

Winton Shire Council
The Board of the WMC Limited
Committee Meeting
Held in the Winton Shire Council
Boardroom
On Friday, 29 November 2024
At 10:30am

1 Introduction / Welcome (Chair)

The meeting was opened at 10:30am

2 Present

Mr Jeff Close (Chair), Cr Cathy White (Mayor), Cr Tina Elliott (Deputy Mayor), Mrs Lyn Fraser, Cr Frank Standfast, Mrs Sallyanne Atkinson, Mr John Paynter, Mrs Robyn Stephens, Ms Janice Evert

In attendance:

Mr Bruce Davidson (WSC CEO), Mrs Kristi Minehan (WSC Governance Coordinator / Secretariat)
Ms Karen Stephens (Guest)

3 Apologies

Mr Ricki Bruhn (Company Secretary)

4 Conflict of Interest

None declared



5 Confirmation of Minutes

Recommendation

That the minutes of the The Board of the WMC Limited Committee Meeting held on 23 August 2024 be confirmed.

Moved: Cr Tina Elliott

Seconded: Cr Frank Standfast

Carried

6 Business Arising Out of Previous Meeting

Feedback from the recommendations.

Waltzing Matilda Day

Tours now being undertaken / organised by Red Dirt Tours. The Oondooroo morning tea is not being organised by Red Dirt Tours. The Combo Waterhold / Waltzing Matilda tour including Dagworth and cemetery is being run by Red Dirt – minimum of 10 and maximum of 19 – includes morning tea and lunch. Advertising on Red Dirt Tour website and through Council website/s. Note that the 150 year website to go live end of November 2024.

Tag along is to Corfield Pub and not any part of Red Dirt Tours operations.

MOU developed with McKinlay Shire Council and the department. Winton Shire Council has made it very clear that the state of the site has been unacceptable. Julia Creek has been advised of the tour for Waltzing Matilda Day.

Annual Report

Recommendation regarding the Annual Report – refer to General Business.

Informative Patter

Noted that due to staff changes this has not occurred. The CEO will follow up on the recommendations. The Board is keen to assist.

Brochures

Discussion regarding the adjustments to the brochure has the front pages reviewed but still mostly about the construction of the building. There has been not collaboration and very little content in relation to the Historical Society contribution.

A meeting occurred with the Manager Economic Development to have a combined brochure that is more informative regarding the content and displays in the Waltzing Matilda Centre. The current brochure is not informative for children and is not really a brochure for general distribution to visitors. The Historical Society is happy to contribute



financially to the brochure.

Cox Architecture originally provided the content for the current handout and is not focussed on tourism but rather engineers. Winton Shire Council paid for the brochure.

Needs to be a combined effort. The older style brochure is far more suitable for a hand out for visitors to the Waltzing Matilda Centre. Robyn to meet with the CEO regarding brochure development.

Waltzing Matilda Centre float

Discussed the recommendation for the float and one from Council.

7 General Business

(a) Vote of thanks for outgoing Directors

The Chair recognised the contribution of Sallyanne Atkinson and thanked her major contribution over her 26 years of service and her contribution to Winton. Cr Cathy White – thanks to her contribution to the Waltzing Matilda Centre and to Winton, Mrs Lyn Fraser – added her thanks and that we look forward to seeing her back in Winton, Mrs Robyn Stephens – thanks for 26 years on Board and referred to the Brisbane meetings and the benefits and achievements of these meetings, thanks for support and best wished for the future.

Sallyanne Atkinson responded – thanking for you're well wishes. It is an important institution. Mentioned missing the Juke box that people to hear and read the poems. All the best for the Centre and to all present.

Mr Jeff Close – presentation on behalf of the Board – Presented to Sallyanne Atkinson in November 2024 for outstanding service to Winton as a long serving Director of the Waltzing Matilda Centre.

Move a sincere vote of thanks to Sallyanne Atkinson

Moved by: Jeff Closed

Seconded by Lyn Fraser

That there be a sincere vote of thanks to outgoing Director, Sallyanne Atkinson

Carried

(b) Gallery / Art

Verbal report provided by Karen Stephens, Exhibition Supervisor.

Most recent exhibition – Irene Koroluk from Tasmania “The Outback, The Coast and in-Between” – one of the most well patronised evening (Friday – 50 to 60 people) and the artist spoke about each art work.



Current exhibition – from Queensland Museum – Transformation art of the Scott Sisters – natural history artists. Context is moths and butterflies – connection with Koa people butterfly dreaming.

