

Down-To-Earth (Vic) Cooperative Society Limited

Organising Committee

Minutes

Date: 5th October,2017

Time: 10.45pm

Venue: CERES, Learning Centre Rm,1-2 Lee St, Brunswick East VIC

Online: <https://dte.coop/live.meeting>

#	Item	Raised by:																																													
1	Meeting Started	Procedural																																													
	10.45 pm																																														
2	Election Of Chair	Procedural																																													
	Confirmation of Chairperson: Troy Reid Confirm Minute Keeper: Coral Larke																																														
3	Attendance	Procedural																																													
	<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>FOLIO</th> <th>SURNAME</th> <th>FIRSTNAME</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>1810</td> <td>Tippett</td> <td>Peter</td> </tr> <tr> <td>1770</td> <td>Mcdonald</td> <td>David</td> </tr> <tr> <td>1762</td> <td>Banville</td> <td>Denise</td> </tr> <tr> <td>1747</td> <td>Ernst</td> <td>Kathleen</td> </tr> <tr> <td>1745</td> <td>Rasmussen</td> <td>Mark</td> </tr> <tr> <td>1744</td> <td>Reid</td> <td>Troy</td> </tr> <tr> <td>1731</td> <td>Schwarz</td> <td>Martin</td> </tr> <tr> <td>1725</td> <td>Mathews</td> <td>Malcolm</td> </tr> <tr> <td>1710</td> <td>Brogan</td> <td>Ellen</td> </tr> <tr> <td>1699</td> <td>Tarr</td> <td>Jennifer</td> </tr> <tr> <td>1685</td> <td>Nissen</td> <td>Lars</td> </tr> <tr> <td>1619</td> <td>Gregory</td> <td>Steve</td> </tr> <tr> <td>1131</td> <td>Royal</td> <td>Donald</td> </tr> <tr> <td>571</td> <td>Cruise</td> <td>David</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	FOLIO	SURNAME	FIRSTNAME	1810	Tippett	Peter	1770	Mcdonald	David	1762	Banville	Denise	1747	Ernst	Kathleen	1745	Rasmussen	Mark	1744	Reid	Troy	1731	Schwarz	Martin	1725	Mathews	Malcolm	1710	Brogan	Ellen	1699	Tarr	Jennifer	1685	Nissen	Lars	1619	Gregory	Steve	1131	Royal	Donald	571	Cruise	David	
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4	Confirmation of Previous Meeting Minutes	Procedural																																													
	Not done.																																														
5	Task Check List	Procedural																																													
	<p>Not done</p> <table border="1"> <tbody> <tr> <td>30/03/17 Ellen Brogan</td> <td>Finance Committee Privacy policy</td> <td>That the Finance Committee provides back to the OC a code of conduct which includes, but not limited to, a privacy policy.</td> </tr> <tr> <td>30/03/17 Robin Macpherson</td> <td>DTE Media</td> <td>Creating a media crew and define policies</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	30/03/17 Ellen Brogan	Finance Committee Privacy policy	That the Finance Committee provides back to the OC a code of conduct which includes, but not limited to, a privacy policy.	30/03/17 Robin Macpherson	DTE Media	Creating a media crew and define policies																																								
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	30/03/17 Kristen Joy	DTE Media	Upgrade the ConFest Facebook page.	
	25/05/17 Coral Larke	Forum and sub-committee for buying land for future ConFests.	To create a forum and sub-committee to research buying land for future ConFests and / or contemplate reintroducing an ADTEN where people in different states can host a ConFest	
	18/05/17 Mark Rasmussen	Equipment Amnesty	Mail out: amnesty for all equipment that belong to DTE. Things like trailers, vehicles, generator, lap tops, cooking equipment. For people to bring back items with no questions asked, If they don't bring items back then they can be prosecuted in the way that DTE sees fit. Fizzled out	
	03/07/17	Unauthorised spending	That the OC requests Finance committee to present an audit report of unauthorised spending of advances within 42 days.	
	03/07/17	Outstanding advances and receipts	That the OC requests the finance committee to present a current report of outstanding advances and/or receipts relating to financial year ending 30 June 2016 within 42 days.	
	Robin Mac Pherson	ICDA	That the DTE Co-operative joins the Institute of Communities Directors Association	
	27/07/2017 Robin Macpherson	Clarification on Expenses	Robin MacPerson will write a policy on Directors Expenses.	
	13/07/2017 Governance Committee	Update of rules	Update rules as reviewed by solicitor Mark Williams and for DTE to submit it to Consumer Affairs	
6	<u>Correspondence / Payments</u>			<i>Procedural</i>
	Purchases Bills Ref 1414556518 MVA Arcuri & Associates 3,411.70 35951 023456 Australian Taxation Office 5,282.00 Inv 10300'13433 CERES 1,147.51 tNV-1003 Cloud Business Consulting & Bookkeeping 2,122.25 INV 7132 CWS 245.98 Inv No C0403 Lentil as Anything 350.00 Inv 38708 ODDMOW 723.25 Inv No 40946 Tregear Bain Taplin pty Ltd 2,910.60 ZXW 986 Vic Roads 558.80 T 24441 Vic Roads 58.10 ZXW 987 Vic Roads 558.80 Water NSW 174.09			Motion: Troy Seconded Denise No objections PBC
	Motion: Troy We authorize \$17543.14 payment for bills to be paid			
	<u>WH&S</u>			<i>Procedural</i>
	-			
8	<u>Andrews Truck</u>			<i>Elle Brogan</i>
	Elle spoke on behalf of Andrew Wilkinson Elle: We wouldn't have to fix people cars if we supplied DTE vehicles. Motion: That Andrew Wilkinson receives up to \$2000 for vehicle repair damage done at Working Bee			Motion: Andrew Wilkinson PBM
9	<u>Working Bee Items</u>			<i>Elle Brogan</i>

