

Wimmera Mallee Pioneer Museum

Dimboola Road, Jeparit, Victoria 3423

Email: wmpmjeparit@gmail.com

Facebook: www.facebook.com/WMPMJeparit

Minutes of Meeting – Tuesday 16 September 2024, 4.00 p.m. at Briarley House

1) Welcome and Acknowledgment of Country

2) Declarations of interest – NA

3) **Present:** (alphabetical order) Mark Fletcher (MF, HSC Manager Economic Development and Tourism); Tige Mannington (TM); Colin Moore (CM); Don Pedder (DP); Clem Paech (CP); Mary-Anne Paech (MP); Craige Proctor (CNP, Acting Secretary); Peter Pumpa (PP); Peter Robson (PR); Wendy Werner (WW); Jeff Woodward (JW, HSC, Tourism and Economic Development Officer). **Apologies:** Cr Brett Ireland (BI)

4) Minutes of Previous Meeting

The last meeting, on 20 August 2024, was an official meeting following the AGM.

Motion: To accept the Minutes of 20 August 2024 meeting as circulated. **Moved:** TM **Seconded:** DP **CARRIED**

Business arising from Minutes: NA

5) Correspondence

Inwards

AMaGA: Victorian Collections online workshop/training invitation

Outwards

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

Moved: CP **Seconded:** DP **CARRIED**

Business arising from Correspondence: CNP clarified Victorian Collections database/portal focussing on digitising collection. Would cost \$60 for WW, CNP and CM to attend. Motion: to authorise payment for WW, CNP and CM to register for the training on 8 October. **Moved:** CP; **Seconded:** CM.

6) Treasurer's Report (MP)

Visitor Attendance: August 2024

Adults	Pens./Conc.	Children	Family	Group
12	19	1 (free)		4 (non-pay)

Volunteer Hours: August 2024: 351.5 hours

Thanks to Colin for taking on volunteering on Saturday afternoons which now eliminates the need for a Volunteer Roster.

Accounts to pay: CNP \$18.00 for printer paper

August 2024			
Opening balance 01.08.24	28,780.69	Closing balance 30.08.24	24,273.73
Receipts Cash: 235.90; EFT 305.00	488.00	Term Deposits (2) Interest: 702.49	36,240
Expenses (including Storyboards - \$3,080)	4,994.96	Total	60,754.61

MOTION: To accept the Treasurer's report as circulated, to authorise \$100 for petty cash and for MP to pass Storyboards invoice to HSC for part-payment. **Moved:** MP **Seconded:** DP **CARRIED**

General Business

1) HSC update – (JW, MF)

New GWMTourism Visitor Guide coming out before Christmas. HSC pays for WMPM's gold membership to GWMT. Photo shoot will happen soon. A new regional app is due for launch in October/November. Australian Tourism Data Warehouse (ATDW) listings for HSC assets (including WMPM), visited by tourist/travel agencies etc. and listings go to Visit Victoria. WW: for the photo shoot we should decide on likely subjects and ensure these are cleaned in advance.

2) Chair's Report (WW).

I'm pleased to be back in the Chair, and hope that we can all strive to work together, celebrate our diversity of experiences and ideas and communicate regularly with each other in an effort to promote unity and respect.

This month I met with most committee members individually to discuss our current projects, delegations and working together as we move forward. I think this was mostly well received and gave me an insight into each member's passions. In addition I met with Mark Fletcher and presented an update on our activities to the Town Committee. The Committee was invited to join in a 'walk around' with Shire representatives to address maintenance and OH&S issues which will highlight any glaring issues and provide a roadmap for The Committee and HSC to work together on over the coming

months.

It is timely as we head into a new year together to remind the Committee of our purpose which I've taken from the Masterplan, and should guide our decision making throughout the coming year:

'To provide visitors with a unique insight into the Pioneering early days and broad acre agriculture, and lifestyle of the early settlers and Pioneers.'

In an effort to streamline the meetings and to allow for better decision making, Craig and I have reorganised the General Business to begin with decisions that need to be made in the current meeting. This should allow each committee member to quickly understand which items on the agenda will need some homework and if necessary further conversations and questions prior to our regular meeting. This will ensure we can discuss each specific item with confidence, come to the best decision possible, in a timely manner, during each meeting. This will hopefully also address items that languish on the agenda for months at a time. Further, in moving to a report based meeting, it is envisioned that each project champion will provide as much information as possible to the committee before the meeting, a written report will help with the process (see later). In addition to those items requiring a decision, the agenda will contain items that are simply explanatory for ongoing projects, activities outside of the Museum which may be relevant, and a final category that introduces new items that will lead to a discussion and a subsequent decision at an upcoming meeting. It is anticipated that both of the last two categories will be brief items. Further, throughout the month a number of duties have been delegated to committee members. Clem and Mary-Anne have agreed to take on Volunteer coordination for the committee, liaising with current and prospective volunteers, and the Shire's new volunteer Coordinator, Berni O'Loughlin to ensure a streamlined induction process and address any ongoing concerns, which can then be brought back to the committee.

Craig has agreed to Monitor and create posts on our Facebook page. These will not only advertise open positions but include updates on our activities and stories from the museum. I am hoping that the posts will be much more regular, aiming for at least one post per month. This will strive to communicate better with the local community and raise awareness of the current activities at the Museum.

Further, Craig has graciously agreed to write the minutes, and help set the agenda for the next meeting while we continue to look for a permanent Secretary.

There is also a vacancy for someone to take charge of organising regular working bees, and recruiting volunteers continues to be challenging.

