

**Connecting Country (Mount Alexander Region) Inc**  
**Annual general meeting and ‘Hearing our place’ presentation**  
**Minutes**



**Time and date:** 4.00 to 6.00 pm on Saturday 16 November 2019

**Venue:** Campbells Creek Community Centre, 45 Elizabeth St, Campbells Creek VIC

<b>Attendance</b>	
Committee:	Brendan Sydes (President, chair), Saide Gray (Vice President), Max Kay (Treasurer), Marie Jones (Secretary), Deborah Wardle, Karoline Klein, Malcolm Trainor
Staff:	Asha Bannon, Bonnie Humphreys, Frances Howe, Ivan Carter, Jacqui Slingo, Jess Lawton
Members and visitors:	Andrew Skeoch, Anna Campbell, Bev Phillips, Bob McDonald, Brian Rebbечи, Carol Barker, Carolyn Tanner, Cheryl Taylor, Chrisanne Blennerhassett, Chris Hosking, Christine Kilmartin, Clodagh Norwood, Dean McLaren, Deb Shaw, Denis Hurley, Duncan Gibson, Elaine Atkinson, Frances Cincotta, Gen Blades, Giles Daubney, Greg Somerville, Ian Higgins, Jan Hall, Jane Mitchell, Jane Rusden, Jane Staly, Jess Drake, Joanna Jacob, John Childs, Jonathan Sydes, Julian Hollis, Kerrie Jennings, Kim Peric, Lana Hughes, Lee Mead, Lex Walker, Lisa Hall, Lou Citroen, Lucinda Young, Marge Townrow, Marlene Bell, Mark Hughes, Mike Reeves, Neil Ipsen, Nina Powney, Paula Martin, Pauline Marshall, Pete Boekel, Peter Dingle, Ro Luke, Ron Wescott, Sue Boekel, Sue Hollis, Sylvia Phillips, Tanya Loos, Thea Sydes, Tony Day, Vicki Edwards
Apologies:	Beth Mellick, Chris Brooke, Chris Johnston, Chris Timewell, David Cheal, Damian Kelly, Euan Moore, Garry Gibson, Jan Dunn, Jennifer Pryce, Jennifer Rolland, Lynne Kelly, Margaret Muir, Mark Dunn

Timing	Item	Person	Activity	Decisions
<b>Welcome</b>				
4.00 pm	1	Welcome	Ivan Carter	Ivan welcomed everyone to the event.
	2	Acknowledgement of Country	(Engagement Coordinator)	We acknowledged the traditional custodians of the land, the Dja Dja Wurrung and their care of the land, and paid respects to their Elders past, present and emerging.
	3	Connecting Country's story	Connecting Country staff	Presentation on Connecting Country's work and why it is important.
<b>Annual general meeting (AGM)</b>				
4.30 pm	4	Introduction to AGM	Brendan Sydes (President)	-
	6	Minutes of the previous AGM	Brendan Sydes (President)	Minutes from Connecting Country's last annual general meeting (AGM) on 10 November 2018 were circulated to members.
	6	President's report	Brendan Sydes (President)	Brendan thanked the staff, volunteers, funders, donors and fellow committee members, plus everyone else who contributes to Connecting Country's success. He acknowledged Dja Dja Wurrung and our other project partners, and all who helped review our strategic plan. Brendan introduced Connecting Country's annual report 2019, which was circulated electronically, with hard copies available on request.
	7	Treasurer's report	Max Kay (Treasurer)	Max presented the financial results and concluded Connecting Country is in a sound financial position with substantial cash assets. Although financial statements for the last year indicated a loss, this was due to grant income received in the previous year
				Minutes from 2018 AGM are accepted. <i>Moved: Marie Jones</i> <i>Seconded: Saide Gray</i> <i>Carried</i>

Timing	Item		Person	Activity	Decisions
		Treasurer's report (continued)		(2017-18) that was spent in 2018-19. Overall there was a surplus of \$23,459 over the 2017-19 period. Connecting Country's financial statements and systems for 2018-19 were audited by Sean Denham and Associates and found to be a true and accurate report of our financial position. Audited financial statements have been circulated to members.	Connecting Country's audited financial statements for 2018-19 are accepted. <i>Moved: Max Kay</i> <i>Seconded: Deborah Wardle</i> <i>Carried</i>
	8	Election of Connecting Country committee of management	Jane Rusden	All positions on the Connecting Country committee of management were declared vacant.  A single candidate was nominated for each of the four vacant executive member positions (President, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer) and four ordinary member positions. Each candidate was therefore elected unopposed.  Brendan encouraged new people to consider joining the committee next year. Anyone interested in nominating is welcome to contact him via Connecting Country.	Elected executive members: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• President: Brendan Sydes</li> <li>• Vice President: Sadie Gray</li> <li>• Treasurer: Max Kay</li> <li>• Secretary: Marie Jones</li> </ul> Elected ordinary members: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Christine Brooke</li> <li>• Deb Wardle</li> <li>• Karoline Klein</li> <li>• Malcolm Trainor</li> </ul>
	9	Connecting Country fees	Brendan Sydes	Membership fees for both joining Connecting Country as a new member, and the ongoing annual membership renewal fees, will remain at \$0 (free).	Connecting Country's membership fee for 2018-19 is \$0 (free). <i>Moved: Brendan Sydes</i> <i>Seconded: Max Kay</i> <i>Carried</i>
	10	Audit of Connecting Country for 2019-20 financial year		Sean Denham and Associates was proposed as the auditors for the 2019-20 financial year.	Connecting Country's auditor for 2019-20 is Sean Denham and Associates. <i>Moved: Carol Barker</i> <i>Seconded: Malcolm Trainor</i> <i>Carried</i>
	11	Additional items		Lou Citroen questioned whether Connecting Country had considered membership fees to help raise funds. Brendan explained the committee wanted membership accessible to all but encouraged members to contribute in whatever way they can.	-
	12	AGM close		AGM closed at 4.45 pm.	-
<b>Guest presentation: Hearing our Place</b>					
4.45 pm	13	Activity: 'What's that sound?'	Asha Bannon	Nature sounds activity with Andrew Skeoch – playing and identifying recordings of local animals.	-
5.00 pm	14	Presentation: 'Hearing our place'	Andrew Skeoch	Presentation exploring crucial role of sound and communication in nature and evolution, with focus on our box-ironbark birdsong and natural soundscapes. A summary of the presentation is available on website ( <a href="http://www.connectingcountry.org.au">www.connectingcountry.org.au</a> ).	-
6.00 pm	15	Event close	Ivan Carter	Ivan thanked presenters, organisers, volunteers and participants, and closed the event.	-

Signed: ..... Date: .....