THE MYALL KOALA & ENVIRONMENT GROUP INC.

Minutes of Quarterly Meeting held on 21st May 2024

Quarterly meeting chaired by President Richard Streamer was held following the AGM in the Silver Dolphin Room at the Tea Gardens Hotel. There were 6 members present. The meeting commenced at 8.00 pm.

PRESENT. Kit & Richard Streamer, Ian Morphett, Jane Collison, Lyn Mealey, Marilyn Mercer

APOLOGIES. Judy & Rob Hughes, Jill & Peter Madden, Bev Dunbar, John Duffield, Christine McMaster, Colleen & Rob MacSween, Lynn & Chris Stevenson, Gail Morphett, Trish Blair (Covid), Laurie Collison, Christian Patteson

MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING.
Minutes of the February quarterly meeting had been distributed to all members following that meeting and redistributed before this meeting.

MOVED Kit Streamer that the minutes be taken as read.
SECONDED Jane Collison
CARRIED.

MATTERS ARISING FROM MINUTES.
Nil

CORRESPONDENCE. (Incoming and outgoing.)

Myall Koala & Environment group Inc.
Correspondence for Meeting 21st May 2024

DATE	IN/OUT	ADDRESSEE	DESCRIPTION
May 2024	Out	Margie Myall times	River Fair Stall application
May 2024	In	Kate Washington	Community Grants
May 2024	In	Mid Coast Council	Draft LEP https://haveyoursay.midcoast.nsw.gov.au/draft-midcoast-local-environmental-plan
May 2024	In	Port Stephens ECO Network Update	Update https://www.econetworkps.org/ecoupdate

PUBLICATIONS
Autumn Vol 2/2024 Australian Wildlife Society Australian Wildlife Magazine

MOVED Ian Morphett that the correspondence be accepted,

SECONDED Lyn Mealey
CARRIED.

BUSINESS ARISING FROM CORRESPONDENCE.
There is to be a public meeting from 2pm on Thursday 13th June in the Hawks Nest Community Hall to discuss the new draft Local Environment Plan (LEP).

FINANCIAL REPORT

- April to 21 May 2024, prepared by Trish Blair and reported by Richard Streamer

Operating Account
Opening balance – $14,619.05
All the income was from raffle ticket purchases and donations + $711.32
The main expense was the annual insurance cover ($622.41), Myall River Fair registration ($25) and a new table ($49) totalling - $706.41
Closing balance – $ 14,624.26

Term Savings Account – $20,000.00

Combined balance - $34,624.26

MOVED Jane Collinson that that the Treasurer's reports be accepted.
SECONDED Lyn Mealey
CARRIED.

KOALA REFERENCE GROUP UPDATE
Ian Morphett advised that the draft Koala Conservation Strategy is currently on public exhibition for comment and feedback. Council's aim is to have the strategy finalised before the Council elections in September. The Reference Group is still active to address feedback on the draft before finalising a document to go to a Council meeting for ratification.

MYALL RIVER FAIR
The Fair, being organised by Margie Tierney at the Myall River Times, is on Saturday 5th October (long weekend). The Fair is a replacement for the Myall River Festival (organised by the Chamber of Commerce) which was usually held on the last Saturday of October. Rob Hughes has lodged an application for us to have a stall. Trish Blair is arranging for us to have koala food trees and other native plants from MidCoast Council's plant nursery. There was a suggestion that this may be too close to the warmer weather to be asking people to plant out trees. However, because the Fair is a little earlier than previously and we have been giving away trees and plants at the Festival for over 10 years, we think we should go ahead.

HAWKS NEST NATURE WALK UPDATE
Glen Henry and Kit Streamer are negotiating the walk signage designs. The Aborigan Reference Group have agreed to have their logo incorporated into the signs. Marilyn Mercer has funds for recyclable seating to be incorporated into the walk.

WINDFARM UPDATE

Richard Streamer advised that he is participating in a Myall Lakes Port Stephens "Responsible Renewables Committee" which has representatives from both sides of the Port. The Committee's aim is to collaborate with Minister Bowen's office and wind farm proponents to regarding detailed plans and to lobby for sustainable solutions.

GENERAL BUSINESS

- Ian Morphett reported that the speed sign at the foot of the bridge on Kingfishe Avenue has not been functioning for some months. As there are no koalas in town, there is not much point in asking people to slow down. There has been a suggestion to get the sign fixed and relocate it to Pindimar Road because there have been koala sightings in Pindimar and many residents there have been agitating to slow traffic down on the road. One of our members, Lesley Lane, lives in Pindimar and is active on the Pindimar Bundabah Community Association. She is prepared to discuss the possibility with Council. Ian is to put her in contact with Mat Bell at Council.
- **Council elections**: Richard Streamer advised that Council elections are coming up in September. There is currently no confirmed candidate in our area but if there was one with widespread support, we may be able to get a local candidate elected.
- There is a MidCoast Council community consultation session from 2pm at the Hawks Nest Community Hall on Thursday 6th June.
- There is a MidCoast Council session about the draft new Local Environment Plan (LEP) from 2pm at the Hawks Nest Community Hall on Thursday 13th June.

Meeting concluded at 9:02pm. Next meeting 7:30pm, 20th August, Silver Dolphin Room, Tea Gardens Hotel.

Richard Streamer
President
Date: 21st May 2024

Ian Morphett
Vice Pres. (Acting Secretary)
Date: 21st May 2024