



Down to Earth (Victoria) Co-operative Society Ltd G0001791N

The Annual General Meeting of the Down To Earth (Victoria) Co-operative Society Ltd for financial year 2013/2014 will be held at  
 7.30 PM. on Thursday 26th November, 2015  
 Location: "Ceres" 8 Lee Street. Brunswick, 3057.

**Agenda**

- ◆ Opening of meeting.
- ◆ Minutes of last meeting.
- ◆ Presentation of reports.
- ◆ Thanks to Directors.
- ◆ Election of Directors.

A copy of the financial statements and the minutes from the last AGM (28-11-2013) are available to active members at meetings and also at our registered office:-  
 Tregear Bain Taplin, Suite 3, 43 Railway Road, Blackburn. 3130  
 If you wish to inspect them at the registered office, please ring 9877 6211 for an appointment.

Motions moved by the Down To Earth Co-operative Board

- (1) That DTE develops and implements an agreement for all volunteers which is to include guiding principles, a code of conduct, and a complaints review panel with procedures for disciplinary sanctions and appeals processes.
- (2) That DTE develops and implements a mental health policy with procedures the organisation can follow to help volunteers experiencing behavioural problems relating to emotional distress, mental illness or substance abuse, and if possible and appropriate, assist in their recovery. The goal of this policy is to produce an inclusive, fair and safe working environment for all volunteers. This policy should be reviewed by the Victorian Mental Illness Awareness Council to ensure it follows best practice and is free from unhelpful discrimination.
- (3) That DTE members approve expenditure of up to \$7,000 to have its rules reviewed by a solicitor in light of changes on 3 March 2014 to (Victorian State Legislation) Co-operatives Act 1996 by the Co-operatives National Law (CNL) initiative and recommend amendments necessary to fix any inconsistencies or rules conflicting with current legislation.
- (4) That up to \$13000 be allocated to engage Ecotide bush fire consultants to prepare a bush fire management plan to facilitate the permit to enable a Summer 2016 ConFest
- (5) Motion, moved by David Cruise, seconded by Troy Reid, that DTE board of directors plan, cost and evaluate the acquisition of a property in or around Brunswick (VIC) for use as warehouse storage, meeting rooms, community kitchen, workshop for infrastructure and art projects, tool/skill sharing, and where possible partnering with other Not-For-Profit volunteer organisations to deliver such facilities, with a report and proposal to be presented to members at a subsequent General Meeting.
- (6) Motion, moved by Troy Reid, seconded by Steve Poynton, that DTE members approve expenditure of up to \$40,000 for an arts grant program to commemorate ConFest 40th anniversary gathering in Easter 2016. Applicants would be invited to tender proposals for full or partial funding up to a maximum of \$10,000 for any one project with preference granted to permanent installations over temporary exhibits. The program shall implement standard anti-corruption and abuse safeguards and require detailed written proposals with budgets and references, and may implement partial withholding of funds until projects are completed or provide progressive payments. Grant applications are to be assessed and recommended for selection by an independent panel of 3 or more people chosen by DTE board of directors.
- (7) Motion, moved by David Cruise, seconded by Steve Poynton, That a sum of \$600,000 be available to the Board for the purchase of property suitable for the Co-operatives purposes. The property to be approved by a postal ballot of Active Members

(8) Request from Ian Hales

That there is a discussion on the removal of shareholders who have acted against the interests of the co-operative.



**There are five positions on the Board to be filled at this AGM.  
Three positions are for two year terms .  
And two one year terms to fill the vacancies from the retirement of Hagai Erman and Miki Shapiro  
Active members of the Co-operative may vote in person at this meeting.**

Down To Earth Rules provide for members to request a postal vote for the election of Directors in lieu of a personal vote at the meeting,

There are five candidates for the five positions. They are presented here in alphabetical order

**A ballot is required to decide which candidates fill the two year vacancies.**

Active Members may vote in person at the Meeting or .

The Board has decided Active Members may also vote via email

The Board have appointed Michael Hill as returning officer for the Ballot

If you cannot attend the meeting an wish to vote you can:-write or email Michael with your choices.

