



THE HUT COMMUNITY CENTRE INC. 2020 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING



Thursday 01 October @ 6.30 pm
RSL Hall, Stirling

1. Welcome & Apologies

Chair acknowledged meeting on the land of the Peramangk and Kaurna people.

Chair acknowledged some special guests – Rebekha Sharkie (Federal Member for Mayo Nathan Daniel (Adelaide Hills Councillor), John Kemp (Adelaide Hills Councillor), Neicy Haywood (the 5 C's), Vern Hembrow (Stirling Proactive), Marcus (Red Cacao), Hut Board, staff and volunteers. Apologies from Anthony Risson (Aldgate Village Well) – message from Anthony was read out,

Josh Teague MP (Member for Heysen),

Chair invited people to partake in more food and beverages through the course of the meeting but reiterated the need to be seated while consuming food and drinks due to COVID restrictions.

Thank you to Denny, Helen and Doris for the food and catering, Ann and Brian Croser and Tapanappa for the wine.

2. Confirmation of Minutes of the 2019 AGM

Motion: The Minutes of The Hut Annual General Meeting held on Thursday 26th September 2019 were accepted as a true record of proceedings.

Moved: Jim Howe

Seconded: Gordon McLean

All in favour: Motion carried

3. Receive Reports:

3.1 Chairperson's Report

Loraine Scheide, Board Chair, presented her written report as printed in the Annual report. In addition she thanked her fellow Board members for their support over the last 12 months. She acknowledged the ongoing support of the Adelaide Hills Council and the volunteers in the Book Shed as these two funding streams are vital to The Hut and providing ongoing services to the Adelaide Hills community.

Sincere thanks to the numerous sponsors and funding bodies of The Hut. Thanks to all our staff (employees and volunteers) who are the very backbone of The Hut – please be proud of your achievements, you are a reflection of the excellence we inspire within our community. We the Board thank each and everyone of you for your dedication and commitment – The Hut is truly privileged to have your individual talents.

The Board now has a Strategy and Financial Sustainability Committee looking at the sustainable future of The Hut which is very exciting, this is especially important given that the current strategic plan will conclude next year.

I look forward to working with you all in 2021.

3.2 Executive Officer's Report

Deborah (Deb) Bates, Executive Officer, thanked everyone for attending. In addition to her written report as printed in the Annual report she gave an update of the period March – May when we were faced with closing the centre and our programs.

She thanked our staff (paid and volunteers) for their commitment and flexibility during the closure and keeping the essential services going. Volunteers made calls to some of our older clients a couple of times a week to make sure they were connected and had someone to talk to as well as ensuring they had food and medical appointments were met.

We are coming towards the end of our 5 year strategic plan and we, as a team, have been working on increasing and diversifying our programs to provide opportunities for all age groups and demographics and we are doing really well. This work will continue with more being done to ensure we are relevant and accessible to all groups of people including those from various cultural backgrounds including first nation peoples and people living with a disability. Providing, or supporting opportunities for increased social connection is our purpose and is imperative to our vision of a thriving Adelaide Hills community.

The focus for the Board and myself over the coming 12 months will be on the fourth pillar; A Sustainable Organisation. This will ensure The Hut, its programs, services and volunteering continue to have the resources to operate into the future and in the event of a financial downturn or reduction of income.

The Aldgate Station building and land lease will be up for renewal in June 2021 and securing this site for another 20 years will provide us with physical security.

The new buzz phrase in organisations that are 'for purpose' as we are is the term social enterprise. We already have one very successful social enterprise which is the Book shed and is staffed by very passionate volunteers recycling pre loved books. This brings in significant revenue to fund our support and low income programs including the food pantry.

The community shed and plant propagation programs are two other smaller but steadily growing social enterprises that utilise the skills of our community. Attention was drawn to a table displaying items made through both of the enterprises that will be further developed next year through markets and our website.

Both of the enterprises will be ramped up in 2020/21 with a designated day specifically for volunteers making products in the Community Shed and with several very skilled volunteers at the helm in the garden. The Board are also investigating other opportunities for another enterprise to increase our funding streams thereby further increasing our level of sustainability.

She thanked the team for their flexibility, commitment and support for our direction and in particular Bernadette for being the 'backbone' of our day to day operations and Sandra for her knowledge and support of all things financial. It has been a challenging year and both have shown an invaluable and unwavering level of support - both professionally and personally.

Deb also gave thanks and acknowledgement to the Board for providing her with direction and support. With three new Board members elected last AGM it is a passionate Board with a broad diversity of skills and experience.

We cannot do the work that we do in isolation so a big thanks to all of our volunteers, our state and local government funding bodies and the Mt Barker Community Centre, Torrens Valley and The Summit community centres for their collaborative partnership through Hills Connected Communities extending our reach throughout the Hills.

Also to Harris, Stirling Business Association and Stirling Markets and our other business and community supporters for their sponsorship of the Christmas pageant and fair and individual programs.

Thank you to Doris, Sue, Helen, Thomas, Cura and Raelene for their help in getting the evening together and all behind the scenes work done.

3.3 Community Development Manager's Report

Bernadette Reading presented her report as printed in the Annual Report and gave a summary, mainly focusing on the programs that have been run through The Hut over the past year.

We are able to provide the breadth of programs that we do due to funding provided by the Department of Human Services for the Hills Connected Communities program and we are running into our sixth year for this program.

This program focuses on increasing opportunities for social connections, we do this through a variety of short term programs however we do realise that it is more difficult for people to make long term social connections through a two hour workshop. Our aim is to setup more longer term programs that are self funding which then helps to decrease the reliance on long term funding as well as enhances opportunities for social connections. One of these programs is already in operation, a Nature Play term program located in the outdoor space next to Aldgate Valley Hall.

