



# **MINUTES**

**The Board of the WMC Limited  
Committee Meeting  
Friday, 23 February 2024**

**Order Of Business**

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**MINUTES OF WINTON SHIRE COUNCIL  
THE BOARD OF THE WMC LIMITED COMMITTEE MEETING  
HELD AT THE WINTON SHIRE COUNCIL BOARD ROOM  
ON FRIDAY, 23 FEBRUARY 2024 AT 2:00PM**

## **1 COMMENCEMENT OF MEETING**

The Chair opened the meeting at 2:10pm and welcomed those present.

The Chair advised that Kim Stoter had resigned her position on the Board and expressed thanks for her contribution.

## **2 PRESENT**

Mr Jeff Close (Chair), Mrs Robyn Stephens (Outback Festival), Cr Frank Standfast, Dirk Dowling (WSC CEO and Secretary), John Paynter (on line).

### **IN ATTENDANCE:**

Cr Cathy White, Karen Stephens (Outback Regional Gallery),

## **3 APOLOGIES**

Cr Gavin Baskett (Mayor), Cr Sallyanne Atkinson, Cr Shane Mann, Cr Tina Elliott

That the apologies be accepted.

Moved: Mrs Robyn Stephens

Seconded: Cr Frank Standfast

The Chair advised that Kim Stoter had resigned her position on the Board and expressed thanks for her contribution.

## **4 CONFLICT OF INTEREST**

None declared

## **5 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES**

That the minutes of the The Board of the WMC Limited Committee Meeting held on 18 August 2023 be confirmed.

Moved: Mrs Robyn Stephens

Seconded: Mrs Lyn Fraser

## **6 GENERAL BUSINESS**

1. Business arising out of previous meeting.

a. The Constitution of the Board and other history has been provided to the Secretary / CEO who is now satisfied he understands the purpose of the organisation.

b. The Art Acquisition Sub Committee – Lyn Fraser, Kim Stoter and Sallyanne

Atkinson appointed. Need one more. **Add to agenda for next meeting.**

- c. Is there a nominee from the Historical Society at this point in time? The recent meeting discussed this and there will be a decision from the AGM next month. **The letter will be provided to the Winton Shire Council shortly.**
- d. There was an action item for Robyn Stephens to speak with the Economic Development Manager for the letter to Ken Done. Completed. Secretary updated the letter to Ken Done. He didn't get the attachment to that letter. It was followed up. Now in Ken Done's hands to provide details.
- e. **Add to the Agenda regarding Ambassadors for next meeting that follow up regarding Ken Done needs to occur.**

## 2. Financial Statements

- a. Financial statements were sent to Board members
- b. Karen Stephens provided some information regarding the financials.
  - i. The John Villiers trust amount of \$17,500 has been received. There is the three year agreement as usual however this time there are conditions attached. They wish to meeting with Council about strategies for Youth involvement. This year and two more years.
  - ii. The Chairman of the John Villiers Trust (Dr Ian Galloway AM) will visit on 23 March 2024 to officially open the awards.
  - iii. Youth Awards \$12,500 and \$5,000 for Children. Judges will be Sarah Johnson, Senior Curator from the Qantas Founders Museum and Cathy Graham from Broken Hill Art Gallery and Museum.
  - iv. Children's Visual Arts Project (5-14 years) across the RAPAD Shires – what do they love about the bush and what would they change (87 art works received). \$5,000 being used to scan artwork and promotion.
  - v. The John Villiers Trust will be using the media. They will also be promoted on line through the website. There will also be a video display in the foyer of the Waltzing Matilda Centre on the opening night and projection at the Musical Fence Café in the main street.
  - vi. Around \$10,000 was spent on emerging youth workshops – there is a fair amount of money remaining as a result of Covid restrictions. There is around \$2,000 remaining which will be discussed with the John Villiers Trust.

## 3. Waltzing Matilda Day

- a. Waltzing Matilda Day 6 April. This day is also the date for the Winton Way Out West Fest (WWOWF) and the North Gregory Turf Club Races.
- b. Discussion regarding best day to put on Waltzing Matilda Day events.
- c. Bus trip – may need to consider the route taken due to recent flooding. The Kynuna pub may not even be open and the road/s to Combo Waterhole may also be in disrepair. Options to do a Waltzing Matilda tour around Winton and

then go up to the Kynuna Hotel for lunch was put forward. **Jeff Close to contact the hotel to find out what their current status is.** Noting that there are new owners who did not have food available the last time someone visited. If they don't provide food, perhaps the Tuckerbox Café could provide a picnic lunch.

- d. Proposed that the Waltzing Matilda Day activities on the Friday 5 April in the morning. Bus trip on the Sunday 7 April.
- e. Program should be compiled and advertised. Flyer should be prepared as soon as possible. Start the program at 9:30am **Jeff Close will compile a draft program and Cathy White has offered to assist.** Historic trail of displays through Qantilda displays and offerings.
  - i. Friday 5 April in the morning for Waltzing Matilda Day activities. John Paynter will be responsible for shearing display with sheep will be brought down to shear.
  - ii. May also have the audio available for the shearing display. This provides information on the history of the sheep industry in Winton.
  - iii. There will also be a bale of wool for people to touch and feel. Ros from Cork has provided the wool to Bente Close for spinning display and Jeff Close will provide whip cracking show. Reg Kavanagh will also help out. Lyn Fraser will provide a helping hand where she can.
  - iv. Cake / morning tea that happened last year – do this again including catering by the Tuckerbox Café – Karen will pass on to Vimla Naidoo to action.
  - v. School holidays – normally invite them – will need to speak with the Youth officer to see if there are any other activities occurring. **Jeff Close will contact Deepali Naik, Youth Sport and Recreation Officer and the school to organise school children involvement.**
  - vi. Saturday – Jeff Close to ask Gregory North to perform poetry
  - vii. Robyn Stephens will do the Colouring In competition again – over 40 children last year.
  - viii. Sunday – Frank Standfast will be the bus driver and Jeff Close will be tour guide.
- 4. Update on work being done by Ambassador W Benjamin Lindner – statue and book on the History of the Matilda Centre.

