

Minutes of the 2009 AGM of Low Isles Preservation Society

Held on September 29, 2009 at the Community Hall, Port Douglas

Apologies:

Jill Booth
Rhona Eastment
Ed Green
Wendy Kenna
Ian & Leanne Kruger
Shirley & Loftus Overend
Heidi Taylor
James Watson

Present:

Ray Legg
Karina Lund
Danny Vos
Andrew Petrack
Barry and Valda Reynolds
Christine Guerillot
Robert Hanan
Lee Walters
Adrian Soffe
Beth Hughes
George and Sally Humphries
Rod and Sally Sherlock
Jan and Gregg Buchanan
Mark Colbridge
Graeme Dudley
Dave Wane
Rick Kilpatrick
Alex Mateer
Julia Hazel
Qamar Schuyler
Nicole Szalek

AGM opened at approx 7:45 PM, Chair Qamar Schuyler

1) Minutes of AGM 2008

Acceptance of the minutes of the 2008 AGM as a true record – Moved by Sally Sherlock, Seconded by Lee Walters, Motion passed (unanimous)

2) Treasurer's Report

Report presented by Nicole Szalek

Profit after Income Tax \$8060
Total Income \$26700
Total Expenditure \$18640

Net Assets \$26854
Total Assets \$29066
Total Liabilities \$2212 (ATO)

Total Assets are made up of:
LIPS a/c \$9500
Coast Care a/c \$5500
Term Deposit \$11000
plus property, plant & equipment

Members:
Renewed 104
New 48

In addition to the Treasurer's summary report above, the Treasurer will obtain an electronic copy of the detailed report, which interested members can request from the Secretary by email.

3) Outgoing President's report

Qamar thanked all members for their support over the past year and gave a recap of LIPS activities since the last AGM in December, 2008.

The complete text of the President's report will be made available on the LIPS website. The Secretary will send an email notice to members after this report is uploaded.

Comments: Ray Legg informed us that the waterfront redevelopment plan has already been forwarded to Council, who have reserved the right to make any changes necessary in the plan. There are no further opportunities for community comment on the plan.

4) Election of new management committee

Outgoing office bearers all stood down from their positions.
Mark Colbridge acted as temporary Chair of the meeting.
Mark noted that the following nominations had been received:

President - Qamar Schuyler
Secretary - Julia Hazel
Treasurer - Nicole Szalek

As there were no opposing nominations, the above officers were declared elected as nominated.

New president Qamar Schuyler then chaired the meeting and called for additional nominations from the floor.

Jan Buchanan was nominated as Vice President by Qamar Schuyler, seconded by Alex Mateer.

Jan Buchanan was elected as Vice President (unopposed)

Alex Mateer was nominated as Committee Member by Nicole Szalek, seconded by Julia Hazel.

Danny Vos was nominated as Committee Member by Jan Buchanan, seconded by Sally Humphries.

Valda Reynolds was nominated as Committee Member by Alex Mateer, seconded by Robert Hannan

Andrew Petrack was nominated as Committee Member by Qamar Schuyler, seconded by Jan Buchanan.

The four nominated committee members listed above were elected to the committee (unopposed).

Qamar thanked members for electing the committee and thanked Jill Booth for facilitating LIPS use of the meeting venue during a very busy period.

Qamar suggested that the committee focus on the following priorities over the next year:

- 1) Strengthen the executive by recruiting more people
- 2) Lobby for the island caretaker position to remain in place and work with GBRMPA to have a strong presence in the Low Isles stakeholders meeting
- 3) Follow up on proposals put forward by the Turtle Subcommittee and the Lighthouse Museum committee.

AGM closed at approx 8:15 PM

Post-AGM discussion

The AGM was followed by general discussion.

No formal motions were considered during the discussion.

Topics that were raised are noted below as an informal record for members' convenience and for input to future meetings.

Status of heritage signs on the island.

Low Isles caretakers and volunteers have undertaken maintenance work on these signs, including applying a protective spray coating. Replacement of signs would very expensive. As an example, the Historical Society recently commissioned 16 signs to be placed around Port Douglas, and these signs cost \$2000 each, not including substantial time and effort to do the background research.

LIPS current funds and projects

A suggestion was made that LIPS should think of projects on which to spend some of the current funds. Members were encouraged to make suggestions for new projects by email to the Secretary, so that new ideas can be properly considered. It was noted that some of LIPS existing funds will be needed for projects already started, and that the committee needs to be mindful of the long time frame needed for these projects, e.g.

liaison with partner organisations, requirements for approval by regulatory authorities. It was also noted that LIPS projects require a lot of time and unpaid work from committee and other members and that all those involved have worked very hard on LIPS behalf over the past year.

LIPS boat on the island

Clarification was provided about the LIPS tender at Low Isles. The outboard has been serviced and LIPS members who are formally qualified can use the tender during caretaking duties.

LIPS public talks

There was general consensus that it would be good to resume LIPS public talks and presentations, which previously were held from time to time. Suggestions of possible speakers and topics were noted. There is a need for one or more volunteers to commit to organising talks including liaising with speakers, arranging the venue, publicity and refreshments.

LIPS barbecues

Members were asked whether people were interested in continuing the monthly full moon barbecues or whether LIPS should just hold quarterly general membership meetings. The general consensus favoured holding one full moon BBQ between each general meeting.

Turtle sub-committee

Qamar provided a recap on activities of the turtle sub-committee. They have come up with a three part plan to address turtle conservation: 1) Conduct a monitoring program to assess the numbers of turtles at Low Isles. This monitoring would involve tour operators, tourists, and indigenous community members. 2) Education program primarily targeting Mossman high students. 3) Liaising with indigenous community, strengthening ties with LIPS and tour operators.

From the floor it was suggested that LIPS consider inviting some members of the indigenous community to become honorary LIPS members.

Information was requested in regard to a newspaper report about a future meeting between GBRMPA and traditional owners. LIPS had not been advised about such a meeting. Qamar will seek further information.

Future of island caretaker position

LIPS members are concerned about the long-term future of the island caretaker position. GBRMPA has asked Alex, in her role as chair of LMAC (local marine advisory committee) to help organise a stakeholder meeting. The intention is to get high level decision makers from DERM, BOM, AMSA, GBRMPA, LIPS, and other stakeholder groups together to discuss long term planning for Low Isles.
