



COUNTRY NETWORK

COUNTRY SOCIAL NETWORK Inc. (Reg No Y2063541)

www.countrynetwork.com.au

P.O.Box 105, Pakenham, Vic., 3810

Minutes of
Annual General Meeting
and
Special General Meeting

held from 10:00am on
Saturday, 5th October, 2019

at the
The Junction Room, The Blazing Stump Motel
(4315 Anzac Pde., Wodonga, Vic)

Opening Address / Welcome.

President Roger Kennett declared the meeting open, welcomed those members in attendance and acknowledged the traditional custodians of Wodonga, The Waradjuri, The Wavereoo and The Dhudhuroa people.

Apologies.

Apologies received were announced to the meeting.

Proxies.

The proxies were tabled by the Secretary and announced by the chairman to the meeting.

Memorial.

One minute's silence as we pay our respects to our friends who have passed away. Members were asked to stand quietly stand and may name any former members who are no longer with us.

Acceptance of the 2018 AGM minutes.

It was proposed the minutes of the 2018 AGM held in Marcoola on November 3, 2018, be accepted.

Carried.

Matters arising:

There were no matters arising.

President's Report.

Our President, Roger Kennett, gave an overview on the current status of the organisation and advised there was still much to do especially in those areas where Country Network is inactive. However, Country Network was in a healthy situation with increased membership in the past twelve months. Roger thanked all those who assisted in the running of the organisation. Our President was thanked for all his hard work over the past twelve months.

Treasurer's Report.

Our Treasurer, Ray Potter thanked all members for their assistance throughout the year. Due to external commitments, Ray had not been able to produce the financial statements prior to the meeting. However, they were presented at the meeting and invited all members, should they have any questions during or post agm, he would be more than happy to answer any such questions. It was proposed the presented financial statements be accepted by the members. Our Treasurer was thanked for all his hard work over the past twelve months.

Carried.

Auditor's Report.

Our Auditor for the financial year was member Mal Cosh. As at the time of the AGM, the financial statements and all associated documents had not been available to the auditor. It was proposed the Auditor still complete the audit of the association's financial statements and records, and this be presented to all members upon completion.

Carried.

Editor's Report.

Our Editor, John Roy, gave a brief overview of the status of our newsletter, "The Country Networker". John advised the meeting he was a co-editor and provided the organisation with every second edition of the newsletter. The other co-editor, being Neil Warner, was unable to commit to further productions given his involvement in other roles within the organisation, so unless another member steps forward in the role of co-editor, it may be our newsletter is reduced to only three per annum, which would be very disappointing. He also advised the meeting he would still like a greater input from more members, rather than the usual few. This will give the newsletter a wider reflection of our membership. Please contact John if you wish to discuss how you can assist with our newsletter.

Our Editor was thanked for all his hard work over the past twelve months.

Website Report.

Acting as assistant to our Webmaster Rob Sims, Neil Warner reported to the meeting, in short, that our website was officially 'broken'. Without delving too technically, Neil advised the meeting that our website relied heavily on a 'Membership Plug-In', a program that looks after all membership matters. Our current developers were continually being frustrated by any new programming to fix the numerous errors, would only crash at the next automatic update. We are now seeking a replacement plug-in, or even a possible replacement developer and host.

It was also reported to the meeting, that CN desperately requires a consultant to act as the 'go-between' with CN and our developer, as Rob Sims, and Neil Warner are not sufficiently technically experienced to comprehend the precise technical issues other than what is presented in layman's terms.

Neil acknowledged the frustration of members visiting our website and overall understanding and patience during this time. The member's frustration is nothing compared with that of Rob Sims, who in the absence of anyone else stepping forward, volunteered to liaise with the developers, not provide detailed technical support.

Due diligence was provided when seeking a developer to assist with our website. With the absence of a technical consultant, a level of trust was required in our developers who promised they could deliver all we required. It now appears, clubs and associations have unique requirements. We are now far more informed going forward.

Conference Co-ordinator's Report.

Our (temporary) Conference Co-ordinator, Neil Warner, advised the meeting he could no longer temporarily fill the role as Conference Co-ordinator. The role itself is not an overly onerous one. That task is left to the conference convenor, the member who actually does most of the hard work in organising the event. Having organised the last two national gatherings, it was time to hand over the role.

These gatherings are the core of our organisation. Those who attend are highly likely to maintain their membership as these gatherings are where they more likely develop the strong friendships that exist amongst our membership. Conversely, those who do not attend are less likely to maintain their membership. So it is vitally important our national gatherings continue, but this can only happen with more members volunteering a little of their time. The rewards are bountiful.

Area Coordinators' Reports.

Those reports available from the various area coordinators were presented to the meeting.

All area-coordinators were thanked by the organisation.

Returning Officer's Report and election of the 2018-19 Committee of Management.

Our Returning Officer, Mal Cosh, presented his report to the members. He proposed the following nominations received be accepted by the members:-

President: Charlie Helyar
 Treasurer: Ray Potter
 Secretary: Neil Warner

Carried.

Mal also reported to the meeting, the following nominations received for ordinary committee member:-
 John Donohoe
 Dudleigh Oakes.

As nominations for ordinary committee member to not require the approval of the members, they were automatically accepted.

Mal reported there were two positions vacant at the close of nominations, being Vice President and one Ordinary committee member, and called for nominations from the floor.

John Lynch nominated for Vice President. This was proposed to be accepted by the meeting.

Carried

Rob Sims nominated for Ordinary Committee Member. This was proposed to be accepted by the meeting.

Carried.

In summary, Mal advised the meeting the new committee for 2019-20 to be as follows:-

President:	Charlie Helyar
Vice President	John Lynch
Treasurer:	Ray Potter
Secretary:	Neil Warner
Committee Member	John Donohoe
Committee Member	Dudleigh Oakes
Committee Member	Rob Sims

Mal thanked outgoing president Roger Kennett and committee members Keith Norris and William Sue of their valuable contribution.

Mal proposed his report be accepted by the meeting.

Carried

The Annual General Meeting was adjourned at 12:00 Noon.

Commencement of Special General Meeting at 12:00 noon.

To consider any recommendations for Life Membership.

A proposal was received in accordance with the constitution for the members to consider **Bernard Gregory** for Life Membership for his long, outstanding contribution to the aims and objectives of Country Network.

Carried with acclamation.

Close of Special General Meeting at 12:15pm

Reconvene AGM at 1:15pm.

General Business:

No General Business was received prior to the notice of meeting being sent.

Discussions:

Membership Fees.

Members discussed the pros and cons of having the same membership fee for all members, as opposed to having a small additional fee for a partner living under the same roof or reverting to the original one membership fee for a household, whether that be one or two members living under the same roof.

The Newsletter.

Members discussed the possible phase out of a newsletter in favour of a blog. CN will still prioritise those members who are not socially connected via email and/or the internet to ensure they are kept in the loop.

National Gathering Venues.

Members discussed the various options for venue location and type. It was agreed that all options were feasible as long as the logistics of attending was viable. The mid-year meeting was intended to be more cost effective and we should be careful not to slip back to a gathering that is more like the agm format.

Closure:

Roger thanked the members for their attendance and participation, and closed the meeting at 2:10pm.

I believe these minutes to be an accurate record of the meeting

Signed *Neil Warner* (Secretary) *October 22, 2019*