

Directors report of the years activities 2001/2002

In the last year these directors have lead the work in the following areas:-

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| David Cruise, | Chairman of the board, newsletters, print proof production, contact for Co-ops dept, legals etc. |
| John McCallum | Email secretary, market co-ordinator, ConFab committee. |
| Mary Cruise, | Phone resources, newsletters, action book recorder |
| Matti Hanane, | Market co-ordinator, letters, newsletters, contact person. Asset register |
| Brian Hall, | Ticket distribution and income retrieval, legals, insurance, land and council contact person. |
| Cheryl Boston, | Newsletters, data base, archives, account collation and receipts. |
| Peter Mills. | Minutes, mail and postage, advertising, ConFab committee. |

Thanks to Max Pascoe for keeping our accounts, liasing with the bank and our auditor and deciphering all the tax changes and GST considerations for the financial year. No mean feat.. Thanks also again to Tim and Ray for suppers, Anna for flyers and posters, Scouse and Johnno for being there.

Max Pascoe resigned from the board for health reasons in the October of 2000 The sudden resignation of 3 directors Richard Martin, Tony Gill and David Lilja, within a one week period in November 2000 left the Society with less that the four directors required for a board quorum.

Under these conditions the Registrar of Co-operatives is required, under the Act, to place the Co-op under administration. Mr Gary Fettes was appointed by the Department of Justice on the Friday the 6th of April 2001. This removed the elected board. Following a seven month period of administration, the current board was elected last November The Administrator gave Down To Earth a "clean bill of health" and complimented the Society on its financial management.

The current board can assure shareholders that Down To Earth has not had financial problems. Its financial records have been examined intensely twice in the last few years by both the Department of Justice, and the taxation department, and was, and still is, a healthy, solvent, and a functioning entity.

We have collated a register of secretaries and directors as required under the 1996 Cooperatives Act. This took a huge amount of time and research through our old minutes, annual financial reports and other archival material going back over 25 years.

Finances A profit of \$24,820 was made before tax this year.

Total income from both ConFests was \$199,638 and from confab was \$8337

Unusual expense this year was from the running of the last AGM (\$2634.) which had to cover the administrator, administrator appointed stenographers, secretarial and legal assistance as well as large print copy costs.

The cost for the administrator over the seven months was \$55,000.00.

Assets This year our main purchases have been a new radio system for many people to access and use at ConFest.

Land purchase As related in newsletters 106 we purchased our first piece of land at auction in June this year.

We paid \$210,000 including costs for 441 acres of mostly bushland on the Gulpa Creek near Deniliquin.

The property has a leased cottage and water rights . These are both income producing and there is the possibility of agistment income. At the moment there are no concrete decisions regarding the land other than to make decisions slowly and to keep it as natural as possible.

Contingent liabilities

1. ConFest web names. Although ConFest is a trademarked name we have two people who are holding web sites using the ConFest name, without the on going permission of, and against the wishes of Down To Earth.

2. There is ongoing litigation regarding an alleged injury from the setup of Easter 2000 ConFest.

Membership / Shareholdings.

There were no new shareholders admitted during this year under the administrator for 2001/2.

There have been changes to shareholdings/membership of all Victorian cooperatives under the 1996 ACT. These changes have been detailed in previous newsletters.

To have a right to voting in the Co-op you have to be an ACTIVE member. ie. be involved in the running of the Co-op. With DTE this means in the running of ConFest or ConFab. Being a director does not count nor does just attending meetings. This is fair and equitable in that those who do the work get a say. The DTE rules are available for any member. Write or email for details.

If you have not been active for the required period you will automatically forfeit your shares. ACTIVE members need to keep a record of the times and activities. (this needs to be verified by a director or ConFest committee member.) These forms are available from DTE, at ConFab and at the workers kitchen and front gate at each ConFest. YOU are responsible for keeping your record sheet updated and it being in the possession of the board by the end of each financial year to enable the board to complete the ACTIVE member lists.

There are many ways you can be an active member even if you cannot attend ConFest. Be in touch if you want to find out more.

A copy of the financial statements and the minutes from the last AGM (25-11-01) are available at meetings and also at our registered office:- Tregear Bain Taplin, Suite 3, 43 Railway Road, Blackburn. 3130