	<p>Needs a book to maintain a register for people on site. Malcolm M suggested that Elle requests that a budget for Aboriginal relationships. Elle denied the offer due because she will be handing this department over to Muddy. Elle Brogan Motion 1: Request for an extra \$40 for fuel reimbursement for Elle's work with Elders. No objections PBC Motion 2: An extra \$200 is needed for Bubba for fuel reimbursement driving down from northern Queensland. He did much work in the Aboriginal relationships. 1 objection PBM</p>	<p>Motion 1 Elle Brogan PBC Motion 2 Elle Brogan PBC</p>
16	<u>Internet to the new site</u>	<i>Troy Reid</i>
	Troy Reid: Tried to implement the internet on the new site. We were trying to use a transmitter it didn't work, had poor reception, problems with a wireless. We have a \$6500 solution using solar panels and battery. Fibre optics underground is the cheapest option because it does not need power and deep trench.	
17	<u>Resolutions</u>	<i>Procedural</i>
	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. That Andrew Wilkinson receives up to \$2000 for vehicle repair damage done at Working Bee Motion: Andrew Wilkinson Passed by majority 2. Request for an extra \$40 for fuel reimbursement for Elle's work with Elders. No objections Passed by consensus 3. An extra \$200 is needed for Bubbah's fuel reimbursement driving down from northern Queensland. He did much work in the Aboriginal relationships. 1 objection Passed Majority. 	
18	<u>Actions to be taken</u>	<i>Procedural</i>
	-	
19	<u>Next Meeting Date & Time Confirmation</u>	<i>Procedural</i>
	19 th October, 2017	
20	<u>Meeting Ended</u>	<i>Procedural</i>
	12.10am	

Attachment 1.

Transcribed from Audio.

Motion: To remove Peter Tippit from the CC mailing list for a period of time to be determined.

Speaking to the motion

Robin: The last few days I have been abused and attacked by Peter usually I ignore it, however, today a line was crossed, that to use female genitalia in reference to any of the females members in our community in context of what they are talking about is, in the words of our members disgusting. That the only way to send a clear message to Peter that this behaviour is not to be tolerated, so that he gets it and understands what it is to be civil, then he will be welcomed back.

David Cruise: Robin are you speaking as an honorary female or an ordinary male?

