



Annual General Meeting
Meeting held Tuesday 26th November, 2024.
12.00pm via Zoom

Present:

Allison Roberts	Horsham Plaza
Andrea Cross	Shane & Andrea Cross Builders
Annie Mintern	Horsham Rural City Council
Catherine Shirrefs	Morrow Motor Group
Chan Uoy	Dimboola Imaginarium
Jacqui James	JMJ - EA for a Day
Maggie Bridgewater	Rural financial counselling service
Mark Clyne	Harcourts Horsham
Stacey Taig	West Vic Business and C1
Vanessa O'Loughlin	Wimmera Southern Mallee LLEN
Vicky McClure	Green Taylor Partners

1) Welcome (Mark Clyne)

2) Apologies

Members: Paul Atherton - Wimmera Mallee Waste Management, Tanya Stanley - Beetanicals, Lauren Monaghan - Your Family Vet

Other: Olivia Morris - HRCC

Motion: That the apologies be accepted.

Moved: Andrea Cross

Seconded: Allison Roberts

Carried

3) Minutes from Previous AGM

A copy of the [previous AGM minutes](#) was emailed out to attendees prior to the meeting. There was no business arising.

Motion: That the Minutes of the Previous AGM be accepted as a correct representation of proceedings

Moved: Catherine Shirrefs

Seconded: Jacqui James

Carried

4) Chairpersons Report

It's been a big year for the WVB Executive. Lots of things are happening that we can and cannot control. In the last 12 months as whole, although not in all industries the labour market has eased up. We note the retirement of some business owners and the transition of people due to technology and mergers of businesses. Some businesses have reached their end of life as their products are no longer required or been taken over by online shopping. Comments received is that traditional retail is under pressure from what a customer expects; service, product knowledge, stock on hand. In the retail space the consumer experience is greater than what it was. Their is now a Macca's mentality, consumers want it now and quickly.

We continue to place emphasis on livability, balancing work and play. Initially this was to entice workers for the labour market. We have put an emphasis on water assets and brought key stakeholders together. Bi-monthly meetings with key stakeholders are getting some good wins there. Bringing those groups together is a big win and will transition

in the next few years.

In line with that, the Wimmera as a whole is welcoming new people. The transition of people in rural areas such as those born and bred from the Mallee in the last 30 years and moving to Horsham as the farmers retired, that transition is over, we can't rely on that transition to fuel or sustain our population. We have to keep thinking outside the square. Our focus on livability is part of that.

We don't have influence as a business group over government decisions, good or bad, such as in renewable energy, mining, grains industry. Our role as a chamber of commerce is to educate and assist our members to adapt. That is our role, not to get involved in tat for tat or different opinions, just straight down the line.

The last two years with Stacey we have been working to identify strengths and weaknesses. It's been good to see growth in service, trade and hospitality. Agriculture will always fluctuate, the weather this year has been turning farmers spending patterns on and off.

We're looking forward to several announcements to be made in the next 12 months. We expect our area to continue to grow and our regions must be ready to embrace the opportunities that will flow on from this.

It's great to see new faces in local councillors in the shires. We have some new people to meet and share our vision for the area. A new CEO in HRCC is a fresh start

Congratulations to Chan Uoy, elected Deputy Mayor of Hindmarsh, a role he will fill well.

The future working with the council will be interesting.

Special thanks to Catherine Shirrefs as Treasurer for all her hard work. It's appreciated and things wouldn't run as smoothly without her.

The passion of Ambassador Stacey Taig shows year after year, we are very lucky to have someone as capable as Stacey. Well done and thanks to the Exec who donate their time and thoughts to move this region forward in a positive and collaborative approach. We're lucky to have a good team to push away negative thoughts and move forward in a positive manner.

Motion: That the chairperson report be accepted

Moved: Andrea Cross

Seconded: Vicky McClure

Carried

5) **Treasurers Report**

Catherine Shirrefs presented a copy of the financials for the financial Year 2023-2024.

Motion: That the financials be accepted as true and correct.

Moved: Catherine Shirrefs

Seconded: Jacqui James

Carried

6) **Ambassadors Report**

Stacey Taig spoke of the work carried out by the organisation in the past year and plans for the future (as presented in the Annual Report).

7) **Resignation of Office Bearers**

Resignation of executive committee members: Jessica Koenig-Fisher

Motion: To accept resignation of Exec Committee Members

Moved: Vanessa O'Loughlin

Seconded: Vicky McClure

Carried

8) **Election of Office Bearers**

Mark declared all Positions Vacant and asked Stacey Taig to take us through proceedings.

As there was only one nomination for each of the positions, it was declared all positions as nominated.

Therefore, the following positions are deemed to be elected:

Chairperson	Mark Clyne
Vice Chair	Andrea Cross
Treasurer	Catherine Shirrefs
Secretary (Public Officer)	Catherine Shirrefs
Ind. Sector Rep (Accommodation)	Glenn Ryan
Ind. Sector Rep (Building)	Matthew Coutts
Ind. Sector Rep (Education)	Vanessa O'Loughlin
Ind. Sector Rep (Agriculture)	Maggie Bridgewater
Ind. Sector Rep (Tourism)	Andrea Cross
Ind. Sector Rep (Motor Ind)	Catherine Shirrefs
Ind. Sector Rep (Real Estate)	Mark Clyne
Ind. Sector Rep (Retail)	Allison Roberts
Ind. Sector Rep (Finance)	Vicky McClure

Shire Rep (Hindmarsh)
Shire Rep (Yarriambiack)

Chan Uoy
Jacqui James

Nominations were called from the floor:

With no further nominations for the remaining positions it was declared that the vacant positions as outlined can be nominated and accepted by the executive committee at other times during the coming financial year.

Motion: To accept all nominations filled currently

Moved: Andrea Cross

Seconded: Catherine Shirrefs

Carried

9) Appointment of Auditors

Motion: That Auditors to be re-appointed for the 2024/25 financial year are Jason Hargreaves of CountPro, 20 Lydiard Street South, Ballarat VIC 3353.

Moved: Vicky McClure

Seconded: Vanessa O'Loughin

Carried

10) Final Words

Mark thanked all attendees and encouraged them to continue working with Councils to achieve their goals.

Meeting Closed: 12.45pm

Signed

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Mark Clyne

Chairperson

West Vic Business