



Bruny Island Community Association Inc.

C/- Post Office Alonnah 7150

ABN 50847 581 523

Minutes of General Meeting held at Lunawanna Hall Sunday 11th November 2018

Opened 11.04am Megan Weston, Chair.

Present 26 J Kobylec, J & M Pforr, R Sandford, M & B Weston, R & D Andrews, L Champine, N Weetman, R Finlayson, K & W Darby, L & T Story, G & S Kingston, L Graham, L Haigh, J Self, T Rayner, L & L Garnham, T Butcher, L Keep, L Raintree

Apologies 10 D & J Boyer, R & F Davis, M & K Duncombe, M McCann, J Mahjouri, J Finlayson, D Welch

Previous Minutes Moved J Kobylec 2nd B Weston that previous minutes be accepted - Passed.

Business Arising

1. Roadside Rubbish Clean-up – Megan Weston advised she had spoken to Kingborough Council and asked for assistance to enable volunteers to carry out a roadside clean-up on Bruny Island.
2. Whale Pod Sculpture, Adventure Bay – Tony Rayner advised maintenance work on the sculpture was commencing today.
3. “The Board” Proposal – Megan Weston advised she had met with Mathew Fagan to discuss “The Board” proposal and would report later and open up the meeting for discussion.

Correspondence

In

- PMAT Membership – Megan Weston advised we are a member of PMAT but no representatives have attended any meetings. It was moved by R Sandford and 2nd by L Champine that Wayne Darby be the BICA representative at PMAT meetings – Passed. Megan said she would advise PMAT accordingly.
- TAMP – Megan Weston said she had received a media release re fish farms and mentioned that Rosemary Sandford is the BICA rep with BSA.
- Email from Library President Jessie Mahjouri thanking BICA for writing to Libraries Tasmania re naming confusion with the change of name at the Online Centre

Out

Letter to Libraries Tasmania re confusion of name change at the Online Centre

Moved L Story 2nd N Weetman that corro in be accepted and corro out be ratified – Passed

Financial Statement

Tabled Moved B Weston 2nd J Self that it be accepted – Passed

Reports

Library – Megan Weston read out a report emailed by Jessie Mahjouri. Jessie advised there was a great turn up for the AGM held on the 27th of October, despite the terrible weather. We were all very sorry when Darry Welch tendered her resignation as President, as she and Ken are leaving Bruny. Darry has been a tireless worker and advocate for the Bruny Island Community Library for many years and a most effective President. She will be greatly missed but we wish her well in her new ‘bigger island’ life. We also would also like to give an enormous vote of thanks to our retiring Auditor, Beryl Smith. Our new committee is President – Jessie Mahjouri, Secretary – Janet Harrison, Treasurer – David Boyer, Auditor – Geoff Byrne assisted by Keith Smith, Committee – Janet Quigley, Dian Byrne, Denise Driver Tracy and Lockie Story.

Men's Shed – Terry Butcher advised that the parking area was being paved by Kingborough Council. The group are also expanding and planning on building another shed.

BICAL – Linda Graham advised BICAL met Saturday 10th Nov 2018. There was much discussion re starting a community volunteer service on Bruny. Shelley Haas, the volunteer coordinator at the RHH, is very much part of these discussions. A planning meeting is scheduled for early Feb 2019 and a community information session is planned for later in Feb 2019. Concern was put to our group re the discrepancy between the wishes/expectations of the Bruny community and what is actually delivered by the health service was discussed. Community transport was also discussed though this is being managed already.

BIFRG – Lindon Haigh advised the primary focus of the BIFRG meeting #8 was a presentation by Peter Hubble (Manager Traffic South) indicating the proposed staging of infrastructure works at both Kettering and Roberts Point. Stage one of works at Roberts point is well under way as promised and should be complete by November 30.

Extra queueing lanes are to be installed and the walk-on parking has been relocated to the opposite side of the road past the bus shelter.

Sealink assured us that lifejacket access and signage were all compliant. Sealink also indicated they regularly count passenger numbers, especially when there are buses on board, to ensure that the passenger numbers do not exceed the number of lifejackets available.

Assurance was also given that the Bowen will be available 365 days of the year, and that ferry vehicle and passenger transport is to be prioritised over other works.

The question of booking systems was raised as a general discussion. The likelihood of a booking system of some description may be inevitable especially for commercial operators. However the discussion remains open as infrastructure improves, and ferry capacity increases. Sealink are capturing data on islanders, tour operators and other commercial activities with interesting results. The data collection program will be enhanced over summer with the engagement of more staff.

Sealink is drafting a rewards program with benefits for Islanders and their visitors. However there has been no decision on special arrangements (priority) for any particular group in the community.

