

Connecting Country (Mount Alexander Region) Inc

Annual general meeting 2021 and 'Restoring landscapes in a changing climate' presentation

Minutes



Time and date: 2.00 to 3.30 pm on Saturday 13 November 2021

Venue: Online via Zoom

Attendance

Committee:	Brendan Sydes (President, chair), Saide Gray (Vice President), Max Kay (Treasurer), Marie Jones (Secretary), Chris Brooke, Deborah Wardle, Karoline Klein, Malcolm Trainor
Staff:	Bonnie Humphreys, Frances Howe, Hadley Cole, Ivan Carter, Jacqui Slingo, Jess Lawton
Members and visitors:	Alex Don, Asha Bannon, Ash Vigus, Bev Phillips, Cassia Read, Christine Kilmartin, Dee Burge, Dona Cayetana, Duncan Gibson, Euan Moore, Garry Gibson, Geoff Caine, Geoffrey Harris, Geoffrey Murray, Glen Ballinger, Helen Evans, Janet Wheatley, Jennifer Rolland, Jill Allan, John Childs, Kara Finlay, Marge Townrow, Mark Dunn, Raina Kilner, Terry Willis
Apologies:	-

Timing	Item	Person	Activity	Decisions
Welcome				
2.00 pm	1	Ivan Carter (Engagement Coordinator)	Ivan welcomed everyone to the event.	-
	2		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	Frances Howe (Director)	Frances summarised Connecting Country's work and key highlights from 2020-21, and thanked staff, committee, funders, volunteers and donors.	-
Annual general meeting (AGM)				
2.15 pm	4	Brendan Sydes (President)	Brendan opened the AGM and explained the online voting system.	-
	5		Minutes from Connecting Country's last AGM (held on 26 September 2020) were circulated to members. <i>Quorum requires 10% of current members = 21 votes</i>	To accept the minutes of Connecting Country's 2020 AGM. <i>Moved: Marie Jones</i> <i>Seconded: Christine Brooke</i> <i>Carried (26 votes)</i>
	6		Brendan welcomed members and non-members to AGM. He acknowledged Dja Dja Wurrung as traditional land managers, and the value of our partnerships with Djarra. He introduced the AGM structure and explained voting system.	-
	7	Max Kay (Treasurer)	Max presented the 2020-21 financial results, as confirmed by independent auditor. Connecting Country recorded income of \$405,220 and expenses of \$408,498 resulting in a small financial loss (\$3,278). On 30 June 2021 Connecting Country had assets of \$598,467 and liabilities of \$398,329. Despite funding challenges we remain in a sound financial position, backed by a financial reserve (\$200,138).	To accept Connecting Country's audited financial statements for 2020-21 financial year. <i>Moved: Max Kay</i> <i>Seconded: Brendan Sydes</i> <i>Carried (22 votes)</i>
	8	Brendan Sydes	All 2020-21 committee members were re-nominated for their existing roles. No additional nominations were received.	All committee of management members were re-elected to 2021-22 committee:

Timing	Item		Person	Activity	Decisions
		Election of Connecting Country committee of management (continued)	Brendan Sydes	As a single candidate was nominated for each of the four executive member positions (President, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer) and four ordinary member positions, each candidate was re-elected unopposed.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">President: Brendan SydesVice President: Sadie GrayTreasurer: Max KaySecretary: Marie JonesChristine BrookeDeb WardleKaroline KleinMalcolm Trainor
	9	Connecting Country fees		Connecting Country does not charge fees to join as a new member or renew annual membership.	To determine Connecting Country joining fee and annual subscription fee for 2021-22 (\$0). <i>Moved: Deb Wardle</i> <i>Seconded: Marie Jones</i> <i>Carried (28 votes)</i>
	10	Audit of Connecting Country for next financial year		Connecting Country's current auditor is Sean Denham and Associates.	To appoint Sean Denham and Associates as auditors for 2021-22. <i>Moved: Christine Brooke</i> <i>Seconded: Max Kay</i> <i>Carried (27 votes)</i>
	11	Closing remarks		Brendan noted that 2020-21 continued to be challenging and thanked everyone involved in Connecting Country's success: staff, fellow committee members, volunteers, supporters and funders. Brendan particularly thanked individual donors and declared AGM formalities closed.	-
Guest presentations: Restoring landscapes in a changing climate					
2.30 pm	12	Future-proof our forests <i>Connecting Country</i>	Bonnie Humphreys (Landscape Restoration Coordinator) with Ivan Carter	Bonnie responded to Ivan's questions on Connecting Country's mission to create two pioneering climate future plots in the Mount Alexander region. Bonnie explained the purpose of the plots, challenges in getting started and progress so far. Two plots of 3 ha will target Silver Banksia and Sweet Bursaria. A summary of the talk will be available via Connecting Country's website.	-
2.50 pm	13	Climate ready revegetation: through the lens of Central Victoria's climate projections <i>Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning</i>	Geoff Caine (Program Manager Community and Partnerships – Loddon Mallee region) with Dona Cayetana	Geoff presented climate projections for our region indicating weather conditions outside the historical range by 2030s, increasing in 2050s and 2090s. By 2030s we can expect higher summer temperatures, less winter rainfall (more in November and autumn), more heatwaves and droughts, and possibly more flooding. This may affect plant distribution, ecosystem composition, structure and function, and human health and safety. Geoff then answered questions from the audience. A copy of the presentation will be available via Connecting Country's website.	-
3.30 pm	14	Event close	Ivan Carter	Ivan thanked presenters and attendees, and closed the event.	-

Signed: **Date:**