

2019 Annual General Meeting Minutes

Station Hotel, 26 Coronation Street Kurri Kurri
9:30 am Thursday 19th November 2019

Present

Billy Metcalfe
Professor Tim Roberts
David Atkinson
Paul Hughes
Jutta Bradley
Marilyn Eade
Colin East
Prue Gage
Leigh Gibbens
Councillor Darrin Gray
Wendy Heys
Guy Hodgson

Terry Lewin
Dr Steven Lucas
Ron Main
Sam Mansfield
Carolyn Matthews
Malcolm Mills
Ross Nugent
Alec Roberts
Malcolm Roberts
Sam Reich
Anne Shanks

Apologies

Kylie Martin

The President declared the meeting open and welcomed everyone. All present stood and introduced themselves.

Reports

The following reports were tabled and accepted:

- **Presidents Report**

GHD has now completed the EIS for the Newcastle City Council (NCC) section of the Trail and a DA is expected to be on the NCC website in February 2020. This part of the Trail covers the areas of Shortland to Tarro, Hexham to Minmi and Fletcher. The President praised the work of Jeoff Wickens and Antonia who have worked on NCC in developing the DA. The President and others walked some of the Trail near Tarro and located an existing tunnel under the New

England Highway which may negate the need for a bridge to be built over the highway.

Cessnock City Council (CCC) need to hire a project manager and will need to pay for a biodiversity study of the Pambalong Nature Reserve. Funding needs to be obtained to enable work to start on the EIS.

Stakeholders on both NCC and CCC sections include Arizon, National Parks and Wildlife Service, NSW Crown Lands | Department of Planning, Industry and Environment, Yancoal and Hunter District Water Board.

RVRT needs to build our membership.

- **Treasurer's Report**

As tabled, but in addition the locations of the assets were reported:

Marquee	Rotary container at Kurri Kurri Showgrounds
First Aid Kit	Paul Hughes
Drone	Paul Hughes
Laptop computer	David Atkinson
Epsom projector	David Atkinson
Laserlite pointer	David Atkinson
Mouse	David Atkinson
Go Pro camera	unable to be located

- **Land care Report**

We have 37 land care volunteers who have been working one day per month throughout the year. The group is keen, very active and enthusiastic and enjoy the task. This year the Trail has been cleared from Lenaghan's Drive to the junction of the Hexham/Minmi line.

Recently the group was taken by the NPWS Ranger, Kathleen Straw into the State Conservation Area who showed some of the features of the trail and some areas of public risk. Afterwards we had a debrief over lunch and Kathleen has agreed to provide us with a few options for what we might be able to do in 2020.

Land Care will resume in March 2020.

Election of the 2019 – 2020 Committee

President	Billy Metcalfe
Vice President	Tim Roberts
Secretary	David Atkinson
Treasurer	Leigh Gibbens

Committee members

Marilyn Eade	Terry Lewin
Colin East	Sam Reich
Leigh Gibbens (Land Care Officer)	Alec Roberts
Paul Hughes	

Proceedings

- **Councillor Darrin Gray**
 - A combined Council working group will meet early in 2020. This group will consist of:
 - Brian Adamthwaite LMCC
 - Declan Clausen NCC
 - Darrin Gray CCC
 - CCC is committed to the Rail Trail Project – it is in the Lower Hunter Regional Plan and is a State Significant Project
 - CCC needs external funding from State and/or Federal sources. Funding to start is estimated at about \$200 000.
 - NCC has the advantage of greater funds from a greater population that CCC and NCC can link the Rail Trail to the funding for traffic management on the New England Highway where bikes need to be removed for safety reasons.
 - Sam Reich asked whether the local wine industry may be interested in helping with funding. Cr Gray said the industry is prepared to fund from Pelaw Main to the vineyards but has not expressed interest in funding the Rail Trail east of Pelaw Main.
- **Kate Harris**
 - There is no budget line for a draft review from GHD and completion of an EIS which will require about \$75 000 to get to approval, working drawings, drone survey. A dedicated project manager on a 2 year contract would be needed to drive the project at a cost of \$170 000 per annum.
 - CCC new General Manager has been briefed on the Project
 - A significant issue for CCC will be acquisition of private land and dealing with Native Title Claims.

Richmond Vale Rail Trail Inc



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26 Coronation Street Kurri Kurri NSW 2327

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the vineyards but has not expressed interest in funding the Rail Trail east of Pelaw Main.

Next meeting of committee 16 January 2020 2pm at Station Hotel Kurri Kurri

Meeting closed 11:00am

Leigh Gibbens

Leigh Gibbens
Minute Secretary for AGM

Countersigned
Billy Metcalfe, President

Billy Metcalfe