

Minutes of General Meeting of the Amiens History Association

Held on Monday 14 November 2022 at 2.00 pm
At Amiens Legacy Centre

Meeting opened at 2.10 pm. President Morwenna welcomed those present and thanked all for their attendance.

Attendance: Morwenna Harslett, David Muir, Marlene Muir, Maree Klemm, Alec Harslett, Denise Harslett, Colleen Willis, Morwenna Arcidiacono, Alan Kerr, Barry Creed, Steve Jones, Diane Jones

Apologies: Deb Wheeler, Roger Willis, Peter Klemm, Karen Klemm, Heather Dux, Don Dux, Greg Turner, Jane Turner, Ken Edge-Willam

Minutes of previous meeting were sent previously by Marlene Muir and seconded Colleen Willis as a true and correct record. Carried

Business Arising: Refer reports and general business

Correspondence: as per attached spreadsheet.

Correspondence via email 20.6.22 to 09.11.22

IN

Multiple re German Dinner-Colleen and Peter

Alfa Club Visit-Denise

ACNC receipt etc-Peter

Ergon Accnts- credits-Peter

Membership notifications-Peter

Tour bookings-Denise

Various calls for grant applications and outcomes-Peter

Dalveen SS payment-Peter

Various correspondence re Art Works/AHA Tin Day weekend- Denise-NB Barbara obtained SDRC money to cover some advertising

Monthly newsletter and Settlement News- Heather/Morwenna

Some correspondence re Aug working

Little Black Book- Denise has a copy

Info re Thomas Munnings-Lorraine Feurer- Heather/Morwenna sub committee

Request from Therese Fenwick for brochures- Denise dropped some to winery

Heather has also noted we are out of these after Dux's dropped to accom establishments

McIntyre Newsletter- new round of grants Feb

Apolog for this meeting Ken Edge Williams

OUT

Meeting items and agenda circulated by Heather

Thank you to Rotary for donation at dinner

Letter of support for Art Works

Moved Denise Harslett, seconded David Muir

Business Arising from Correspondence:

An invitation was received from St Denys Church to attend the Poppy service on Sunday 13 November.

Reports:

Treasurer's Report:

- . Bank Balance as at 13/11/2022 is \$7,340.23.
- . Financial Report PDF as at 13/11/2022 is attached.
- . Significant Income since last meeting (approx. figures) :
 - . \$720 – Membership dues
 - . \$3025 – Donations (includes \$1000 from Rotary Club of Stanthorpe)
 - . \$1867 – Sales
 - . \$3600 – RSL Grant/Sponsorship
 - . \$4139 – Guided Tours & Catering
 - . \$4516 - German Dinner Profit
 - . \$700 – Second Tin Day Event
 - . \$5000 – Acciona Energy

- . Bills paid since last meeting :

\$	536.25	M Harslett	Office Works - A3 printer,paper & ink
\$	330.29	ABW Projects Pty Ltd	INV-0542 First Nations Info Board
\$	189.75	Pat McCosker Welding & Steel	Invoice #932 Steel Frame Info Board
\$	9.98	R & C Willis	Ingredients for morning tea
\$	1,358.00	M Harslett	Computer for Resource Centre
\$	36.00	P & K Klemm	Patch Cable for Internet Dongle
\$	2,528.00	Stanthorpe RSL Services Club	German Dinner
\$	45.90	Southern Downs Regional Council	SDRC - Rates 1/7/22-31/12/22
\$	558.28	P & K Klemm	Paint & Rollers for new building
\$	7,026.86	AWC Electrical	Invoice #3680 Electricial work new building
\$	105.90	P & K Klemm	Ceiling paint new building
\$	29.94	D & M Muir	6 tubes of gap filler from Mitre 10
\$	79.92	P & K Klemm	Wine for Rotary Dinner 29/8/22
\$	115.90	M Harslett	Food for Rotary Dinner 29/8/22
\$	32.05	R & C Willis	Cups, serviettes, tea bags, milk
\$	72.90	P & K Klemm	Gas bottle refill & Tin Day food
\$	3,608.00	Andersens Stanthorpe	Deposit for floor coverings
\$	24.80	M Arcidiacono	Lunch expenses Alfa Romeo Tour
\$	150.00	A & D Harslett	Lunch expenses Alfa Romeo Tour
\$	16.90	R & C Willis	Rolling Solos catering
\$	97.38	R & C Willis	Over the Rainbow jewellery supplies

