

Wimmera Mallee Pioneer Museum

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Minutes – Tuesday 16 July 2024, 7.30 p.m. at Briarley House

1) Welcome and Acknowledgment of Country

2) Declarations of interest – NA

3) **Present:** (alphabetical order) Tige Mannington (TM); Colin Moore (CM); Clem Paech (CP); Mary-Anne Paech (MP, Treasurer); Don Pedder (DP); Craig Proctor (CNP, Secretary); Peter Pumpa (PP, Chair); Peter Robson (PR); Matthew Steen (MS); Wendy Werner (WW).

Monica Revell (MR, HSC CEO); Jeff Woodward (JW, HSC, Tourism and Economic Development Officer); Mark Fletcher (MF, HSC Manager Economic Development and Tourism); Mayor Brett Ireland (BI).

Apologies: Wendy Zanker.

MOTION: To accept the apologies. Moved: WW Seconded: PP CARRIED

4) Minutes of Previous Meeting

The last meeting, on 18 June 2024, was an official meeting.

Motion: To accept the Minutes of the 18 June 2024 meeting as circulated. **Moved: DP Seconded: WW CARRIED**

Business arising from Minutes: NA

5) Correspondence

Inwards

HSC (Petra Croot) re Annual Reporting

David Sidwell re one-page Welcome Sheet for visitors (see General Business)

Grampians Wimmera Mallee Tourism Industry News

HSC (JW) re PPE equipment audit and work/volunteer OHS audit

HSC (HR) confirming non-compliant volunteer cannot be on site until compliance is resolved

Outwards

CNP to HSC/Petra Croot re ongoing issues with volunteering

Motion: To accept the outward correspondence and note the inward Correspondence.

Moved: MP Seconded: CNP CARRIED

Business arising from Correspondence

6) Treasurer's Report (MP)

Volunteer Hours: June 2024: 348 hours

Accounts to pay: ELGAS \$51.70; MP (spotlights) \$42.60

June 2024			
Opening balance 01.06.24	\$28,490.18	Closing balance 30.06.24	\$28,625.40
Receipts Cash: 324.00; EFT 240.50	\$564.50	Term Deposits (2) Interest: 852.45	\$35,538.29
Expenses	\$88.85	Total	\$64,403.79

MOTION: To accept the Treasurer's report as circulated, to approve payment of outstanding invoices and to authorise Mary-Anne Paech to reinvest a Term Deposit at the best rate available. **Moved: DP Seconded: MS CARRIED**

General Business

1) **HSC update.** JW has left a hard copy of all Volunteer Policies and Procedures at the front desk following the meeting with volunteers and most Committee members on 8 July. Feed back to HSC anything which isn't clear in terms of policies and procedures. PPE and work/volunteer OHS audits are under way. JW and HSC Safety Office David Rowe to conduct a site visit around PPE etc. on Thursday 18 July. CNP to attend as well. WW expressed concern that the meeting on 8 July possibly didn't engage directly with the volunteers specifically and queried whether this can be remedied somehow.

MF is hoping to organise a visit for Committee Members to Swan Hill Pioneer Settlement, probably in August.

Insurance issues still being explored. It is important to keep an up-to-date Maintenance List and to prioritise works. If any spraying or weeding needs to be done we should contact HSC to organise a crew to do this. HSC is keen to help in regard to this (and potentially with collection of debris). BI reminded the meeting we could take advantage of the HSC Fee Waiver Policy. CP asked about burning dead weeds etc. Rainbow Silo Heritage Project should be completed around March. Passing traffic for Silo Art and new Rainbow project could be tapped into by WMPM. MF is checking that WMPM brochures are available at other tourism destinations. GWMT Destination Management Plan hopefully finalised in August. Working to refresh WMPM listing on the Australian Tourism Data Warehouse portal. Visit to

WMPM by MF and Ian Gumela, Manager of the Wimmera Mallee Tourism wing of GWMT, on 12 July for Ian to become familiar with the site.