The next BIFRG meeting #9 is in mid December

BICHSAC – Megan Weston reported on the following issues discussed recently.

1. New Associate Nurse Unit Manager position for Bruny Island is still a work in progress.
2. At a recent meeting with Julie Collins MP, she has encouraged BICHSAC to consider making a submission to the recently announced Aged Care Royal Commission.
3. There is now an announcement on the CHC page in the Bruny News encouraging people who have recently been discharged from hospital to make contact with the nurses to see if any assistance can be given.
4. The issue of Community Transport Service Tasmania was raised regarding various issues which have been less than ideal for Bruny residents using the service and for the volunteer drivers. It was resolved to contact the CEO of CTST to invite a representative to the next meeting to discuss issues affecting Bruny residents.
5. Issues arising from the workshops have included training for volunteers as community visitors. Tasmanian Health Service has stated that the volunteers would need to be considered as THS volunteers to receive insurance cover. The possibility of providing training for a Certificate III in Aged Care has also been discussed. There will be an article calling for expressions of interest in becoming a volunteer in the December Bruny News. Training is anticipated to be held early in 2019.
6. BICHSAC had sent a request to the Minister for Infrastructure in the past requesting priority for the pharmacists to access Bruny Island in the mornings. The Pharmacy has also followed up with Sealink to no avail. BIFRG have been asked to raise the issue as an inability to access the island may result in us losing pharmacists and could be detrimental to health for some
7. There was some discussion about the Glensyn Units, a recent inspection and the receipt of an unsigned letter, purporting to be from Council, by the tenants. It was noted that there is a formal agreement between Council and BICHSAC that Council will consult with BICHSAC in the selection of tenants.

8. New GP service commencement date has been delayed by Crown Law holding up the contract. Apparently the request for a 5 year contract instead of a 2 year one is something that they seem to be having difficulty with. My latest information is that Huon Regional Care will cease providing doctors as of the 16th November. I have had contact with the new GP Service which is now waiting for the contract to be signed so that they can commence. They are very concerned about the delays.

Council Elections – Jeff Self reported that he had received 252 first preference votes at the recent council elections. Jeff said the results are on the Kingborough website.

General Business

1. Beryl Smith's "thank you" celebration – Megan Weston mentioned a morning tea function is to be held at the Bruny Bowls and Community Club at Adventure Bay on Wednesday the 12th of December at 10.30am. This is to thank Beryl Smith for all the honorary auditor work she has carried out over many years for numerous Bruny Island organisations. A couple of members from each of the organisations Beryl has audited for will be invited to attend. It was moved by L Champine and 2nd by M Pforr that BICA officially acknowledges and would like to thank Beryl Smith for all the honorary auditor work she has carried out over many years for numerous Bruny Island organisations – Passed.
2. Article on BICA for Bruny News - Megan Weston read out the following article she intends to put in the December Bruny News.

Myth versus reality.

There is a myth being fostered upon our community that there is animosity between BICA and the Bruny Island Advisory Committee to Kingborough Council.

To set the record straight BICA has never attacked BIAC, nor in fact attacked any Bruny Island community organisation, and believe me I have researched this thoroughly, so I can only conclude that that this is a deliberate attempt to denigrate and undermine BICA in the eyes of our Bruny Island community.

Just to remind you all, BIAC is made up of individuals only, who may or may not belong to community groups, who are not on BIAC as representatives of any island group, just as individual citizens. Those individuals submit nominations to Kingborough Council for selection as BIAC members.

I defy anyone to show me where BICA has committed any of these alleged attacks on or undermined BIAC in any way.

The question must be asked "Where are these people who are constantly attacking BICA coming from? And what is their ultimate purpose?"

This community is constantly being bombarded on Bruny Notices about the dreadful things that BICA, or BICA representatives, has done or said and these accusations have absolutely no basis in fact. This is causing needless divisions within this community and seems aimed at causing a complete breakdown in the very strengths of our community.

Who are these accusers? I personally could name ½ dozen people who seem to be intent on perpetuating these lies about BICA and for what reason? Whipping up antagonism towards BICA? Why?

These are all lies about our community organisation and as the newly elected President of BICA I have had enough and I now call out these lies and liars.

Now is the time for BICA to say we have had enough of this:

- a) We have seen numerous & constant false allegations against BICA on Bruny Notices
- b) We've seen community members vilified should they defend BICA or BICA members on Bruny Notices to the extent that many will no longer participate nor speak out
- c) We've seen threatening phone calls to BICA members and the defacement of private property
- d) We endured outrageous criticism of BICA & the Bruny News but interestingly not of the money BICA raises and distributes to community groups.

