CHEWTON BUSHLANDS ASSOCIATION

(Reg No. A0056460X)

ABN 50 089 623 321

**Annual General Meeting**

**Saturday 5 December 2021**

**38 Miners Hut Road**

**4 pm**

**MINUTES**

**1. Attendance:** Charles Affleck, Elton Baker, Karen Baker, Antoinette Birkenbeil, Defah Dattner, Mandy Huppert, Mark Carter, Steve Charman, Scot Hall, Wayne Hollis, Laura Levetan, Margot Ryan, Kim Windsor, Tim Grey (proxy representing Bonnie Cassidy).

**Apologies:**

Ian and Robyn Robinson, James Atherton, Tim Purdie, Hannah Nicholas, Kylie Groen and Jim.

**2. Acceptance of 2019 AGM Minutes and business arising**

*That the 2019 AGM Minutes be accepted. Moved: Karen. Seconded: Kim. Passed*

Business arising: Nil

**3. Reports**  
— President's report: Charles spoke to his report (attached)  
— Treasurer's report: Karen detailed the year’s finances (attached)

**4. Acceptance of Reports and business arising**

*That the President’s and Treasurer’s Reports be accepted. Moved: Charles. Seconded: Scott. Passed*

Business arising: ?

**5. Election of Committee**

— Election of office bearers

(President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer):

No Nominations for President.

Charles has agreed to stay on as President until next AGM in June 2021.

Seconded: Antoinette. Elected.

Antoinette nominated Wayne for Vice President.

Seconded: Karen Baker. Elected.

Charles nominated Antoinette for Secretary.

Seconded: Mark Carter. Elected

Mandy nominated Karen for Treasurer.

Seconded: Kim. Elected.

— Determination of the number of general committee members: After discussion the meeting agreed on having 4 general committee members. 

— Election of general members

Bonnie Cassidy (Proxy vote- Tim Grey). Nominated by Wayne, seconded by Charles.

Scott Hall. Nominated by Kim, seconded by Laura Levetan.

Defah. Nominated by Mark Carter, seconded by Mandy Huppert.

Steve Charman: Nominated by Mandy Huppert, seconded by Antoinette Birkenbeil.

At the close of elections, Ken Savage gave a speech expressed the gratitude of the members of Chewton Bushland Association for the outstanding contribution made by outgoing committee member, past President and Secretary, Mark Carter, who gave so generously of his time and talent as a graphic designer to bring a number of projects to fruition including the design and publication of a book about the history of the Chewton bushland, ’A Dream Realised’ and and worked with the original working group including instigator of the project the late Cate Freeman and CBA member Sandra Watson at Susan Hellawell’s home. Mark’s talents also brought together the research of the team who worked on the Chewton Bushland Field guide and created and updated the CFA Fireguard Map every year, assisted in organising the road signs to improve safety and awareness on the roads and acted as host for the film nights with his partner Kim Windsor at his home which brought the community together so successfully. While retiring as secretary,Mark will remain a member of the CBA and Mark expressed his thanks to Ken for his speech and accepted his gifts of appreciation for his service and the applause of the assembled company.

**6. General business**

— Report on Roads:

• Signage

The installation of 4 sets of advisory signs, one for each Bushlands entry points (*Miners Hut Road*: “Welcome to the Bushlands”, 40km/h, Kangaroo crossing. *Kennedys Lane*: “Welcome to the Bushlands”, 40km/h, Slippery Road. *Bush Sanctuary Road*: “Welcome to the Bushlands”, 40km/h, Slippery Road. *Commissioners Gully Road*: “Welcome to the Bushlands”, 40km/h, Kangaroo crossing) on the property of participating residents has been successful and Laura said there seems to be a decrease in injured animals.   
• Condition

Wayne contacted the council about the condition of his culvert on the Fire Trail extension of Dishpan Gully Road and was able to arrange a meeting to discuss the matter. Wayne and Antoinette met with Christian Rodgers from MASC who commented that a bigger plan needs to be made for the road maintenance in the Bushlands as a whole and since then reflector posts have been installed and situated to prevent the edges of the roads being damaged by the grader and some of the roads have now been graded and some of the culverts have been cleared.

— Report - Rewilding Committee

Scott Hall - Nestbox building workshop:   
  
• Scott expressed his thanks to Ken Savage for providing the venue for the workshop on November 22, attended by representatives from 15 households to put together the boxes.

Hannah Nicholas and Karen Baker were also acknowledged for mammoth task of organising the individual orders for the 82 boxes and arranging the discounted price for quantity through LaTrobe University’s wildlife program which provided the flat-pack boxes for various kinds of wildlife which require hollows for habitat to assist the sustainability and biodiversity of the area. Due to Covid issues an extra $300 was required for delivery of the boxes but was deemed to be worthwhile.

The first of the dam Rewilding project to improve the biodiversity of environment around Margo Ryan’s dam will begin next year with planting day on February 28, accompanied by a demonstration and instructions from local wetlands expert Damien Cook.

Karen and Antoinette went to Goldfields Revegetation Nursery at Tannery Lane to order plants for the project and spoke with Ashley who will arrange care and delivery of them until the date they are required for the planting day.

Victorian Biodiversity Atlas-

Wayne also reported that Hannah Nicholas is urging residents to register on the Victorian Biodiversity Atlas to build a record of their sightings and recordings of various environmental assets in the flora and fauna in the Chewton Bushland and surrounds.

Weed removal-

Bluebell creeper removal has been actively carried out over the Spring season, including work on Kieran Watson’s land and another session has been arranged there for 9.30 Wednesday morning.

Report from Scott Hall attached.

Tim Grey from Landcare suggested that while volunteers are valuable, it may be of more benefit to hire contractors to work like this.

\*To be included in Business Arising:

Steve Charman expressed concern about the number of resignations from the committee and raised the question about the purpose of the organisation and the members of the CBA engaging in ‘politics’. Charles explained that 2020 was in many ways an exceptionally difficult year because of Covid and issues around climate change, that these resignations were part of the normal election process. It was agreed that this discussion would be an agenda item at the next meeting.

— Kalamazoo Resources mining exploration lease:

* Kim said that nothing had changed and the meetings kept people up to date with changes in the situation since the meeting with Luke Mortimer from KZR when he confirmed that they need the land owners’ written permission to explore on their land. The latest focus of KZR has been more on land around Maldon, Charles said. Kim reminded residents that they have ‘Right of Refusal’ to be wary about being approached for exploration on their land and not engage in discussion about what activities they can carry out because it means you have entered into a negotiation for exploration could lead to VCAT, which can order the resident to accept the mining activity which can be very invasive and noisy even if they object at this point in the process.

Meeting closed 5.50 pm