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**MINUTES**

**Annual General Meeting November 22, 2023**

**Little River Inn Ensay**

**at**

1. **Welcome and introductions**: welcome to Chelsea McKenna
2. **Attendees**: Mandy Dean, Kevin Dean, Peter Sandy, John Arnott, Mark Tandy, Annie Richardson, Chelsea McKenna, Caroline Mildenhall, Barry Newcomen, John Richardson, Buddah Richards, Rob Wilson, Kathy Wilson.
3. **Apologies**: Peter Richards, Simon Turner, Marlis Glasl, Fritz Glasl
4. **Review actions from the previous AGM**
5. **Acceptance of minutes of previous AGM**: Moved Kevin Dean, seconded Rob Wilson
6. **President’s report covered**:

Appreciation extended to Anne R for updating and increasing membership.

Group continues to grow, now >100 members

Land facilitator position review

Bulk chemical program update

Facebook page now available for better community reach

Silage wrap program

Ongoing Mistletoe program

Soil testing

National Tree Day update

Water health in the Tambo river

Thanks for the executive support provided by Lisa Lee

Further thanks to Annie R for becoming the group’s representative on the East Gippsland LC network (EGLCN)

1. **Treasurer’s report** and financial statements tabled

Further information on project expenditure available from John R.

Projects payments are up to date

Accounting Solutions now undertaking wage management.

Report accepted by Mandy Dean and seconded by Peter Sandy

1. **Committee positions declared vacant**. Mark Tardy facilitated elections
2. **Nomination and election** of committee members for the upcoming year

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| Position | Nominated person | Seconded | Accepted |
| President | Buddah Richards | John R | accepted |
| Vice President | Kevin Dean | Buddah | accepted |
| Treasurer | John Richardson | Kathy | accepted |
| Secretary | Kathy Wilson(Swift) | Annie | accepted |
| General Committee | All present |  |  |

AGM Meeting closed at 7.50 pm

Minute taker: Kathy Wilson (Swift)

**Next meeting Wednesday 7 Feb 2024 at 7pm**

**Swift’s Creek CFA Shed**

**See below, further general business.**

**General Business:**

1. Barry N raised issues around safety of handling chemicals on the farm. Barry recommended that data sheets could be provided by suppliers when chemicals are purchased, as handling is specific to the chemical purchased. Mark will follow up.
2. Annie Richardson informed the group that the Gallery/Poet Walk had applied for a river ecology project, involving schools and local community. In the meantime, this group is seeking some funding for an ecologist, ~$2,500, to give an report on possible environmental gains that could be made. As LC has been involved with Gallery/Poet’s Walk group seeking assistance from LC to engage Kirstey Henley for this role. This would add to knowledge to further understanding the health of the Tambo River. Supported Mandy Dean Kathy W and Buddah, accepted
3. Mark Tandy spoke to Dr Watson’s proposed visit. Dr Watson to visit between March 24th to 28th. CMA will approve funding for this visit if invoiced by the end of 2023. Dr Watson requested suggestions for presentation be forwarded through Mark.
4. John Arnott raised a recent newspaper report that govt funding for LC is not secure beyond 2024. Mark T reported that Landcare and Landscape will be funded beyond 2025, but there will be a review in 2024.
5. Annie T reported back on most recent EGLCN meeting, including rabbit ripping program discussed. Also need for water testing in the Tambo, and feedback to community on the results, impacts and need for change. The need for different testing strategies, for example micro-organisms, heavy metals, an understanding of the validity and veracity of different tests.
6. Mark T spoke to the problem of Broome at the top of the gap. Some of the issues include, council control of roadside Broome, need for a buffer zone between areas, and ownership of the problem. Mark will organise for a speaker at a subsequent meeting.
7. Kevin Dean raised the possibility of a blackberry program, particularly between the Haunted stream and Jew’s Pinch. Kevin believed the program could be best managed by the CMA. Kevin noted that a member of the Ensay community has the involvement of CMA in Ensay local control and feels CMA involvement should be sought for the blackberries along the Tambo River.
8. Mark T requested a list of equipment held by SCELC. Informed Ken Gallagher has this information
9. John R spoke to the insurance of equipment. Insurance currently with LC Vic does not cover equipment replacement and further information is needed regarding theft and transit cover. A summary of equipment and management of insurance will be presented at the next meeting. Currently the premium is $488 and was due 20/11/2023. John R, Mark T to meet with Ken G to decide on insurance needs.
10. Further discussion on the responsibility of weed control and land boundaries. Meeting informed that disgruntled landowners can go to VCAT, Weeds officer. Weeds discussed must be on the Noxious Weeds list.
11. Autumn Bulk Chemical Program to be considered at next meeting.

Meeting and general Business closed at 9pm

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**Swift’s Creek CFA Shed**

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