With additional funding provided by the Department of Human Services in response to COVID, we were able to set up a food pantry to provide much needed support for the local community who had lost their jobs or had a decrease in hours. In a very short time we had a 'mini' supermarket setup in the community room and support from local businesses for the provision of fresh produce. It was evident from the start how much this service had a positive impact on families who had been financially affected by the pandemic. A special thank you to members of Stirling Rotary who volunteered to collect grocery items from Foodbank, this was a tremendous help and increased access to a greater range of food.

Welcome to Hayley who has been with us for three months and is now developing the food pantry to incorporate social connection opportunities and long term sustainability.

With the challenges presented to us this year it has been a difficult time for all in the community. A focus during this time was to ensure we remained connected in as many different ways as possible with volunteers and participants. Many online 'cuppa' sessions were held through zoom and online workshops were also developed.

I felt particularly proud of the commitment shown by volunteers during this time to continue to provide services to the community in whichever way they could.

As previously mentioned, The Hut has been collaborating with the three other community centres in the Hills to run the Hills Connected Communities program and the core focus of this program is to increase opportunities of social connections for the Hills community. The centres made a decision to submit an entry in the Loneliness Cure Awards for their community sheds.

The Loneliness Cure Award was created by Community Centres SA to tackle the growing epidemic of social isolation and to celebrate the power of community connectedness. It is widely recognised that part of the cure to social isolation lies in the power of meaningful connections.

The Award is an opportunity to celebrate, reward and recognise the part that Community Centres play in connecting people. It gives centres an opportunity to reach a wider audience, have our voice heard and boost our awesome community programs that bring joy and connection every day to so many.

A video that was developed and submitted for the Award was played.

One of the other things shed members get involved in is community projects. They have recently made a workbench for men living with dementia and residing in a Woodside residential care facility. The bench has makeshift tools and a vice and helps to relive memories of working in a shed. As part of this project a fidget board with locks and bolts and other shed type items was made and a bird feeder to sit outside the main window of the centre in the garden.

This year they have also made bird breeding boxes for a landowner in Woodside who had lost his family home and sheds in the recent bushfires. He has started the process of rebuilding his home and approached us to help him reintroduce the wildlife back to his property. Shed members as well as students from Aldgate primary were involved in this project.

A special thank you to all our dedicated volunteers and paid staff contributing time, knowledge and skills by participating in , developing or coordinating one of the many programs we have to offer.

3.4 Treasurer's and Finance Report 2019/2020

Sylvia Pembroke presented her report as printed in the Annual Report and gave a summary of key points.

She reiterated the thank you given for funding, to volunteers and to Deb and the team.

The report shows we have kept our head above water with the JobKeeper and Business Boost getting us through the worst of the times.

The Book Shed is a significant income source.

Volunteer value assigned to the 21,542 hours equalled \$900,000

Australian Excellence Standards Audit conducted returned 100%. This shows good financial management and governance.

Thank you to Deb from the Board.

Financial sustainability – Board working hard to increase revenue streams.

The Chair asked if there were any questions and when none were forthcoming, moved that all of the above reports be accepted.

Moved: David Lloyd

Seconded: John Dowe

All in favour: Motion Carried

4. Appointment of Auditor

The Chair advised that Stirling Proactive Accountants have been our auditors since 2011 and it was proposed by the Board that they be appointed again for the 2020/2021 year.

A show of hands indicated the members agreed and when called, no one was against so the resolution was carried.

5. Board Member Election

Two Board member vacancies – one due to the completion of serving his first three year term and the other from resignation that was effective from tonight. Two nominations have been received so no voting is required.

Councillor John Kemp was invited to introduce himself and gave an explanation of his involvement with The Hut and introduction which was initially through Council representation. He explained his involvement during the COVID shutdown with policy review and in the Adult Community Education program with new rules.

Greg Bussell was also invited to introduce himself and gave an explanation of his involvement with The Hut that initially started with driving the community bus. He joined in this capacity because he has an affinity to aged care and during his working career he didn't get the opportunity to meet the community and get in touch with it. Having previously served a six year term on the Board he has just completed the mandatory one year off and is now proud to be serving again.

Chair requested a show of hands from all members to show their approval for John Kemp to be appointed to the Board.

Chair requested a show of hands from all members to show their approval for Greg Bussell to be appointed to the Board.

Members approved the election of the two nominees by a show of hands.

Chair then asked all Board members to stand and introduced our Board for the year 2021 to all present.

Chair explained the requirement within our constitution that the Board meet within two weeks to elect Board positions and committee members. This meeting is to be held on 8th October 2020.

Geoff Welch who is a long term Board member having served five years of his current term and six years previous to that (with a year break in between) has resigned tonight and the Board thanks him for his invaluable service over the years. His experience and history of The Hut will be sorely missed as well as his attention to detail and risk focus. We wish him all the best. There is a gift basket prepared for him that will be presented at a future date.

6. Acknowledgements, Door prize & Wrap up

Four door prizes were drawn with each winner having a choice from the donated goods on offer. Thank you to Deane Kowald for a bottle of wine, Rebekha Sharkie for a bottle of wine, Bickford Group for a bottle of rum and Cleveland Nursery for the plant in a pot.

7. Refreshments

Refreshments were served at the start and end of the meeting.

On behalf of the Board and The Hut the Chair thanked everyone for attending the meeting and to members for having their say through the voting process.

Meeting closed at 7.22pm

Accepted as an accurate record of proceedings:



Chair – on behalf of Members 2/12/2021