All of this can only be seen as an attempt to destroy BICA and by whom and to what end?

This has to stop now as it is dividing our community; it is political and should only be seen as a mechanism to destroy BICA in the eyes of the Bruny Island community.

The attacks and accusations against BICA have increased dramatically over the year and have now started to impact on the lives of the Bruny Islanders by raising alarm and causing concern and division within our once peaceful community.

BICA was attacked, interestingly by the usual ½ dozen individuals on Bruny Notices for:

- * calling the Public Meeting about Health Services in February attended by some 200 islanders
- * sending a BICA delegation in May to the Minister for Infrastructure to argue against a ferry booking system for residents and highlighting the road safety concerns at ferry parking at Roberts Point and at Kettering
- * calling a public meeting in conjunction with Friends of North Bruny, Bruny Island Environment Network & Bruny Island Primary Industries Group, about the ferry booking system in July, attended by some 200 islanders

And while I am on a roll let's put a stop to this parochial rubbish about people who were born here having more rights than people who have moved here to live by choice and people who are ratepayers and stay on the island intermittingly.

We are all part of this community so I wish to reiterate to you BICA's basic objects which are

1. To maintain and develop the quality of life on Bruny Island
2. To preserve the important elements of the special character of Bruny Island, and
3. To support the development of or alteration to the attributes and qualities of the Island that contribute in a positive way to the enhancement of its character.

Megan Weston

President

Bruny Island Community Association

There was spontaneous applause at the meeting after Megan read out this statement. It was then moved by T Rayner and 2nd by J Pforr that this meeting accepts Megan's statement about BICA and fully supports her in publishing the article in the Bruny News – passed.

3. Operation of BICA MyState Account – It was moved by L Story and 2nd by T Rayner that the new signatories to operate the BICA MyState account should be David Boyer, John Kobylec, Megan Weston and Lindon Haigh – Passed.
4. Spare Laptop – Megan Weston advised that BICA has a spare laptop that belonged to the Bruny News Editor. After some brief discussion it was moved by N Weetman and 2nd by J Pforr that the surplus BICA laptop be donated to the Bruny Island Men's Shed – Passed.
5. The "Board" Proposal – Megan Weston advised she and Lockie Story had recently met with Mathew Fagan to discuss the "Board" proposal. At the meeting Megan suggested that Mathew write a memo about the "Board" and she will read it out in full at the next BICA meeting. Megan then read out the following memo

MEMO

On Thursday 8 November, Megan Weston, Lachlan Story and Mathew Fagan had a polite discussion about a range of matters affecting Bruny, particularly the proposal currently being developed to reform BIAC.

Mathew is a member of the BIAC sub-committee researching this proposal (along with Bill Hughes, Jackie Marsh and Jenny Boyer).

Megan and Lachlan identified issues of concern being expressed by members of the Bruny Island Community Association and recommended some key matters be clarified by the BIAC sub-committee as a matter of urgency.

Mathew has consulted with the sub-committee, which has agreed to clearly state:

1. There are only two key elements to the proposal. First, that BIAC members are elected by Islanders, rather than being appointed by Council. Second, that BIAC has direct liaison with State Government, as well as remaining an Advisory Committee to Kingborough Council.
2. The proposed reform to BIAC being developed by the sub-committee is not a 'fait accompli'. When it is sufficiently detailed to cover the known issues (for example, how a fair and inclusive Bruny election could take place) it will be distributed to the whole community for discussion. This discussion will take place in a number of ways, including community meetings.

3. The 'Bruny Island Community Board' is just a suggested name change for the reformed BIAC. If the name change causes concern, it can be dropped. Also, the idea of having an Island-based community development worker to assist the reformed BIAC (and other community groups) is open for discussion. This type of worker is common in communities across Australia and all ideas on the best job description for this proposed role are welcome. Megan has kindly undertaken to put this information to the next BICA meeting. Hopefully this will ease concerns and misunderstandings and help the community fully consider these proposals in a meaningful and respectful way.

BIAC sub-committee

Jackie Marsh, Bill Hughes, Mathew Fagan and Jenny Boyer

8 November 2018

Extensive discussion then took place about the "Board" proposal. Concern was expressed about the accuracy of the conclusions made in the recent Bruny Island Liveability Survey report based on the data that was presented in that report. Concern was also expressed about the concept of the "Board" and that it may diminish the democratic process currently existing on Bruny Island.

Meeting Closed 12.45pm.

Next meeting will be at 11.00am on Sunday the 9th of December at the Bruny Bowls and Community Club at Adventure Bay.