- 2) **Working Bee, 6 July.** Seven MC members and two community members attended. WW stated that the vehicles and tractors etc. are in desperate need of cleaning/washing and this needs to be a priority. TM referred to the large piles of possum excrement in the sheds which needs to be dealt with. Next working bee: **Saturday 17 August, 9 a.m.-12.**
- 3) **Lock box.** MS has kindly provided WMPM with a Lock Box. The plan is to remove the key from the supermarket and for this to be housed permanently in the Lock Box external to the Museum. An access code will need to be communicated to all who will need access. All keys need to be returned (Aaron McLean has one and possibly Trevor Zanker but PR will enquire about this). PP – there should be around 7 keys ‘out there’ which need to be recalled. HSC requirement: all people accessing the Museum at any time will need to sign in and sign out. This new process will need to be communicated to all affected. We will need to produce a Sign In sheet for this purpose. BI suggested changing the access code regularly.

- 4) **Visitors (MP): June Attendance:**

Adults	Pens./Conc.	Children	Family	Group
13	17		7 (3 children)	1 x 5

Group Bookings: Sunday 6 October – Rail Tour group of around 50.

- 5) **Volunteering:** Backup Roster; visit by Andrew Hallam, Axis Employment (CNP, WW). The Backup Roster goes until 1 September. Gordon Bennett has kindly offered to be rostered on most Sundays. We still need people to put their names down for five Saturday afternoons, 12.30-3.00 to be on duty with Kath.
- 6) **Donations.** WW asked for an update on the Kube chaffcutter donation. Still no decision made about where to house it. Ongoing.
- 7) **Jigsaws update (WW).** The order had to be modified as the jigsaws with Silo Art images demand royalties from the copyright owners. The jigsaws WMPM sells must have the WMPM and HSC logos on them (the HSC logo will be on the box).
- 8) **Storyboards update** plus using existing photos. CNP has placed the order for fourteen new panels. He expressed gratitude to JW for all the work he has done to transform the texts and images into very engaging storyboards. The total cost for these panels should be \$3,080; HSC has allocated funding for half the purchase price. **Education Kit** update. CNP is continuing to work on this for potential use with younger visitors, school groups etc. He is looking at similar learning programs from Swan Hill, Coal Creek and Sovereign Hill.
- 9) **David Sidwell’s Welcome document for Visitors (CNP, WW).** David continues to volunteer remotely on producing these documents for visitors and has been receiving input from WW, CNP, MP and CP. The document provides visitors with an overview of pioneering farm processes and should be a worthwhile additional resource.
- 10) **Visit to WMPM by Matthew Polack** – 10 July, interviewing CNP and filmmaking including at John Coppock’s grave at Albacutya. Further updates to be provided as required.
- 11) **Digitising update including Victorian Collections account.** WW and CM are establishing a momentum with photographing and recording items, initially in Albacutya Homestead. Potentially we will be able to upload images and descriptions to the Victorian Collections database which many other museums and historical societies deploy to share information on their collections.
- 12) **Maintenance.** We need to prioritise major maintenance jobs many of which are pressing e.g. Tarranyurk Hall door. WW has produced a draft Maintenance List; see separate spreadsheet. WW: we all need to take the time to think and prioritise.
- 13) **WVAHS (Western Victorian Association of Historical Societies)** Wimmera Zone Meeting to be held at Minyip **Saturday 14 October**; CNP is on the Executive and will be attending this event and presenting a WMPM report. Any other WMPM Committee member is also welcome to attend.
- 14) **HSC Update - Cr Brett Ireland.** Reported that Jeparit is a recipient of a Tiny Towns Grant with supplementary funds from HSC and Jeparit Township Advisory Committee for streetscape improvements.
- 15) Next Meeting: **Tuesday 20 August 7:30 pm** at the Museum.

Meeting closed at 10.00 p.m.