

**MINUTES OF
NEWSTEAD 2021 INC. ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2019
HELD AT NEWSTEAD COMMUNITY GARDEN
TUESDAY 19 NOVEMBER 2019 AT 7:00 PM**

Chaired by Genevieve Barlow, President

Minutes taken by Saide Gray, Secretary.

1. **Present:** Genevieve Barlow, Saide Gray, Carol Porter, Chris Johnston, Geoff Park, Richard Stewart, Bob Clutterbuck, Jasmine MacDonald, Angela Mount, Andrew Skeoch, Mark Pearse, Jen Dyer, Alex Whitlock, Ann Berg, Gael (Exchange student from France and Horsham), Dean McLaren, Gordon Dowell, Patrick Fensham, Margaret Rasa.
Cr. John Nieman arrived about 7:45
2. **Apologies:** Janet Barker, Gary Gibson, Kelly Skinner, Don Culvenor, Mary Park, Kylie Richardson
3. **Introductions:** Acknowledgment of indigenous Elders, past, present and emerging. Welcome all and especially newcomer, Richard Stewart, local landholder and lawyer.
4. **Minutes of the 2018 Annual General Meeting (circulated)**
Motion:
That these minutes are accepted as a true and accurate record of the N2021 Inc. 2017-18 AGM.
Moved: Geoff Park Seconded: Jen Dyer
Passed unanimously
5. **Reports Circulated and Presented: N2021 Inc. Annual Report 2018-19**
 - 5.1 **President's Report by Genevieve Barlow:** Thank you to those who have contributed to the work of Newstead 2021, particularly the Community Garden and Renewable Newstead. For each project we thank and acknowledge the work of project convenors.
Vale & Acknowledgment of Dave Stratton and appreciative thanks to Ros Hart, who enabled Dave's input to such an extent.
Acknowledgment of Secretary, Saide Gray and Treasurer, Kylie Richardson plus Geoff Park who oversees and advises all of us.
Motion:
That the President's Report be accepted.
Moved Jasmine MacDonald, Seconded Bob Clutterbuck.
Passed unanimously.
 - 5.2 **Financial Report (Treasurer) Kylie Richardson and Geoff Park:** Verbal summary of written financial report presented to the meeting by Geoff Park.

A General Account for N2021 held by Bendigo Bank acts as a clearing house and overarching account for N2021 and all projects. Current balance in general account is \$9,700. This account is in deficit for ~ \$300. N2021 has auspiced two grants, each of \$5,000 for the Newstead Community Centre and the Newstead Primary School, which are yet to be fully expended. Note: Incoming funds from Renewable Newstead (first milestone payment of \$110,000) now received.

N2021's financial reports as at 30 June 2019 are fully detailed as part of the N2021Inc. Annual Report for 2018-2019.

Note: N2021 auspiced the Newstead Community Centre successful application for a grant of \$5,000 from Bendigo Bank for replacement of cupboards in the old Mechanics institute kitchen.

Motion: That the Financial Reports for Newstead 2021 Inc 1 July 2018 to 30 June 2019 be accepted.

Moved: Chris Johnston Seconded: Mark Pearse

Passed unanimously.

Project Reports See N2021 Annual Report 2018-2019 circulated to members and available on N2021 website

Question from the floor: Does N2021 have an auspice agreement set up with each project? Renewable Newstead and the Newstead Arts Hub have Terms of Reference guiding their operations, but do not need auspice agreements as all project groups are sub-committees of Newstead 2021 Inc.

5.3 Street Trees – Janet Barker & Kate Tucker

Community meetings and planning occurred in early 2019 about responding to future summers: street trees, shading, heat havens, infrastructure, water security, greening the landscape and sustainable design options. A thorough well-researched application to the State Government's Community Climate Change Adaptation (3CA) Grants for up to \$75,000 was unsuccessful. Next steps involve a longer time frame and staged approach; taking action locally to build community awareness plus developing a method for promoting efforts and learning among the community.

5.4 Walks and Wheels – Jen Dyer

Our long-term aim is to create trails around Newstead with a view to future connections to Maldon and Castlemaine. Currently our focus is on a Newstead township brochure with 5 loop walks. The Rural Transaction Centre have granted this project \$800. Our efforts to liaise with Parks Victoria and DWELP over signage have been hampered by changing staff every 2-3 months. However, we are persisting.

5.5 Newstead Community Garden – Angela Mount

Tank signage, new noticeboard and worm farm installed plus renovation of paths. Angela noted that garden membership is down a little on last year.

RTC is also experiencing lower use and income from the community bus. The garden is looking at ways to increase membership levels and participation, both social and horticultural.

5.6 Renewable Newstead – Geoff Park

A \$1million grant from the State Government for a social enterprise and partnership with a commercial investor to develop a solar farm for generating power for Newstead. RN is currently

looking at solar sites and will consult with the community about the contractual arrangement. Powercor (owner of the poles and wires) relationship with RN has been nurtured by Don Culvenor. RN is concentrating on employing local people where possible. Over the next year or so RN will need to advertise tenders and negotiate contracts. The aim is to make electricity cheaper and greener for Newstead RN appointed Kirsty MacKay as our project coordinator.