\$	3,608.00	Andersens Stanthorpe	Supply & Install floor coverings Inv#1109
\$	2,698.00	Harslett Enterprises	Construction & cementing of path to new building

- . Bills still to be paid (\$582.23)
 - . \$84.00 – P & K Klemm (Two fire extinguishers for new building)
- . While the bank balance looks very healthy, there are some costs soon to be incurred :
 - . \$900 for the purchase of the disability ramps for the doorways into the new building
 - . \$2000 (approx.) for the annual insurance bill. The new building has not yet been added to the insurance policy. Rough estimate supplied by the insurer was around \$350.
 - . Also remember that we owe Denise & Alec \$4000 for a loan earlier this year. If possible (& it depends on what income we have over the next month or so), I would like to pay back this loan before the financial records go to the Auditor early in the New Year.

We were not successful with the latest GCBF grant application. Perhaps it would be best to wait until the floods have receded before applying again. We need to put a hold on projects until the fit out of the Resource Centre is completed. Peter and Karen will attend to the new building application after inspection by Scott Cobon. It was moved by Denise Harslett and seconded Alan Kerr that we pay all bills as well as loan to Denise and Alec before our audit. Carried.

Building & maintenance:

The new building has now been completed with all the necessary requirements (hopefully) to obtain a 7B approval. This approval does not allow the public into the building, only AHA volunteers. Fire Extinguishers were the last requirement and have now been installed. Talking to Scott Cobon's offsider at the SDRC, we do not need water tanks (for 7B) as long as the run off from the down pipes does not go into the neighbor's property and the water drains away from the building. Water tanks would still be a good idea. A request has been sent to SDRC asking for a date in the near future for Scott Cobon to come and inspect the building for a 7B sign-off.

When Scott did a frame inspection earlier this year, he suggested AHA writes to him outlining what was the intended use of the building and requesting our application be upgraded to a 9B (which allows the public access to the building). This was done but it appears the letter (even though addressed to Scott) got passed onto the planning area. SDRC are requiring AHA withdraw the 7B application, submit a 9B application, pay the necessary fee etc. Will bring this up with Scott when he comes to do the 7B inspection.

The path from the Bailey Bridge to the new building and the installation of the disability ramps were the only additional requirements originally told to us to satisfy a 9B approval. The ramps will be installed within the next 2 weeks. Time will tell if there are any other requirements!!

Landscaping & grounds maintenance:

The main addition to our precinct has been a concrete wheelchair path to our new building. I did this project with good grace, but feel obliged to state that I consider this path to be unnecessary, ugly and environmentally unfriendly. I imagine that most wheelchair persons would agree with me. Thanks to Peter, Steve, Denise, Tim and Jack for their help. Two issues have arisen from the project. The cement truck got bogged so I would like to upgrade this access as no one seems to take ownership of this road. Also we have a messy corner created by the path which we plan to plant to garden.

Happy with the evolution of our indigenous garden which is about to get a profile lift with interest being shown by the 'indigenous food and medicine' group. I understand that our Council will not publicly acknowledge the Kambuwal people- I believe it is something to do with no land claims having been made by this tribe. I think that we are ahead of this game. I am wondering if we should consider creating a botanic garden in our Sports and Recreation Reserve. I don't believe that the oval will ever be used again as a sports venue. We could concentrate on local plants. Our ecology range is from rocky outcrops, old growth treed areas to swampy environs. This concept was proposed between Britannia St and the bypass but never got traction. We have a far better location with an already healthy native area. It would be a very fitting memorial to Jean's legacy of her dedication to the natural world.

The poppy paddock has been a hit. I propose that we make all the bank from the entrance to the tank a field of poppies. It is my intention to improve the drainage along Goldfields Rd and use this soil to create this garden.

Alec

A group will be visiting our indigenous garden on Saturday afternoon. Morwenna H will be attending to accept a gift of plants. The poppy garden is looking great after recent rains especially along the railway line. This would be extended and built up. Consideration should be given to a botanic garden in the recreation reserve as a legacy to Jean Harslett. Alan Kerr volunteered to assist. All gardens should be kept to low or no maintenance due to the workload on a few members.

Events: Tour Groups – For a period through late winter and spring there were groups every week but this has eased lately.