The 'Walk around' proved to be highly successful. The Shire identified a number of priorities for maintenance:

1. Briarley Homestead verandah roof needs strengthening. This will then allow the roof to be painted.
2. Saw pit fence: A temporary fence will be erected around the sawpit to address a perceived safety issue.
3. Tarranyurk Hall doorway. The new door has not been painted and is a trip hazard.
4. The School trim and north face painting. HSC will approach contractor to finish.
5. The Shire has put out a tender for 6 monthly gutter inspection and cleaning.
6. There was also considerable support amongst the Committee for rearranging some of the sheds to allow for a safer and richer visitor experience. This includes the tractor shed and the headers in the eastern shed.

I look forward to working with the committee and volunteers to improve site safety and our visitors' experience and improving admission numbers over the coming year.

- 3) **Jeparit Show.** Display being organised along with potential items for sale. CP and MP will be on site to assist when possible. CM to transport display items to Showgrounds in his van on Saturday afternoon. Take EFTPOS.
- 4) **Seymour Rail Visit**, Sunday 6 October. No firm update – unlikely to have any visitors due to scheduling/timing. MF to provide further details once known.
- 5) **Firearms Report.** PP submitted design sketches and costings for a Gun Safe (\$8,550.54 with donations of \$1,500 reducing total costing to \$7,050.54). Discussion deferred until November.
- 6) **Return of keys and approval to purchase a lock box.** MP to contact Trevor Zanker and Aaron McLean to return their keys.
- 7) **Working Bees.** MF: For slashing and spraying we can contact HSC to do this. MF: when promoting working bees place a notice in the HSC Customer Service Centre in addition to the Supermarket. WW: important to be welcoming for outside people contributing. Difficulty identifying someone to coordinate it, ensuring everything needed is organised e.g. blowers, implements, designating shed jobs, dealing with possum excrement. Next Working Bee: **Saturday 9 November.**
- 8) **Meeting schedule.** There was in principle agreement to trial having our meetings at 4 p.m. instead of at 7.30 p.m.
- 9) **Donations** Mirror/certificate. Donation from HSC of a desk and filing cabinets.
- 10) **Digitising update** (WW, CM). Victorian Collections online workshop, **Tuesday 8 October** 10.00 a.m. – 1.30 p.m. \$20 per participant. Useful for Wendy, Colin and Craig. <https://www.amagavic.org.au/events/getting-started-with-victorian-collections-08102024>
- 11) **Jigsaws** (WW). Promotion of these by CNP at Minyip WVAHS Wimmera Zone Meeting on 14 September. WMPM gets

20% of any WMPM jigsaws sold via producer's website. We need to look at organising additional postage cost for mail orders.

- 12) **Brochure update.** WW: Brochure promotes Rally which is misrepresenting WMPM's offerings; needs to be amended. CM suggested telling the story of Albatutya. DP suggested McKay Shed or Mallee Roller photo. WW, CNP and HSC to liaise.
- 13) **Purchases:** plastic tubs for kitchen, books, Rally gear; new Whipper Snipper (cordless, electric, Ryobi?); blower; small lawnmower? WW suggested getting at least 20 50lt tubs initially. With lack of petrol on site better to go with electric? DP: should have one with two batteries. WW to investigate options/pricing. New irrigation piping for front garden and possibly Albatutya. Tyres (this was a very lengthy and complex discussion): not second-hand (TM/DP). TM: we need all on list provided; work on tyres in one shed first to enable moving items. TM: company would fit them. WW: list prices are for around \$5,000; we need to get HSC approval to purchase more than \$2,000. **Motion:** to approve purchase of storage tubs and irrigation tubing and of designated tyres for items in Tractor Shed and then decide later on specifics. **Moved: DP; Seconded: PP CARRIED.**
- 14) **Visitor engagement initiatives** - Deferred
- 15) **October is History Month** – an annual event for historical societies and museums Statewide to organise activities, stage events and showcase their endeavours. Craige has accepted an invitation to attend an event marking the beginning of History Month at Parliament House in Melbourne on **1 October**. **RHSV Seminar Day in person and via Zoom, Friday 18 October.** Craige will be presenting at this in Melbourne but Wendy would like to register for online attendance for the presentations on Grant Applications and working with volunteers. Registration is \$35. <https://www.historyvictoria.org.au/event/seminar-your-historical-society-strategies-for-success/>
Motion: That WMPM fund registration free for WW to attend webinar. **Moved: WW Seconded: CP CARRIED**
- 16) **Detpa School:** Potential for registering the school as a School Museum with ANME (Australian National Museum of Education, University of Canberra) (CNP). MF offered to follow through with CNP providing supporting material. <https://www.canberra.edu.au/anme/our-collection/anme-members>
- 17) **New role for CNP:** Craige has agreed to accept the role of Chair of the Royal Historical Society of Victoria's Historical Societies Support Committee, a body which liaises with and organises events for Historical Societies and Museums across the State.
- 18) **WVAHS Wimmera Zone Meeting at Minyip, 14 September.** CNP submitted a Report on WMPM.
- 19) **Proposed Activities for next 12 months** – as determined at AGM (not for discussion; just a reminder)

Re-strawing Thatched Shed	Rabbit proofing perimeter	Additional Storyboards
Development of Educational Kit	Prioritising Maintenance	Marketing and promotion
Resolving OH&S issues	Cataloguing collection	Event planning
Wayfinding signage	Investigating firearms safety options	Curatorial support
- 20) **HSC Update** - Cr Brett Ireland – NA
- 21) **Volunteer Coordinators:** Mary-Anne and Clem have offered to take responsibility for liaising with HSC Volunteer Coordinator Berni O'Loughlin henceforth. MF: we hope to have Berni attend a forthcoming meeting and to meet with other volunteers.
- 22) **Next Meeting: Tuesday 19 November, 4.00 p.m.** N.B. No meeting in October due to HSC Election Caretaker Period.

Meeting closed at 6.40 p.m.