blue mountains BMUC inc unions council

Politics in the Pub

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Minutes of Annual General Meeting of the Blue Mountains Unions Council Incorporated.
Held at Blackburn's Family Hotel Katoomba on 3/11/2013. Meeting opened at 10.40 am 9 present.

Acknowledgement of Traditional Owners – President Kerry Cooke acknowledged the traditional owners of the land.

Apologies Dave Butler, Craig Smith, John Park, Sarah Shrubb, Annette Bennett, Geoff Bennett, John Park, Susan Templeman, Ron Fuller, Boz Brookes, Judith Fritz, Don McGregor, Kate Cooke, Susan Elfert.
Apologies accepted. Proposed .. Nick Franklin Second... David Holmes Carried.

Previous Minutes Acceptance of previous Minutes Proposed ..... Trish Doyle Second ..... Peter Lammiman Carried.

Presidents Report See attached. Proposed ..... Kerry Cooke Second ..... Trish Doyle Carried.

Treasurer's Report See attached. Proposed ..... Debra Smith Second ..... Trish Doyle Carried.

Returning Officer in the Chair. The outgoing President, Kerry Cooke welcomed members and called on Nick Franklin to take the Chair for the running of the Annual General Meeting.

Positions declared vacant. The Chair declared all Positions Vacant & informed the meeting that all members of the BMUC Inc had been notified in a mail out in order to meet our obligations as contained in the Model Constitution of the Blue Mountains Unions Council Inc to provide adequate time for nominations for the Management Committee to be received by 6pm 25/10/2013 and that if insufficient nominations are received, the nominees are taken to be elected and further nominations for unfilled positions to be received at the Annual General Meeting of BMUC Inc which would commence at 10.30am 3/11/2013 at Blackburns Family Hotel Parke St Katoomba.

Nominations received by the close of the ballot at 6pm 25/10/2013 as follows:

President..... One nomination received 6/10/13 for Kerry Cooke.
Proposed..... Nick Franklin Second .....Peter Lammiman.
There being no further nominations received by the due date, Kerry Cooke was duly elected President.

Vice-President..... A postal nomination for Trish Doyle was received but due to bushfires it was not presented to Ms Doyle to sign by the deadline. No postal other postal nominations received. Trish Doyle was nominated from the floor.
Proposed..... Morrie Mifsud Second..... Peter Lammiman
There being no further nominations, was duly elected Vice President.

Secretary..... One nomination received 6/10/13 for Debra Smith.
Proposed..... Nick Franklin Second..... Peter Lammiman
There being no further nominations, Debra Smith was duly elected Secretary.

Treasurer..... No postal nomination by the due date. Susan Lammiman was nominated from the floor.
Proposed..... Trish Doyle Second..... Kerry Cooke
There being no further nominations, was duly elected Treasurer.

Committee of Management .....There was one postal nomination for a position on the Management Committee received by the due date. Nominations for other positions were called for from from the floor.

For one position of Member of the Committee of Management. Annette Bennett was nominated from the floor.
Proposed.....Trish Doyle Second..... .David Holmes. Annette Bennett advised Debra Smith prior to the meeting that she would accept a position if nominated.
There being no further nominations was duly elected to the first position on the Management Committee.

For a second position of Member of the Committee of Management a postal nomination for Peter Lammiman was received 6/10/13.
Proposed.....Nick Franklin Second..... .Debra Smith
There being no further nominations was duly elected to the second position on the Management Committee.

For a third position of Member of the Committee of Management. Marie Fellbaum-Korpi was nominated from the floor.
Proposed.....Debra Smith Second..... . Kerry Cooke
There being no further nominations was duly elected to the Management Committee.

For a fourth position of Member of the Committee of Management. David Holmes was nominated from the floor.
Proposed.....Peter Lammiman Second..... .Trish Doyle
There being no further nominations was duly elected to the Management Committee.

Public Officer.....The position of Public Officer is not an elected position. Debra Smith continues as Public Officer of BMUC Inc.

That concluded the election of office bearers for the BMUC Inc for the year 2013/2014.

General Business.....*Fees* The outgoing Treasurer has not recommended an increase in fees. An increase in fees is deferred to the AGM for 2014/2015.

Bank signatories Susan Lammiman, Kerry Cooke and Debra Smith.
Proposed.....Trish Doyle Second .....Kerry Cooke Carried

Returning Officer One nomination for Nick Franklin for the position of Returning Officer received from the floor.
Proposed..... Trish Doyle Second .....Kerry Cooke. Carried.

