Garden had a great year, and the highlights were as follows:

* The garden was expanding with berries and pumpkins now occupying the western end, and planting outside the fence continuing;
* The Garden had been given a mulberry and a fig tree, making a total of 14 fruit trees;
* Volunteers have contributed an average of 54 hours a week;
* Vegetables not traditionally associated with the area had been grown, including sweet potato, snake bean and Yukon;
* A group of Year 5/6 from Armidale City Public School had made a film regarding the Garden, and had won the competition, thus the Garden received a donation of $2000; and
* The visit of Costa Georgiadis on Saturday 23 May had been very successful, with him making a number of good suggestions, such as putting in a pond.

Iain thanked Jo on behalf of SLA for all her work with the Garden.

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

Kerri Clarke commented that it had been a very busy year for the Group with the main activities relating to supporting actions at the Pilliga and Leard State Forests and Maules Creek. Highlights included the following:

* Showing the movie FRACKMAN as a fundraiser and associated Forum on Coal Seam Gas was very successful;
* Working with North West Alliance;
* Running Tours in the Pilliga and Leard Forests, and publication by Pat Schultz on the Pilliga;
* Supporting all areas against CSG and coal, particularly the Galilee Basin;
* Trying to find more out about local gold mining activities; and
* General education and awareness activities, including Knitting Nannas, petitions and protest activities.

***Energy***

Patsy Asch reported on the following activities undertaken by the Energy Group over the last year.

* A Light bulb moments booklet had been completed, which was largely aimed at renters through Real Estate agencies. The Group was particularly concerned about low income households, and their energy usage, so may get involved in a number of schemes related to this group in the future;
* Serious lobbying around the Renewable Energy Target had been undertaken;
* A sustainable House Tour had been organised, with a very good diversity of houses;
* The Group had hoped to establish a bulk buying insulation scheme, but this had proved difficult. However, it was now working on a comparative document which hopefully would be available soon;
* New England Wind was anticipating a new project, which the Group would support;
* Encouraging companies to rent roof space for generating energy; and
* The Group had agreed to suspend its activities for the next six months, while the Road to Paris campaign was being undertaken.

***Transport***

Tom Fisher reported that Bike Week events were the main ones that occupied the Group in the last year. The Pedal to Piney and Community Challenge had been the main activities, as unfortunately the planned Bike to Brewery ride had not taken place.

***Armidale Local Food***

Mahalath Halperin reported that the highlights for the Group in the last year included the following.

* Food from the Community Garden;
* The Home Grown Tour, which had featured 10 very diverse gardens in March; and
* Two sessions focussing on cooking and preserving local produce and one session on Solar cooking methods in June.

***Road to Paris***

Richelle Roberts reminded the meeting that the Group had been established to raise awareness of the Climate Summit to be held in Paris in December 2015. The Group was aiming to get community engagement across a wide cross section, and had put the following activities in train.

* An advertisement in the paper with names of all those individuals and organisations supporting the Group’s statement on climate change;
* Showing the move Frackman;
* Conducting a survey to find out why people do not accept climate change;
* An eight week campaign in the press, providing an article each week on some aspect of climate change;
* Public events to raise awareness, including the BlackGully festival; and
* Getting schools involved through the production of the petition.

Iain thanked all the Convenors for their reports.

1. **Treasurer’s Report for the year end 30 June 2015**

The Treasurer, Robyn Newberry, advised the meeting that the Financial Report had been circulated by email to all members, but presented the report on screen to talk to it. Robyn commented that it had been another good year of operation for SLA and highlighted the following points.

* A grant from Roads and Maritime Services to support Bike Week;
* A successful Sustainable House Tour;
* Growing operation of the Community Garden;
* At the end of the Year SLA held a total of $25,458.54, realising a profit of $5,595.58; and
* As of the end of financial year, SLA had 55 financial members. Membership subscriptions become due and payable at the AGM on 2rd July, 2015.

The meeting resolved to adopt the Financial statement for the period ending 30 June, 2015.

*Moved Bar Finch, seconded Joc Conventry.*

1. **Election of Office Bearers**

Joc Coventry took the chair, declared all positions vacant, and invited nominations for the following positions.

* Convenor: Iain MacKay nominated by Mahalath Halperin. No further nominations, Iain elected unopposed.
* Secretary: Sarah Johnstone nominated by Bar Finch. No further nominations, Sarah elected unopposed.
* Treasurer: Robyn Newberry nominated by Iain MacKay. No further nominations, Robyn elected unopposed.

Iain resumed the chair, and 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);

Mahalath Halperin (ALF);

Jo Leoni (Community Garden);

Kerri Clarke (AACSGaM); and

Richelle Roberts (Road to Paris).

Iain reminded all present that the SLA structure encourages members (at least 3) to set up action groups to pursue a goal or activity consistent with SLA’s vision, mission and values.

1. **Close of meeting**

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 7:55pm**,** and was followed by the Thursday Forum.