**Write** the three names of the candidates you prefer to have full terms and post to

ATTENTION Michael Hill

TREGEAR BAIN TAPLIN PO BOX  
123 Blackburn VICTORIA 3130

**Email**

the three names of the candidates you prefer to have full terms Write your choices in the body of the email.

Address to [mhill@tbt.com.au](mailto:mhill@tbt.com.au)

Put **DTE BALLOT** in the subject line  
Please include your **Member number** to enable Michael to check your vote on the Members register

**Simon Byers** policy statement

My aims when becoming a director two years ago were to improve how we communicate, being open and involving as many people as possible, there is clearly much still to be done with these. Instead I have concentrated finances, and will probably continue to be involved in money matters for the foreseeable future.

I will do my best to be a voice of reason, and I will try to make all aspects of DTE a happy, fun, and enjoyable experience that people want to stay involved with for many years to come.





**David Cruise**

I have had an involvement with ConFest since 1988. I attended all three Walwa ConFests and helped with transport. Became involved with DTE for the first Tocumwal Festival. I Co-ordinated the first ConFests at Tocumwal and Moama. Over the intervening years have worked on :- Site search, site planning/setup/pulldown. Legals & insurance, site permits. Two way radio repeater-water supply/power/gas/toilets/roads Tickets/front gate./newsletters. Purchase of land for ConFest sites. Have had market stalls at several ConFests. Been a media contact for radio TV and newspapers. Set up ConFest Radio at a number of ConFests. Involved with the creation of ConFab. Helped with the start of Sydney ConFesters Have served a number of terms as Director since circa 1990 I am a current Director, and my term ends at this AGM.

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**Matt English, POLICY STATEMENT**

My vision for Confest is that of a seamless, well oiled machine where everyone knows what needs to be done, who does it, and how; where everything simply works. Together we can make it seem easy. Managing site communications at Easter 2015 gave me many insights into how this might be done. I've also expanded what I learned by taking part in the operation of both the Burning Seed and Maitreya festivals.

There's a lot we could do better, and we have everything we need within us to make these things happen. As a director,I hope to bring together the threads of knowledge and experience within our community in ways that haven't been done before. However, Confest is an important part of all of our lives and this shared passion can lead to robust disagreement on the ways forward. Recently this has devolved into name calling and mud slinging between members, particularly in public forums. As a director of DTE I'll always advocate for decisive action any time impropriety is implied. I believe that tackling problems definitively will allow us to move on and get back to running the organisation we all love. Sincerely, Matt English, October 2015



**Troy Reid Policy Statement**

For me, DTE has a mission well beyond hosting annual gatherings. It can play an important role in helping to shape society by nourishing our communities, facilitating knowledge and skill sharing, reconnecting our generations both young and young at heart, and literally grounding us through a shared connection to the land where we gather, learn, love, eat and play. Membership of this cooperative is definitely a privilege, however with it comes custodial responsibilities to leave the organisation and its various properties, in better shape than when we found them and that is certainly my intention.

With the help of our wise elders I want to gently build this organisation in size and scope. Critical to this, we need to focus on creating sustainable quality volunteer experiences. Often it seems people forget this is supposed to be fun and enriching. Together let's create opportunities for meaningful engagement with the organisation and with each other. Together, let's create more effective internal processes so that we can build upon the work of those who came before us, and create a stable platform for those who will follow.

I believe I have the experience, energy and commitment to contribute to this endeavour.



**Murray Ross**

Down to Earth is facing changing times, both in its internal structure as well as being acted upon by outside influences.

Sadly there are some people both inside our organization as well as outside Regulatory and Legislative departments of various bodies who would like to close us down.

Down to Earth needs a strong Board of Directors who has the best interest of our organization in their thought and their action

Our current Board of Directors is made up of such people, and should they present themselves again as candidates, I ask that you give these people serious thought.

This is not a time for "mates" and "friends" or "what can I get out of this if I vote for you".

Directors who come in to push their own agendas do not last long, they never have.

