**Sustainable Living Armidale Inc.**

**Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on 4th July 2019 at 7.00pm**

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

**Present:** Mahalath Halperin(Convenor): Bronwyn Baker, Kate Boyd, Joc Coventry, Dale Curtis, Sue Elliot, Jody Evans, Tom Fisher, Sarah Johnstone, Ingrid Kalf, Jo Leoni, Iain MacKay, Janis McCarthy, Liz O’Hara, Carol Shantal, Hani Soliman, Izabel Soliman, Helen Webb.

**Apologies:** Patsy Asch, Bar Finch, Carol Mackerras, Peter O’Donohue, Graham Patterson, Wendy Smith.

1. **Confirmation of Minutes**

The minutes of the previous AGM held on 5th July 2018, which had been circulated in advance, were confirmed.

Moved Iain MacKay, seconded Jody Evans.

1. **Business Arising**

There was no business arising from the minutes.

1. **Convenor’s Report and Welcome to country**

The Convenor, Mahalath Halperin, welcomed members, and spoke to a presentation listing SLA’s achievements over the past year, which included the following.

* The year’s forums which included ‘How can I help refugees in Armidale’; Biochar for Sustainable Soils; Eco Burial; Alternative Energy Options; Veganism and Cooking Demonstration; Council’s Sustainability Projects; Regen Ag; Local Food Waste; Battle to Conserve UNE Habitat; and Drought in Armidale;
* Sustainable House Tour with 10 houses over two days in September 2018;
* BlackGully Festival in November 2018;
* Stop Adani road show in May 2019;
* Retrosuburbia with David Holmgren in July in the Town Hall with over 200 people attending; and
* The movement of the website to a secure server.

She then invited Convenors of the Groups to briefly outline the main activities of each Group.

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

* Pat Schultz conducted tag along tours into the Pilliga
* Rehabilitation of the Pilliga has failed where the spill
* Member of North West Alliance and attended Ag Quip in August
* The CWA and ALP were calling for the re-routing of the train line
* Written to four Ministers and completed numerous submissions
* Change of representatives for Community Consultative Committees
* Knitting Nannas; and
* Stop Adani protests.

***Community Garden***

* Apple, fig and pear trees have been planted, plus a herb garden during the last year
* A swing set has been erected in the garden replacing the tepee
* Over 2600 volunteer hours were recorded in the last year; and
* Drought was the main issue now, hence mulching and compost were the major activities taking place.

***Armidale Local Food***

* The backyard garden tour planned had to be deferred due to the drought
* The Farmers Market stall has continued throughout the year
* When the drought breaks, the Group was considering undertaking some garden permablitz and garden swaps.

***Energy***

* The Sustainable House Tour was very successful
* A series of articles on Climate matters; and
* The petition to Council to declare a Climate emergency currently had over 400 signatures

***Transport***

* Bike week in 2018 was successful, partially as a result of introducing the QR code. Unfortunately the main organisers are away this year, so it will not be conducted in 2019
* Production of videos on bike riding; and
* Meetings with Council had resulted in some symbols on roads, but further infrastructure was needed.

***Reduce, Recycle and Reuse Boomerang Bags***

* Renamed the Group Reduce, Recycle and Reuse
* Boomerang Bags still continuing with reduced numbers
* Licensed premises were asked to join Straw no More campaign with little success; and
* UNE was asked to discontinue selling single use water bottles with no success.

***Wildlife Habitat Group***

* Work on walking track Judith St to Platform Road
* Koala mapping and saving habitat – Edgar Lane
* Working with Council on wildlife corridors and saving habitat; and
* Submissions into relevant enquiries.

Mahalath thanked Convenors for their reports, and commented that there were some exciting events planned for the year ahead, including the launch of the SLA Youth Awards at a Youth Forum on 3 October, when the singer Montaigne would be the guest.

She also presented Jo Leoni with a Certificate of Appreciation and Life Membership of SLA for her “tireless, never-ending, dedicated and stubborn determination and passion for the Armidale Community Garden”.

1. **Treasurer’s Report for the year end 30 June 2019**

The Treasurer, Jody Evans reported that it has been another steady year of operations for Sustainable Living Armidale, with a net surplus of $2505.04 and a total balance of $39,032.82. The meeting agreed to accept the Financial Statement for the period ending 30 June 2019 as presented.

**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 Jody Evans, seconded Tom Fisher. There were no further nominations, Mahalath elected unopposed.
* **Secretary**: Sarah Johnstone nominated by Liz O’Hara, seconded Mahalath Halperin. There were no further nominations, Sarah elected unopposed.
* **Treasurer**: Jody Evans nominated by Kate Boyd, seconded Mahalath Halperin. There were no further nominations, Jody elected unopposed.

Mahalath Halperin advised the meeting 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);

Wendy Smith and Graham Patterson (ALF);

Jo Leoni (Community Garden);

Jan Brahe (AACSGaM);

Liz O’Hara (Wildlife Habitat)

Peter O’Donohue (Waste); and

Iain MacKay as Web/SLAM

1. **Close of meeting**

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 7:45pm**,** and was followed by July Forum.

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