Conclusion..... There being no further business for the Annual General Meeting of the BMUC Inc then called on the newly elected President of the BMUC Inc to take the Chair.

The Annual General Meeting for 2013 then closed at 11.15 am.

President's Report 3/11/13

Introduction: In the past year **Politics in the Pub** (PIP) has continued to thrive in the Blue Mountains - we have staged a number of well attended events providing platform for unionists, politicians and grassroots activists to have a voice about the issues of our times in a public forum.

It is almost a year since we put on the **Education the Equaliser PIPub 10/11/12** and presented the **Rod Brooks Memorial scholarships** at Katoomba High School. We were invited by **Unions NSW** to participate in the launch of their **Report card campaign** which was a score card on 2 years of O'Farrell government. In June we held the successful **Education the Way Forward PIP 01/06/13** and participated in a **Winter Magic event,** with the **ASU (Amanda Carr), Nurses Union (Peter Lammiman)** and the **TAFE Community Alliance** to promote unionism and dialogue through petitions raising awareness of TAFE Cuts and threats to nurse/patient ratios**.** Our next **PIP** was **Meet our Election Candidates 24/08/13 in** August with **Susan Templeman, Danielle Wheeler** cameo appearance from **Mark Lennon.** Sitting Liberal Member Louise Markus had a long standing invitation to attend.

I acknowledge the death of **Neville Williams** our former Treasurer, comrade and friend for his contributions to the BMUC. Thank you to **Judith Fritz** for stepping up as treasurer. Judith has now resigned for personal reasons**.**

It's fair to say that none of these events would have been possible without the continuing support of MCRN for covering our insurance and the Blackburn Family for once again providing us with a suitable venue free of charge.

The main debates we staged during 2012/13:

Education the Equaliser 10/11/12: The president of TAFE Teachers Association NSWTF **Phil Chadwick** talked about state government policies attacking quality provision of TAFE and Public schools. **Michael de Wall**, NSW Teachers Federation local organiser talked further on the damaging effects of cutting funds to Public schools and TAFE in the Blue Mountains. **Keely Tregillgas** Springwood student teacher was very well received in sharing her insights into the profession from a students perspective.

Education the Way Forward 01/06/13: Senior economic columnist, journalist for the Melbourne Age and co editor of DISSENT, **Kenneth Davidson** led a thoughtful and critical discussion on public affairs including economic and education policy. he went on the raise significant issues around the funding of Gonski. Secretary of the National Tertiary Education Union NSW, **Genieve Kelly** spoke about the current state of funding in the university sector in Australia. **Jude Pearce**, former TAFE student, currently studying education at Sydney Univer-

sity, told her story of overcoming significant barriers to achieve outstanding results in the Tertiary Preparation Certificate at Wentworth Falls TAFE.

Meet our Election Candidates 24/08/13: We had two candidates for the Macquarie electorate, **Susan Templeman** for Labor and **Danielle Wheeler** for the Greens. The event was well attended with a cameo appearance from NSW Unions Secretary **Mark Lennon**. Both candidates answered questions from an enthusiastic audience.

The education forum is staged annually in memory of **Rod Brooks**, a well known Blue Mountains teacher and community activist, who taught many students the art of public speaking and was passionately committed to the importance of free speech. On behalf of the Brooks family, the BMUC presents the $2,000 Rod Brooks scholarship annually. We are currently negotiating with **Boz Brooks** and **Jenny Boyall** the new Principal of KHS, to re evaluate how the funds will be distributed. BMUC formally thanks the Brooks family for continuing the scholarship on behalf of the BMUC

Money raised at Politics in the Pub raffles is also used to buy books and other media to donate to school libraries in the Blue Mountains.

The future: While the concept of Politics in the Pub is very much old style debating, the attendances over the past year show there is still a demand for these kind of events as does the proliferation of similar forums. At the same time we recognise the importance of engaging with new media - in this regard the energy of our Secretary **Debra Smith** in using social networking to publicise these functions through Facebook and Twitter, and giving the debates a new life through videoing speakers and placing them on You Tube is of growing importance for our future. As is the work of **Mark Gregory** in running the Blue Mountains Union Council website and blog.

Finally I would like to welcome new members and thank the management committee for their contributions for our achievements over the last year **Deb Smith** for all the work she does for the BMUC

Kerry Cooke

President, Blue Mountains Union Council

November 2013