

Wildcare Tasmania AGM Minutes

DATE: Saturday, 20 Mar 2021

Venue: Via Zoom technology

Meeting opened: 4pm **Meeting closed:** 5.15pm



Present:

Board members: Ian Lundy (Chair), Glen Hayhurst, Stan Matuszek, Joanne Naylor, Donna Burton, Sally Simco,

Others present: Sharon Smith (Wildcare CEO), Tracey Tasker, Tracey Ehrlich, , Kim Willing, Elizabeth Shannon, Erika Shankley, Michael Simco, Juleen Angove, Roberta Blackwood-Beattie, Stephanie Todd, Jenny Baulis, Don Thomson, Esther Ross, Julie Gale, Jennifer Tudehope, Steven Phipps.

Apologies: Mel Becker,

| # | Item | Discussion | Motion/Outcome |
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| 1 | Welcome and apologies | Ian opened the meeting, welcomed attendees and provided an acknowledgement of Country. Apologies from Mel Becker and Rosemary Gales were noted. | |
| 2 | Minutes of AGM 20 March 2020 | There were no amendments proposed or actions arising. | Minutes of the AGM held on 21 March 2020 were confirmed. |
| 3 | CEO report | Sharon provided an update on the year past. Notwithstanding the challenges of 2020, Wildcare finished the year with many positives: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Volunteer activity returned strongly in the latter part of 2020, • A huge amount of work was completed by DPIPWE staff and Wildcare groups in implementing the new DPIPWE Volunteer Management Framework and positives from this can already be seen in a better structure around volunteer management, • Over \$200,000 in grants went out from the Tasmanian Nature Conservation Fund (TNCF) • Wildcare's \$0 fee cut on donations policy was maintained • We were delighted to sign the PWS/Wildcare Grant Deed which allows Wildcare to invest in new innovation and training • The Wildcare Expos in December 2020 were well attended and there was strong energy and positivity amongst attendees, • We welcomed new groups: Friends of St Valentines Peak, Tamar Valley Wildlife Roadkill Initiative during 2020. <p>There were no comments or questions regarding the CEO report.</p> | CEO Report noted. |
| 4 | Financial report and auditor's report | Sharon advised: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wildcare has finished the year in a strong financial position which will allow us to invest in new training and services to members in 2021. • The PWS/Wildcare Grant Deed will continue to support us financially next year. | Financial Report and auditor's report noted. |

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| | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There was an unplanned expenditure offset arising from Government support, primarily from Job Keeper, which subsidised salary costs during 2020. Without the subsidies we would have finished the year in a similar position to 2019 • Changes to the membership structure are expected in 2021 • We were expecting that donations would drop off during 2020, however, philanthropy held strong until August and then there was a drop off towards the end of the year. There was still over \$300,000 in donations during 2020. <p>Ian advised:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Board met with the auditor earlier in March as part of an improved governance process associated with approving the financial statements prior to the AGM. • The Board thanked the auditor, Accru for their work with Wildcare, as this is the last year that they will be conducting audits. <p>There were no comments or questions on the Financial report or auditor's report.</p> | |
| 5 | Annual Report | <p>Sharon advised:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wildcare's Strategic Plan 2021-2024 was approved in 2020. It is based around four strategies for success. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ New pathways to get people involved in volunteering are being explored. Online Information sessions were introduced in 2020 which have proved popular. We're also planning feeder events for people to try out volunteering for the first time. ○ Commitment to supporting groups to remain safe while out in the field and providing forums for leaders to learn and collaborate. ○ Improving communications with donors in 2021 and bringing them into the Wildcare community to a greater degree. ○ Continuing to build relationships with partners such as PWS, Bonorong and Saffire and developing new partnerships. We strengthened our partnership with PWS and Bonorong during 2020. <p>There were no comments or questions on the Annual Report.</p> | Annual Report noted. |
| 6 | Chair's report | <p>Ian advised:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • At the last AGM Wildcare activities had just shut down due to coronavirus. • Groups kept productive focussing on planning and applying for grants while they couldn't get out on ground. This allowed a burst of activity when volunteering was allowed to continue. • The Wildcare Strategic Plan was approved, this sets out what we want to achieve and how we will know when we achieve it. Measuring outcomes is very important and we aim to improve at this, eg understanding how many hectares we have weeded. | Chair's report noted. |

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| | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • TNCF grants were over \$200,000 during 2021. This was made possible due to the generosity of donors and cooperation of volunteers and land managers in delivering projects. • The reason for the name change of the former Wildcare Gift Fund to the Tasmanian Nature Conservation Fund was because Gift Fund didn't reflect the purpose of the Fund and wasn't visible in web searches about nature based philanthropy opportunities. • During 2020 the process of applying for grants was simplified. Groups have responded positively. • Thank you to Sam Cuff, a PWS appointee to the Wildcare Board, who has accepted a secondment outside of PWS and to Glen Hayhurst, who is not seeking re-election. Both made excellent contributions to the Wildcare Board. Thank you also to Erika Shankley, whose term finished in 2020, when she did not seek re-election at the 2020 AGM. We have welcomed the contribution of Donna Burton and Jen Fry, appointed at the 2020 AGM. <p>There were no comments or questions regarding the Chair's report.</p> | |
| 7 | Appointment of Auditor | <p>Sharon advised:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Accru are stepping away from doing audit work. • It is recommended that Bentleys be appointed as auditor for 2021 for the following reasons: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Their quote is a little cheaper than that obtained from Crowe ○ Conversations with the Bentley's auditor have been easy and the size of the firm appears to be a good fit for Wildcare ○ Accru has made arrangements for smooth transfer of files to Bentleys. <p>No objections were made to the appointment of Bentleys.</p> | Bentleys be appointed as Wildcare auditor for 2021. |
| 8 | Wildcare Board elections | <p>Ian passed over the Chair to Jo Naylor, due to a conflict of interest as he was a candidate in the election.</p> <p>Jo advised:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There are five candidates for the four positions available: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Ian Lundy ○ Sally Simco ○ Donna Burton ○ Tracey Tasker ○ Tracey Ehrlich • Candidates have the option to provide short verbal statements. <p>All candidates provided verbal statements.</p> <p>A survey link had been previously circulated to those who had registered for the AGM. There was an adjournment for 15 minutes while candidates voted. Jo and Sharon confirmed the vote results, based on the Survey Monkey data, during the adjournment.</p> | <p>Appointment of the following people as Board members with 2-year terms, commencing 20 March 2021:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ian Lundy • Sally Simco • Donna Burton • Tracey Tasker |

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| | | <p>The meeting reconvened at 5.10pm.</p> <p>Jo advised that the following people were elected as Board members.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ian Lundy • Sally Simco • Donna Burton • Tracey Tasker <p>Jo advised that the Board would elect the Chair in due course and an announcement would be made about that.</p> <p>Jo thanked:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tracy Ehrich, who had missed out on election, for her presentation at the meeting and encouraged her to stay in touch and potentially apply again in the future. • Glen Hayhurst for his extensive contribution to Wildcare. • All attendees for their contribution to Wildcare and closed the meeting. | |
| 9 | Meeting close | 5.15 pm. | |