History:

Carriage Report:

It was generally agreed that the carriage theme should be the railway historical data, the Prince of Wales visit and World War 1 memorabilia. The model of the Amiens railway station would also be housed in the carriage.

Greg needs to send an email to his group to keep them informed on progress of the scale model of railway precinct. Measurements to scale need to be forwarded to Ken.

Resource Centre:

Suggestions for what to move from the carriage to the Resource Centre centred on the counter, black cupboard and the jewellery.

The Pikedale homestead model, and large patchwork quilt will be housed in Resource Centre as well as pictorial map of Amiens village, other wall maps, glass

display cabinet for scrapbooks, and a computer and desk. Soldier Settler passports will be kept here as well. There are 16 maps altogether and Morwenna H. and Heather will get quotes on how to best hang these.

A volunteer area will be set up with a bar fridge, chairs, laptops, office space so it is possible to work on a computer here.

We need to look at charging an entry fee once the facility is up and running.

Publicity:

Publicity remains mostly the same with frequent blogs about ALC attractions, membership drives, artefact/photo requests, interesting snippets and meeting notifications.

Don and I delivered the last of the A4 brochures to all motels in town except Boulevard (we ran out) as well as Granite Belt Brewery, Top of the Town Caravan Park, VIC and Sommerville Tourist Park. We were greeted with open arms so I feel we've missed out on some valuable publicity. The chap from VIC was pleased because he had been copying some as the numbers got low. I think it might be a good time to consider some DL fliers which are easier to handle.

Don and I would be more than happy to distribute them around town and further afield to spread the knowledge about ALC. Heather

The publicity flyers would be better in DL format. It was decided not to put committee phone numbers on flyers. This information is on the website and is up to date. It was suggested that bookmarks could be a good form of advertising.

All reports were moved by Denise Harslett and seconded by David Muir

Pastoralists :

PASTORALISTS Sub committee report

Robert Morison, Alec and Denise have been interviewing graziers from the western side of the district to gather family histories of their various properties. Robert has a lot of trove info as well as writing a summary of each visit.

At the working B at AHA in August, Morwenna A, Alec and I were the subgroup designated to come up with ideas about how we tell our story in the new centre. We thought most visitors prefer some audio as well as visual prompts rather than just reading, and it was decided to put together some short documentary presentations, with sound, on each Station researched. We felt this short story should be fairly light in character such that a visitor can choose how many they want to read. As well as each short story we should record the more detailed info we have along with a record of any booklet or other documents we may have to support the veracity of our stories. We have to date written 7 stories and these have been sent to the families concerned for approval and additions deletions etc Alum Rock-Smith, Mulgowan-Smith, Mallow-Hotel and Cobb and CO Staging Post, Midlothian- Brunckhorst, Spring Creek etc- Ferriers, Bendee -Newton and Nundubbermere- Tulloch

I submitted a sponsorship application to Bendigo to see if they will give us \$1500 for a touchscreen computer?? We will also need a desk and chairs and perhaps something to form an alcove and probably earphones. Also in our display area we will have the "Pikedale Homestead" model which is being donated to AHA which will also need a table to stand on-I believe AHA has already agreed to some sort of cover for the model and I have a wooden lazy Susan which is big enough so the model can be rotated. I think we can muster all the physical stuff we need if we get this grant from Bendigo. (perhaps a small bedside table .5x.4m minimum would be useful if anyone has one) We just need to get the history documentaries into a presentable form but Morwenna B has offered to help us with the programme she has used previously and we need lots of photographs which we are working on.- Pastoral photos- old and new- gratefully accepted.

As well as the story about the Pikedale Homestead we plan one on the early property similar to our other Property stories and one on Maryland. These two we would hope to complete for the initial Pastoralist display but further stories can be added as time and interest permits.

Denise

General Business:

- Volunteers:

Colleen has prepared a discussion paper to be included in the meeting minutes for discussion.

A DISCUSSION PAPER – AHA AND VOLUNTEERS

It seems timely now that our building project is nearly complete and the association is steaming ahead to look at volunteers in our organisation.

I should point out that the ideas in this discussion are mine and may not be those that everyone else feels.

Firstly – What is a volunteer?

1. Obviously it is someone who donates time to a project / organisation etc without financial remuneration. The experience is their reward.