5.7 Talking Fire – Chris Johnston

Fantastic commitment from the local CFA who are really supportive, showing leadership through Doug Richardson, who recommends watching to the west for grasslands as this has been the risky part of the landscape for Newstead in the past. Talking Fire now has a Facebook page and Website: both very simple and informative.

5.8 Arts Hub – Chris Johnston & Geoff Park

Progressing very well. Exhibitions are each month. Suggest Primary School students make use of the Arts Hub during the week. A grant of \$2,000 from Mount Alexander Shire, was half of the requested amount. Plans are to expand activities next year.

Arts Salon – Bob Clutterbuck

The Arts Salon is trying to develop working studio spaces at the Good Shed, opposite the Arts Hub. A submission to VicTrack was successful in 2018. This Project was accepted and considered ready. All ticked off, but Newstead became one of five groups that were never given final budget approval. No information has been forthcoming. However, a 4 December meeting with Vic Track, local MP Marie Edwards, Karly from Bendigo Bank as leaseholder. N2021 will support and send representatives to this meeting with VicTrack. The future: the goods shed and the lease for a large piece of land would make this a fine investment for the future of Newstead, developing the arts precinct in a way that can stimulate further activity

Motion: That the N2021 Inc. project reports for 2018-20 be accepted.

Moved Andrew Skeoch Seconded Ann Berg
Passed unanimously.

6.0 Election of Newstead 2021 Committee for 2019-2019

Genevieve Barlow vacated the Chair to Margaret Razer
The following positions were declared filled for Newstead 2021 Inc Committee 2019-2020, there being no other nominations:

Chair/President Genevieve Barlow,
nominated Geoff Park Seconded Jen Dyer

Vice-President: Jasmine MacDonald,
nominated Genevieve Barlow Seconded Mark Pearse.

Secretary Saide Gray,
nominated Geoff Park Seconded Jen Dyer

Treasurer: Kylie Richardson
Nominated Geoff Park Seconded Gen Barlow

Committee Members for N2021Inc 2019-20
Andrew Skeoch
Geoff Park

Pat Fensham
Chris Johnston
Dean McLaren
Don Culvenor
Alex Whitlock
Angela Mount

7.0 General Business:

7.1 Discussion re Deductible Gift Status (DGS) & N2021 Inc Statement of Purposes

Gen welcomed Richard Stewart, our local lawyer

Richard: Good Governance is important for our grant acquittals.

We adopted the Model Rules of an Incorporated Association and if we want charity status with the 'holy grail' being tax deductibility of donations to N2021. In order to successfully obtain DGS, we may need to tighten our statement of purposes.

Eligibility requires being a Public Benevolent Institution (PBI) as the main reason for the organisation's existence. This is defined as working for the relief of poverty, distress, disease, the poor, and the environment.

There are three levels of DGS:

- Firstly, Not-for-Profit means N2021 is generating money, but not directly to benefit the poor in the community.
- Secondly, Registered Charity (ACNC) has the status of generating money that directly benefits the community and relieves poverty, etc.
- Thirdly, apply to ATO for GST exemption. This may be useful for future Income tax exemption.

Main purpose needs to be benevolence. For example, cultural relief and cultural cohesion through the Arts Hub, plus Renewable Energy making energy affordable could both be said to be the relief of poverty.

A register of members is required and needs to be updated regularly.

Motion re Public Benefit Interest (PBI):

That N2021 immediately explore the options for charitable status and what concessions would become available.

Moved: Dean McLaren Seconded: Angela Mount

Passed Unanimously.

Action: Richard Stewart kindly offered to develop a summary of options for Newstead 2021 going forward with the PBI; explore an application for Charitable Status; and what tax concessions would then be available to Newstead 2021 Inc.

7.2 Social Housing Enterprises with Margaret Rasa.

Forms of environmentally sustainable housing suitable of meeting Mount Alexander Shire's housing needs now and in the future are being explored by the Shire and interested community members. Margaret Rasa with Mark Pearse are working in this space. This is a big-ticket item for all government departments, aware that homelessness affects older people, particularly women, teenage couch surfers, forest dwellers. Possibilities include co-housing models, tiny house models in response to what to do about housing justice. Shire is also active and has been given money by state government to investigate land availability for special social housing options. Firstly, what land is available and, secondly, what are the needs e.g. advocacy or a build. This involves finding lands, doing builds and advocating for housing justice. The Shire will be reviewing its objectives and statements on housing, homelessness and the demographic status of this area. There will be more information available in January. Kelly Skinner and Margaret Rasa are the contacts.

7.3 Newstead 2021 Inc Website. There is a need for a creative Newstead website that ideally has contacts for all community organisations in one place. One current option is the Castlemaine & Maldon website. The ArtsHub are part of this.

7.4 Mt Alexander Shire Budget Cr John Neiman is encouraging community ideas for the MASHire Budget. Please send ideas to him soon.

7.5 Newstead 2021 Community Picnic Thursday 12 December 5:30 picnic in Memorial Park to celebrate ourselves and what we have achieved over the year. The ArtsHub door will be open.

Meeting closed at 9pm in the dark! That is dedication!

Thanks to all for coming!