

Wildcare Tasmania Annual General Meeting Minutes

DATE: 23rd March 2023

Venue: Via Zoom technology

Meeting opened: 7pm

Meeting closed: 8:27 pm (including time for Wild Talk presentation)



Present: Donna Burton (Chair), Sally Simco, Hannah Eames, Sharon Smith, Colin Hocking, Glen Hayhurst, Penni Rockliff, Lynn Hutchison, Kim Willing, Erika Shankley, Emma Reid, Joanne Naylor, Marina Campbell, Ann Hamilton, Greig Clarke, Stephen Mattingley, Sandra Collin, Alex Wise, Jo Widdowson, Marianne Gee, Peter Quin, Andy Flies.

#	Item	Discussion	Motion/Outcome	Required Action(s)
1	Welcome	Chair provided an acknowledgement of the Traditional Owners, followed by a welcome to all attendees.		
2.	Apologies	Apologies were noted from the following people: Cathie Plowman, David Butler, Rosemary Gales, Maree Gleeson.		
3	Minutes of previous AGM	Draft AGM Minutes 19 th March 2022 were presented.	Minutes confirmed.	
4	Chair's report	<p>Donna's written report as part of the Annual Report taken as read.</p> <p>Donna also noted the departure of Board members – Tracey Tasker and Sally Simco and shortly of Sharon Smith, CEO. Sally has been a long standing Wildcare member and a very active volunteer. Sally is stepping aside as she has reached the maximum time limit for serving on the Board (3 consecutive terms). Sally has been our longest serving Board member and contributed enormously to our governance, our organisation and to keeping our Board's attention on the things that matter – that is, supporting our groups to do the practical on-ground work that genuinely makes a difference. Donna added that she has valued Sally's diligence and guidance, her respectful approach to everyone and her ongoing willingness to put her hand up to assist.</p> <p>Sally responded; "Yes, I've served my term limits and it's time for me to pass my Board member hat onto Marianne. As you know, becoming a Board member is not to be taken lightly – it carries with it a high level of responsibility and commitment. Having been involved with both Donna and Marianne, I can speak confidently that they will be a perfect fit – completing a Board who has the best interests of Wildcare at heart. If you ask Mr Google what makes a good NFP Board member, the first attribute listed is 'passion for the cause' and all of us here could give ourselves a tick for that. Reading further, it also said; 'a good Board member is someone that continues to serve the cause after completing Board service and there are some others present beside myself who could give themselves a tick for that – naming Glen, Erika, and Jo. I'll be proud to join their ranks, serving also as a current leader of Wildcare Cradle Mountain Volunteers where I can continue to promote the organisation along with our</p>	Chair's report was noted.	

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		<p>activities and I'll also continue to be a very active volunteer, well into the future because Wildcaring is my passion."</p> <p>Donna then expressed her sadness that Sharon has found her present family circumstances such that she has handed in her notice and noted how extremely blessed Wildcare has been to have Sharon as our CEO over the past 5-6 years. Her skills, her leadership, her achievements, her dedication, and her endless enthusiasm have been an inspiration to many. Donna commented that she has not known Wildcare without Sharon and knows that our future will be different, from an organisational perspective – but together we will all aim to maintain our focus on the things that matter to us all – protecting, preserving, and restoring the glorious natural and cultural values that we have here in Tasmania.</p>		
5	CEO message and report	<p>Sharon expressed her thanks to Donna, who has put in an enormous amount of work with professionalism and values commitment to Wildcare. Sharon acknowledged the kindness and compassion of the Board since announcing her resignation. Sharon also thanked everyone in the meeting – whether members, volunteers or leaders for being 'Wildcare royalty' in many ways and made a plea "to maintain your wild spirit, your rage and your fire" – stating that "the world needs you (and Wildcare) more than ever and we must all act with purpose, towards our values with every purchasing decision, every action contributes to the world that we need. If the going does get tough, as it is for me at the moment, please ask for help or take some time away as needed but please maintain the rage to see you committed to the Wildcare model."</p> <p>Sharon stated that "on a personal level, it is with regret that I am resigning but I won't be resigning from the Wildcare community. I'll certainly be maintaining my membership strongly and I hope to get back to volunteering as President of the Friends of Acton Park which is now a Wildcare Group so I'm hoping to get into action later in the year with that and staying connected with Wildcare and all of your exploits."</p> <p>"I would also like to thank the Office team – Kim, Linda and Alex – just an absolute joy to work with – aligned with the values and the integrity that you expect of people in the workplace and who make it a joy and a privilege to be working on interesting and purposeful things each day."</p> <p>Sharon highlighted that Wildcare is in a fantastic position with some new partnerships in place which will stand Wildcare in great stead for years to come and that will support all of your great volunteering efforts and encouraged those present to "please use the Wildcare Tasmanian Nature Conservation Fund for funding applications, please reach out to the Office team with ideas and suggestions because Wildcare is a platform and contributed to by all."</p>	CEO's report was noted.	