John Villiers Art Prize opening on 15 March, one of the biggest events – sponsored by the John Villiers Trust, Winton Shire Council and Ros Kavanagh (Elders Insurance, Central Queensland – People's Choice Award). Confirmation of judges – Director, Rockhampton Museum of Art (Jonathan McBurnie, previously from Townsville), Joanne Driessens, photographer, Arts Law Centre of Australia with a Koa background.

Another project aligned with John Villiers Art Prize is the Childrens Art Project The pilot project last year resulted in 87 entries – as well as being an arts project there is also a focus on social wellbeing. The Flying Arts Alliance has also on board for this project. Paul Thompson, the Operations Manager, has made an instruction video to promote better understand the project. The Childrens' Art Prize is only for children located in RAPAD shires.

Flyers were presented to the meeting. Sallyanne Atkinson offered to assist in providing contacts with the museums in Brisbane. Cr Cathy White thanked Karen Stephens for her work and that the Mayor does promote upcoming events at the Gallery in her radio segment.

(c) Annual Report 2023-2024

The Annual Report requires ratification before publication. Discussion regarding to whom / where the Annual Report should be sent.

Errors / additions:

- Title (Deputy Mayor) to be added after Cr Tina Elliott in the Chairman's Report, correct Chairman's Report with the additional paragraph to replace the version that was circulated,
- Page 7 – asked why the childrens' playground photo was there instead of jewellery photos – photos to be provided.
- Page 9, slightly spelt incorrectly, Page 1 typos, already fixed. Tuckerbox Café didn't cater for the QBOA Gem awards.
- Page 10, fine art collection, comments about the damage on painting – remove comments.
- Page 11, photo without names – someone to provide names so they can be recognised.
- Page 13 – queried spelling of Rhondda Scott – check spelling – correct.

Thanks to Kristi Minehan in pulling the Annual Report together.

Discussion regarding contact names and addresses. The Mayor is updating the government contacts



Kristi to liaise with Kirby regarding this updated list.

Robyn Stephens to provide an updated list in relation to those people and organisations that the Annual Report should be sent to.

Sallyanne Atkinson departed the meeting.

Moved: Ms Janice Event
Seconded: Mrs Robyn Stephens

That the Annual Report with amendments be adopted.

Carried

(d) Information – Banjo Patterson Museum and statue at Yoeval

Alf and Sharon Cantrell have asked that this information be kept confidential. They are retiring and closing the Banjo Paterson .. more than a poet museum on Yoeval. Have asked for Expressions of Interest to buy and run the museum – plan to close at Christmas 2024. They are asking if the statue of Banjo Paterson in military uniform can be donated to Winton.

Alf and Sharon will be in Winton on 24 June 2025 as part of the Writer's Festival. They would like to speak to Council at that time. Unfortunate news.

That, if the offer does come once the Expressions of Interest are closed. It is 300kg (1 ½ times life size) and Council would be up for the freight.

Discussion regarding alternatives should the offer not be accepted by Council and that the Board could pay for the freight and plinth and that the recommendation be put forward and where the funds come from can be discussed and determined at the time the actual offer is made.

Alf Cantrell's preference, as Council owns the Waltzing Matilda Centre, that Council takes up the offer should it happen.

There are other artifacts Alf Cantrell would like to be added to the Waltzing Matilda Centre artefacts.

Recommendation

If the statue is offered by the Banjo Paterson .. more than a poet museum offers to donate the statue of Banjo Paterson in military uniform to Winton that Council accept the offer

Moved: Mr Jeff Close
Seconded by: Mrs Robyn Stephens

Carried

Councillors abstained from voting.

Thanks to Gregory North for finding out about the statue.



(e) Winton 150 years

Discussion regarding a float for the Waltzing Matilda Centre for the 150th year. There was a recommendation in the last report, regarding a float representing Centre.

There was a recommendation in the last minutes.

John Paynter's family is coordinating the parade. Will be reinvigorated in the new year. The light horse have advised they will be attending,

When the building was opened – people in period dress walking down the road with Placards.

Writer's Festival is reprinting Winton Jubilee book and there is a project to invite anyone with a story / photo over the last 50 years to send them in. John Elliott is also working with the Writer's Festival.

(f) Waltzing Matilda Day 2025

Learnings from last year – don't start until 9:30am and sheep shearing was the most popular attraction based on feedback. Idea is to get people in the door of the Waltzing Matilda Centre, the Colouring Competition will be included this year. There will also be whip cracking, spinning the wool and opal display, morning tea and cake.

Discussed having children dressed up as swaggies to invite people in to the Centre. Have previously discussed having an "eye" (like Boulia) welcoming people into the facility.

Discussed the opportunity to tell the story using children and boards.

Suggestion that the Board work with the Youth Officer to have younger people involved in the celebrations.

