# The Growing Abundance Project Inc.

# Annual General Meeting for 2019-20

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| Minutes | |
| Date and time: | 6.00 pm on Tuesday 8 December 2020 |
| Location: | Hub Plot garden, rear of 233 Barker St, Castlemaine VIC |
| Attendees: | Committee: Chris Hain (President), Elaine Atkinson (Treasurer), John Reid, Frances Howe  Other members and guests: Heather Barrett, Ian Lillington, Keppel Cassidy, Marita Zeh, Julie Sutcliffe, Grace Nicol, Grace Brown, Lucy Young, Eliza Gilchrist, Ostii Ananda, Ruby Carrodus, Madeline Hudson, Vanessa Case, Liz Stearne |
| Apologies: | Shari Cohen, Gayle Gissing, Molly Crow, Mandy Field, Suzanna Kalk, Vickie Gibbons, Tallace Bissett |
| Chairperson: | Chris Hain (President) |
| Notetaker: | Frances Howe |

| Item | | Discussion | Action |
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| 1 | **Welcome and acknowledgement of country** | | |
|  | Chris Hain welcomed all attendees, acknowledged new members and thanked everyone for their interest in The Growing Abundance Project.  Chris acknowledged the traditional custodians of the land, the Dja Dja Wurrung, their care of the land, and their elders past, present and emerging. | | |
| 2 | **Minutes of previous AGM** | | |
|  | Acceptance of minutes of previous AGM | * Minutes of the 2018-19 AGM on 25 November 2019 were distributed to members. | Motion: Minutes of the 2018-19 AGM were a true and accurate record of proceedings.  *Moved: Heather Barrett*  *Seconded: Chris Hain*  *Carried: All* |
| 3 | **Reports** | | |
| 3.1 | President’s report by Chris Hain (President) | * The Growing Abundance Project was in a holding pattern during 2019-20, due to limited resources and COVID-19 impacts. Partnerships we investigated did not eventuate. * The Hub Plot and Seed Library remain vibrant thanks to strong volunteer efforts. Growing Abundance supports them with grant auspicing, insurance and communications. * Thank you to the outgoing committee – Elaine, John and Frances – for their enthusiasm and efforts. * Our most important achievement is to have protected key assets and financial viability for any new committee members who wish to step into leadership. We have a stable organisation, ready to move into a new era, backed by assets, resources and strong community support. * *Refer to President’s report for further information*. | Motion: The President’s report is accepted.  *Moved: John Reid*  *Seconded: Frances Howe*  *Carried: All* |
| 3.2 | Treasurer’s report by Elaine Atkinson (Treasurer) | * Finance reports reflect a quiet year, with total income of $1,195 for 2019-20. Expenses of $3,481 meant a net loss of $2,286. As of 30 June 2020 Growing Abundance’s total equity is $14,103.48. * We simplified our bookkeeping system, with generous help from Sharyn Robinson as volunteer bookkeeper. * The Hub Plot ran another successful garage sale raising funds for food growing projects in Lolotoe, East Timor. * We have cash reserves to cover essential expenses -such as insurance, registration and website fees – for the next year. * Growing Abundance will need new grants or philanthropic support to continue operations and establish new projects. * *Refer to Treasurer’s report for further information*. | Motion: The Treasurer’s report is accepted.  *Moved: Chris Hain*  *Seconded: John Reid*  *Carried: All* |
| 4 | **General Business** | | |
| 4.1 | Election of Committee of Management | * All positions were declared open. * Nominations for the Committee of Management were invited, and the following nominations made: * President - Grace Brown * Treasurer - Keppel Cassidy * Secretary – Grace Nicol * Vice-chair – Madeline Hudson * General committee members:   Ian Lillington  Julie Sutcliffe  Ostii Ananda  Marita Zeh  Ruby Carrodus  Liz Stearne  Mandy Field  Suzanna Kalk   * As there were no other nominations, all nominees were appointed to the respective committee positions. * The outgoing committee members warmly welcomed the new committee and confirmed they will be available to provide handover. | Motion: Members endorse nominations for the Committee of Management and office bearers as declared.  *Moved: Chris Hain*  *Seconded: John Reid*  *Carried: All* |
| 4.2 | Election of Public Officer | * Members were advised that under the *Associations Incorporation Reform Act 2012*, the Secretary automatically holds the Public Officer position. * Elaine Atkinson volunteered to complete the next Annual information Statement to the Australian Charities and Not-for -Profits Commission (ACNC). | Grace Nicol to be the Public Officer.  Elaine to submit 2021 statement to ACNC. |
| 5 | **Other business** | | |
| 5.1 | Next steps | * Chris suggested the new committee members exchange contact details and we schedule a meeting in January 2021 for handover from old committee to new committee. | New and previous committee members to meet in January 2021. |
| 5.2 | The Growing Abundance Project story | * Lucy Young was involved in Growing Abundance’s early days and offered to provide a history of the project, as context for the future. * Lucy, Heather, Ian and Vanessa highlighted stories about Growing Abundance’s Harvest program, and the value of picking unwanted fruit to share with the tree owner, volunteers and community. Fruit was shared with community lunch, schools, food banks and others in need. * John identified Growing Abundance as an important community asset and vehicle for projects - past and future. People have contributed blood, sweat and tears to follow dreams, sometimes, going off-road, but achieving some amazing things. We do not want to lose this. | New committee to liaise with Lucy and others to understand Growing Abundance’s history. |
| 5.3 | Community lunch | * Madeline encouraged everyone to attend Castlemaine Community House’s community lunches (12.30 pm Tuesday and Christmas day at Castlemaine Town Hall) and purchase the new community lunch cookbook. | - |
| 6 | **Meeting close** | Meeting closed at 7.00 pm |  |