2. They are under no obligation to the organisation and are free to operate as they wish limited by the constitution and guidelines of the organisation.

3. They can commit as much or as little of their time as they choose.

4. Other?

How should they be treated within the organisation?

1. They should not be paid.

2. They should be valued and their ideas respected.

3. The organisation should not have expectations of them beyond what they wish to contribute.

4. They should be offered a rewarding experience remembering that volunteering is an optional extra to their lives, not their first priority.

5. Other

How does this fit into AHA?

AHA has been lucky in that they have very hard working and dedicated volunteers. Over the course of years we have had many such people with a nucleus of devoted workers.

It is not new to our discussions to say that we would like more helpers and we would like to attract younger people. Easier said than done.

My concern is that we are on the verge of volunteer fatigue, again something we have often mentioned. We have to consider ways of avoiding this. It is probably worth mentioning that in the survey conducted 2 or 3 years ago we asked participants how much time they were willing to contribute to volunteering for AHA. I would hazard a guess that almost every volunteer contributes far more time than they initially said they would be happy to contribute.

At the inception of this organisation many years ago there were very loose goals for its development. There was a plan to expand to a nationally significant organisation which would take over the

management and liability of the center and the association would be free to participate as much or as little as it felt inclined. The other plan was to “suck it and see” and develop with ideas as they came along and take full control ourselves of the destiny of the center. For a variety of reasons this later plan is the one we are working with and it is up to us to make it work.

For this model to work we rely on volunteers. If we are to keep steaming ahead we need to see if we can take the pressure off this limited and aging workforce not only by reducing the work load but respecting and valuing any contribution they make.

I don't propose to have all the ideas by any means but I do have a couple of suggestions.

There will always be expansionist ideas and opportunities but we are at a bit of a cross roads with our new building virtually up and running. Fortunately this also means that our financial outgoings should reduce.

We have 2 volunteers rostered on Sunday mornings and I believe this should continue much as it does now, I don't see how it can really be changed.

What I think we could consider is relieving the workload when we have tours. Right now we virtually always have 2 volunteers on and often 4 or more when we have a tour. It has been particularly busy lately and we do also have very quiet times but there have been 3 tours in the past week. Very good for our coffers but demanding on volunteers.

We have a pricing structure which seems to work well for the tours, perhaps we should think of portioning some of that to paying for help to reduce volunteer demand. I suggest that when we have a tour scheduled we hire outside help to set up, serve, and clean up the tea and coffee or meal arrangements so that we only need possibly 1 volunteer to conduct the tour. I suggest to do this we do need to consider putting in a sink with a little hot water system so that too is more manageable.

The other demanding role of volunteers is maintenance. A lot of time is put into cutting grass, weeding gardens, cleaning toilets and other general cleaning. I would propose hiring a handy man / woman for a determined number of hours at a determined interval to take care of these chores.

Needless to say none of this can happen immediately. We do still have financial commitments but I think it is time to start planning towards this for the near future.

It was agreed by members present at the meeting, that volunteers should be kept happy and informed. Communication is paramount. We could facilitate educational workshops, e.g. how to research ancestry (just a suggestion).

Once we have a constant income stream, we can fund the mowing and cleaning of toilets.

It was moved Marlene Muir and seconded Morwenna Arcidiacono that we charge an entry fee when the facility is up and running, cost to be decided at a future meeting. Carried,

- The dates for Xmas/New Year closures needs to be sent to volunteers and to Monique. (for Heather)
- Colleen asked about the play written by the Pullars for the 2020 celebrations which were cancelled due to COVID. It was suggested that the Stanthorpe Little Theatre Little may be interested in helping to stage a production with us in 2023.
- Roger Willis had submitted suggestions regarding the naming/official opening of various buildings at ALC. It was decided to hold a ceremony to name the new Amiens Resource Centre (ARC) and the Village Green after council approval and to invite Shane Donnelly. Date TBA.
- It was agreed to lock the toilets and give the mailman a key. David and Alec to do.
- David and Alec will also relocate the donation box to the Bailey bridge with a sign.
- A survey of members will be sent out by email to gauge opinion on the possible change of opening day of the carriage from Sunday to Saturday as there seems to be more tourists around on Saturday.
- Xmas Party on Monday 19 December at 2.00 pm. BYO everything.

Meeting closed at 3.40 pm. Next meeting to be advised.