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6	Annual Report/Financial Statements/Auditors Report 2021	<p>Financial Statements and Auditor's Report</p> <p>Donna reported that the Board met earlier this month with our auditors, Bentley. They advised that there were no issues of note in the audit. This year we have a modest surplus at the end of the financial year compared to 2021 which is an improvement. The auditors acknowledged the cooperation and competence of our Office team and our Accountant, Alex Wise and noted that any minor audit questions that they had were resolved very promptly and very satisfactorily and no adjustments were necessary. The outcome of this was an unqualified Audit Report with no forward deficiencies identified in Wildcare's financial controls.</p> <p>The Board also held an in-camera discussion with the Auditor who further advised the Board that Wildcare has a strong balance sheet with no significant liabilities. Provisions have been made for all of our ongoing commitments including staff leave and long service leave and overall, there are no significant risks to our organisation from a financial auditor's perspective.</p> <p>Donna invited any questions, comments, or areas for clarification about the financial statements and auditors report. There were no questions.</p>	The Wildcare Annual Report, audited financial statements and the Auditor's report were noted and accepted.	
7.	Appointment of Auditor	Bentley's is again recommended as our financial auditors for 2023. This will be their 3 rd and final year in accordance with Wildcare Tasmania's policy to not exceed 3 consecutive years with the same auditor.	Bentley's was appointed as auditor for 2023. (Third and final year of engagement).	
8.	Election/Appointment of new Board members	<p>Sharon (Public Officer) confirmed that expressions of interest for 2 Wildcare Board vacancies had been sought, as Sally Simco reached her limit of consecutive terms, Tracey Tasker was not seeking re-election, and Donna's 2 year term also became due. The meeting also noted that under the new Constitution approved by members in April 2022, elected Board positions were reduced by one (from 8 to 7 positions), hence only two positions became available.</p> <p>There were 2 candidates for these 2 positions – Donna Burton and Marianne Gee. Both candidates were assessed by the Board as meeting the criteria and both considered to be excellent contributors to the Board.</p> <p>No election was necessary as there were 2 candidates for 2 vacancies, unless there are any objections from the AGM. Sharon, as Public Officer, proposed that Donna and Marianne be appointed for 3 year terms.</p>	Marianne Gee and Donna Burton were appointed to the Board.	

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		<p>Sally also introduced those current Board members present at the meeting – Donna Burton, Hannah Eames (Community Programs and Engagement Manager- PWS), Emma Reid, Stephen Mattingley, Peter Quin, and Andy Flies.</p>		
9.	Opportunity for Questions	<p>Glen Hayhurst asked a question about the Performance report in the Annual Report - in particular the measures of success. He pointed out there would be value in including and reporting on a range of additional quantitative measures so we can more easily understand how we've performed as an organisation.</p> <p>Donna responded that during 2023 the Board would like to focus more on how we can demonstrate to our members, volunteers, funders, donors, potential sponsors, and partners, what we are really achieving on the ground. She noted that given that our groups do many diverse things, landing on a single measure of quantitative performance is quite tricky and doesn't necessarily represent the diverse areas of impact that we are having. Being able to demonstrate the diversity of those impacts is quite key to our future. Donna advised that the Board is planning to initiate consultation with branches across Wildcare so that we can explore other areas and KPIs where we can better demonstrate our achievements and value.</p> <p>Sharon responded that the Performance measures were set down by our 2021-2024 Strategic Plan and that they will be due for review for the next Strategic Plan. She made the following comments on the current 4 performance measures:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Getting people involved – providing support to the groups to grow their membership and provide new programs such as the Volunteer Discover Learn Program which aims to build membership by providing 'feeder events'. Sharon expressed thanks to those groups who make great efforts to bring people into them – particularly the island groups – there was a great spike in membership during the Wooden Boat Festival. <p>The new membership model approved by the Board last year is aiming to recruit new people and Corporations into Wildcare – bringing new opportunities for volunteer events as well as membership.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 2. Volunteer Groups informed, supported and safe – Our monthly Zooms for leaders are working well to support leaders to run safe, inclusive and enjoyable events. 3. Financial support – have strong quantitative information in this area – donations increased by \$1.5 million during 2022 primarily due to a new partnership with the Elsie Cameron Foundation. Hopefully, there will be other organisational partnerships which will bear fruit in coming years. 		

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		<p>4. Staying relevant to partners – are we giving our partners what they need (primarily the Parks & Wildlife Service as a financial partner and the land manager/partner with our groups). In 2022, we met or exceeded all the performance measures in the Deed of Agreement with NRE Tas.</p> <p>Marina expressed her gratitude to the Wildcare Board – having been involved with Wildcare for the past 15 years, she has seen how Wildcare has grown and stabilised.</p>		
10.	AGM close	Donna declared the AGM closed at 7:45pm and thanked everyone for attending and for their attention to the papers, for their interest and their ongoing commitment to Wildcare.		
11.	Wild Talk	Dr Colin Hocking gave a presentation (available at this link).		