Recommendation

The Winton Shire Council Youth and Officer liaise with the schools and Waltzing Matilda Board members (Robyn Stephens as the contact) regarding involvement in the story telling on Waltzing Matilda Day.

Moved: Jeff Close

Seconded: (not called for)

Carried

Agenda item to be added for next meeting:

Discussion regarding having someone with historical / pioneer knowledge, to provide a presentation. That is, a Guest speaker for Waltzing Matilda Day.



Discussion regarding having a guide to take tours to provide information about the displays.

Succession planning was discussed to retain information for the centre. Discussed having a 'magic eye' to provide information, the Boulia exhibit is an example. Previously there was discussion about having Gregory North, dress up and provide a tour through the Waltzing Matilda Centre.

(g) Company Secretary / ASIC forms

The group were advised that Ricki Bruhn has indicated that he was comfortable to stay as the Company Secretary until a permanent CEO is appointed.

Thanks to Ricki Bruhn for the offer.

All those that have been appointed / reappointed are on the ASIC list.

An update of the finances was provided.

1. Cash Reserve account: There was interest received of \$337.21 giving a total in that account of \$73,150.84
2. There were two deposits in the Community Solutions Account (operating), one from the Australian Taxation Office for an amount of \$1355.00 and another from CBB Remediation for \$6.31, giving a total of \$ 1361.31 deposited for a total in that bank account of \$73,336.69.
3. The total combined balance available including both bank accounts is \$146,487.53.

There was an email sent through to Directors to update information for the Annual Financial Report. It was noted that Robyn Stephens is not noted as a nominee for the Winton District Historical Society (just as Janice Evert is noted), despite Robyn Stephens provide this information.

Advice was provided that the current audited financials cannot be changed, however the change should be noted for next year's report.

(h) General Business

Concerns expressed in relation to current staffing and the presentation and culture in the Waltzing Matilda Centre. The CEO provided a general update in relation to problems and staffing levels. Temporary fill ins occurring to ensure the Centre can stay open over the short term.

Concerns particularly given the focus for the 150th year. The CEO is attempting to ensure the staffing of the Centre is addressed before he departs. Advertising for a new CEO continues. Unlikely that a new CEO would be appointed until February 2025 at the earliest.



Discussed the repairs and other maintenance required – for example, lights not working. The Board were assured last year that these things would be fixed. Embarrassed when the contingent from Germany went through the Centre – the billabong display was not working and the Sarah Riley theatre was unavailable.

Concerns about the physical items at the Centre. Some projectors not working. Material provided has to be reviewed however looks there may be significant costs to Council. The electronics are starting to fail. To have the humidifier working is quoted for more than \$100k.

There has been some tardiness in operations addressing the state of the facilities. There may need to be a stepped program to address the items that require attention from a budget perspective. All items are out of warranty. Ongoing annual contracts have not been renewed. CEO addressing.

The Waltzing Matilda Centre is the Council's flagship building for tourism. Comments that it needs to be more inviting and interesting to attract and increase tourism visitation.

Thank you to the Board for their ongoing contribution.

Thank you to the Governance Coordinator for the Annual Report.

Concerns expressed about the Tuckerbox Café and coffee being provided in paper cups despite someone eating in. There is china crockery available and the dishwasher should easily be fixed. Concerned about the presentation of drinks / food at the café.

Training of Customer Services at the Waltzing Matilda Centre. An example that staff were unable to provide information about how to get to the Truck Museum. Knowledge transfer / succession planning is a concern. The CEO advised that he is happy to actually have staff there and that it is accepted that it is not optimal at this time.

Raised that personal emails are being used, rather than professional emails. The chair@ email is not being used and other personal emails may not be appropriate.

Overview of the 150th year celebrations underway, in particular tent city / accommodation. A dedicated website just for the 150th year. People are talking about the cost to go to certain events – will be known when the website becomes live.

Some discussion regarding the Swaggie statues and the casting of new statues – John Paynter's Swaggie statue is currently at Perides to be used as a cast for further bronzes. The suggestion is to get another 6 casted. There are some other bronzes being held at the Gallery. Original moulds have a use by date which is why they use a current statue to cast from.



4 Closure and Next Meeting Date

A calendar is currently being worked to schedule committee meeting for next year.

Meeting in the 2nd half of the month appears to suit some on the Board. This would mean that the minutes would not be submitted to Council until the following month for them to adopt recommendations. Could be a late report. Mid month is the difficulty.

May be that meetings are organised for the first week in February 2025.

Ordinary Meeting – due February 2025 – date to be confirmed

The meeting closed at 12:31pm

