

Atlas of Life in the Coastal Wilderness

Meeting Minutes

11th December 2023, Bega Library Meeting Room, 11:00am

AGM

1. Welcome and acknowledgement of Country: Raymond (Chair)

2. Present & Apologies

Present: Raymond Daly (Chair), Raymond Daly (Secretary), Andrew Morrison (deputy Chair), Bob Georgeson, Deb Taylor, Libby Hepburn, Luke Hamilton, Nick Lee, Jacob Shields, Erin Moon (via phone), Paul Whittock, Cath Marriott

Apologies: Patricia Daly (Treasurer), Jess Taunton, Linda Churchill, Danie Ondinea, Maggie Clowes, Jess Bettanin, Liz Allen, Scott Baker

3. Minutes of AGM 2021

Raymond explained that minutes were circulated by e-mail and reported that there were no corrections.

Raymond moved that the 2022 AGM minutes be accepted. Seconded Deb. Carried.

4. Chair's Report

Raymond spoke to his written annual report inviting project leaders present to talk to their projects.

The following highlights were noted:

Tathra Wharf Ecosystem Restoration Project

Luke talked to the events of the year he advised that our work is on hold until it is safe to dive under the wharf again, the current stage of the renovation is quite dangerous for divers.

Luke announced that a grant had been secured for an underwater camera which will be able to live stream from under the wharf on a 24*7 basis. The system will stream to YouTube and there are plans to have it live on the Atlas website. The camera has a lighting system which means it can be used at night as well. Another development of the project is a new technique for restoration of the kelp which is being trialed as part of the project.

Life in our Cemeteries

Raymond spoke briefly to his written report.

The Bush and Us

Jacob spoke to his project as written and adding that the Vincent Fairfax Family Foundation grant which has been secured is significant and will ensure the future of this project, once the initial Mumbulla grant is quitted.

Bioluminescence

Raymond spoke briefly to the written report that Scott had provided.

Merimbula Wharf

Nick spoke to his report and remarked that a grant was in the pipeline for further work on the project and that a Reef Life partnership may be considered.

Great Southern Bioblitz

Raymond spoke briefly to the written report.

Science Week

Raymond thanked Libby and Doug for their support in arranging the Science Week programme this year. The new committee will need to decide if we try and rebuild the Sapphire Science hub or consider alternate approaches and further to that what level of Science Week programme, we put together for 2024.

Raymond acknowledged the tremendous contribution that Doug Reckord had made to the Science Week programmes in past years and to the creative support that Libby had provided.

Cath Marriott asked whether the Atlas had considered running events for the Cruise ships visiting Eden. It was explained that various ideas had been explored in years gone by and we had not found a level of interest to warrant the effort.

5. Treasurer's Report

Raymond explained that Patricia had had to travel to Scotland on urgent family business and he gave her apologies for not being able to be present. Raymond spoke to the detailed numbers in the audited finance report and the spreadsheet analysis that Patricia had provided.

In summary we finish the calendar year in what for us is a strong position. Once all project liabilities are accounted for and our ongoing costs for the balance of the year, we have a small but significant surplus.

This has been achieved thru ongoing donations, annual income from council under the MOU which runs to June 2025, and we have started to charge a small fee for admin and marketing when we auspice projects. Luke suggested that this could be increased. Raymond commented for now we will hold it at current level and see how that goes for a period.

Raymond proposed that the Treasurer's report be accepted and that he be authorised to sign off the Audited accounts, seconded Paul, carried.

6. Election of Committee Members

Raymond reminded the meeting of the rotational structure of the Committee, as defined under the ALCW Constitution. This year, Group 2 is due to step down.

Group 1 (Re-election year - 2024)

Patricia Daly, Erin Moon, Jessica Taunton, Jacob Shields

Group 2 (Re-election year - 2023)

Andrew Morrison, Maggie Clowes, Liz Allen, Paul Whittock, Raymond Daly

Raymond vacated the Chair and Libby assumed control of the meeting.

The following Committee members' term expired at this AGM:

Andrew Morrison, Maggie Clowes, Liz Allen, Paul Whittock, Raymond Daly

Raymond advised that Maggie, Liz and Paul were all stepping down after many years of diligent service, Raymond thanked them all for their contribution and advised that all had offered to help in the future should it be needed.

Raymond and Andrew agreed to stand for re-election, two nominations were received for the committee they were Bob Georgeson and Deb Taylor. As there were no objections all were elected unopposed.

Raymond resumed control of the meeting and thanked Libby.

General Business

6.1. Banking

Raymond advised that banking arrangements need to be changed because of Bob's election and pending move to be Treasurer (The positions of Treasurer and Secretary will need to be voted on at first committee meeting).

Raymond Daly proposed that Mandi be removed as a signatory and that Raymond Daly and Bob Georgeson be added as signatories and given access to online banking. Raymond further proposed that debits cards of Libby and Patricia be returned and that Raymond Daly and Bob Georgeson be given debit cards. Seconded Libby Hepburn, carried.

6.2. Future funding

Raymond remarked that potential sources of funding to be considered in 2024, are Inspiring Australia and Landcare. New committee to consider further.

6.3. Membership

Raymond raised the issue of the membership system. Following a discussion where several ideas were discussed it was agreed that the new committee should consider improvements to the current system.

6.4. Photo Competition

Paul raised the topic of the ever-popular photo competition. The photo competition wasn't run this year purely because of the lack available resources. Paul offered to help to run the competition in 2024. Raymond commented that Jess Taunton had raised it with him as well. Libby offered to help with it as well. The meeting agreed that the photo competition should be part of our 2024 programme.

6.5. Asset Lists

Raymond stated that it would be good to create a list of assets that could be utilised by our various projects. This action to be taken up by the new committee.

6.6. Future Meetings

Raymond suggested that dates be set for three meetings during 2024, Libby suggested a first meeting in January to create a plan for the year, this was agreed. Raymond to organise.

7. Meeting Closed 12:12