He should be here on Monday 17 June 2024 for the Writers' Festival.

- a. Book – the writer is in the process of finishing off the last part of the story of the Waltzing Matilda Centre rather than the people. Will come up at his own expense to the Writers' Festival. Opening event on the Tuesday for the Writers' Festival.
- b. Statue – Came up with the idea from the Melbourne City Council as there are few celebrated females across Australia. The Melbourne City Council ran a competition regarding statues of female that contributed to the country. The

Ambassador put a submission in. No response yet. Very prominent family – grand niece is Christina Macpherson. If he doesn't get the statue he may progress it himself, with his wife who does bronze statues. Most of the money is in getting the mould completed. The bronzing is less expensive than the mould. Once the mould is done, another statue can be done from the mould for Queensland (a duplicate of the Melbourne one). He approached his local member and obtained support. He is happy to hand over his submission and the letter of support. **Dirk Dowling will contact Melbourne City Council to see if he can obtain further information.**

5. Opportunities with Matilda and Matildas – word of the year 2023

- a. Suggestion that the Board recommend to Council that PR people for the Shire to involve the Matildas
- b. Perhaps involve Sam Kerr (who is recuperating)

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**Recommendation**

Investigate the possibility of engaging one of the Matildas

Moved: John Paynter, Seconded: Lyn Fraser

CARRIED

6. Strategic Planning the Waltzing Matilda Centre

- a. On the list – Economic Development and Aged Care Strategies so that the Strategic Planning for the Waltzing Matilda Centre is not scheduled at this time.
- b. Conversation regarding the state of repair of some of the equipment – the CEO provided information that there are some major repairs that need to be discussed with Councillors. Largest and newest asset in the Shire and will be requesting funds to be set aside to make the repairs.

7. Christina MacPherson Statue – already dealt with.

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**Recommendation**

Ensure that all of the equipment in the Waltzing Matilda Centre is repaired and up and running in readiness for the season.

Moved: Jeff Close, Seconded: Lyn Fraser

CARRIED

**General Discussion**

Discussion regarding a proposed recommendation that Council use its extensive IT skills and support to enable online sales for the station store. This has been recommended before and was not supported. The CEO advised that this would be looked at as part of strategic planning.

There was also discussion regarding what goods were on sale at the store and the CEO advised that people are hired to undertake this and they were relied on to do this, noting that the staff are new and are still working through a number of facets of the Waltzing Matilda Centre operations.

James Evert has removed his opal so options are being looked at as alternative

displays.

Recommendation that Sallyanne Atkinson's expertise be leveraged for the shop. CEO advised he would not currently recommend that in relation to the other priorities he is currently dealing with.

Money making avenues are the café and the retail store. Council would know whether they are profitable or not. There was a different structure in place for the previous facility. The Council runs the facility now. Feedback is being received about the lack of opportunity to purchase items and the café working appropriately.

Some very basic things are not being done however they are aware of many items that need to be worked on and new staff are certainly working to optimise the offering. A reminder that the Waltzing Matilda Centre is funded by the Council and owned by the rate payers and has to ensure it does not take funds away from local businesses.

Would be happy if the Waltzing Matilda Centre breaks even. Board would appreciate that the Waltzing Matilda Centre is "Mickey Mouse" for the season.

Discussion regarding the doors / entry and how welcoming it appears. Great standards of service across the town that was originally set by the Centre.

Discussion regarding music playing and some form of Banjo (perhaps hologram) that welcomes people into the Centre. A yarning bench perhaps.

Missing the pond from the original centre. Perhaps an opportunity to "tell the story" like it did before – missed opportunity when they built the new one. Engaged people.

There is a disconnect with the virtual billabong – state of the art but no heartfelt connection with it.

Merchandise should reflect the Waltzing Matilda story.

Karen Stephen thanked the group for the invitation – agrees with the idea that music be playing, huge collection that can be digitised and will be talking to Vimla about. Bringing back the ghost and creating that emotional connection would be good.

For Waltzing Matilda day – could we do a kids dress up swaggie – little swaggie competition. Bit of a parade. Ages 3 to 10 perhaps.

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#### **Recommendation:**

**That the Chair write to Cr Shane Mann to thank him for his years of service and contribution to the Board.**

Moved: Frank Standfast, Seconded: John Paynter

CARRIED

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**The Chair thanked those present Council appointed Directors for their contribution.**

#### 8. Future meeting dates

Already chosen – Governance Coordinator has provided dates to Council.

**Governance Coordinator to provide dates to the Chair.**

## **7 CLOSURE AND NEXT MEETING DATE**

Ordinary Meeting to be held in the Winton Shire Council Boardroom on Friday 24 May at 10:30am.

**The Meeting closed at 3:42pm.**