Robin: I am speaking about the incidents of what I am pissed off about, about the girls on the front gate. We either do what you did Dave and make it about other things and other people as a way of deflecting it or focus on the issue at hand. A member writing such a disgusting thing in our forums.

Peter T: Robin you sound upset can you actually quote what it is that has upset you please.

Robin: Reading email - It took Coral to voice concerns after I sent her a link with her details before people started to listen. Ironic considering she has a vagina and so is probably dismissed more easily according to her.

Peter T: That is not the complete email, it is out of context mate.

Robin: Jesus Christ guys

David C: People will find you using the lords name is offensive. You are in public. Please respect other people religious views. Don't use the profanity of the lords name, please.

Coral: But then, actually, I am really offended, it is not funny, I am sick of the sexism, the never ending innuendos where it comes from and how it comes. After today I don't know if I am going to come back If there is not some kind of change.

Emma: I would like to highlight that there are a lot of women in the room, now might be a good time to talk about it, if you look at the count half of us are women, that is not by accident but by design. We are here to keep a respectful commentary happen, so please guys if you are going to have a discussion about vaginas and offense, can it not be between guys.

Coral: Can I make an amendment. I would like to change from banning Peter but that Peter receives counselling. I would also like to send along the other men as well. So that when women come to meetings they are not bombarded and also that email spaces are a safe space and working bees too.

Peter T: The email wasn't quoted in full context. Regardless It was not an attack on Coral and I would like to apologise for offence caused but I am telling you it is quite a serious issue we are talking about, that this has been nicely diverted to something else. The issue being discussed was data being released to the public, your address, your facebook, your date of birth, your email, and I spoke to Robin directly, I spoke to directors, I speak in meetings and I get bounced back emails. That email was to express my frustration to bring to your attention how silly communication and data is being handled by DTE, that you are all being bubbled wrapped, you are all being fed a story. Mean while we are all put at risk, if you want to support this motion just make sure that you are voting for the right reason and understand what you are voting for.

Mark: I am reasonably sympathetic to some of the concerns of Peter's about privacy and personal information. It is fair to say that people were upset that Robin had linked private information, that is a legitimate concern. But people do feel that a line was crossed with the name calling and so on. The comment made wasn't meant to be offensive and but it did come across as a bit sexist. I think it was offensive. This has gone from one issue to another and everyone needs to recognise that that is what has happened here.

Peter: I can see we need to get back on track. I did not want to offend anyone or dismiss anyone. What I am saying is that if a woman can say she has not been heard because she is a woman where as surely me who has been bashing his head against the wall, trying to tell everyone about the risks, not for weeks but for months. Seriously you can have a woman assaulted at Confest.org and they will fill a form and get no response, not one single piece of correspondence has come from that website for 2 years now. You talk about wanting to protect women, think about it.

Mark: Look Coral do you accept Peter's apology. I think Peter is genuinely apologising here, do you accept his apology for this.

Coral: I think we have gone onto two different subjects.

Mark: I think you need to be happy that what you have raised has been handled properly. I understand you are the one who has been offended.

Coral: Can I say that we have three things going on now, Robin's agenda, Peters apology and privacy issues. The three need to be unpacked. Each three things needs to be looked at because having three wrapped up together it means not looking at them.

Mark: We are all aware of the issues. How do want to progress with this, we are not going to take Peter off the mailing lists, right.

Coral: Peter would you accept taking either mediation or counselling? I would be happy with counselling.

David: Can we include Robin in that? I have sat patiently for an hour listening, I have had very little to say.

Robin: So why are you attacking me? I mean it is just ridiculous.

David: I am the old white man that Robin complains about all the time. I am the evil old one. I am the one who runs in and

confuses everyone.

Robin: You are doing a good job.

David: You are talking over me Robin I let you speak. Look if I go through Robin's abusive emails and what you write of me I would have reasonable grounds to take you to court, so be careful what you do. Now, Peter used the word vagina, I don't see that as an abusive word.

Mark: Yes but Coral does. And that is what matters

Coral: Hang on no I dont. You are speaking on behalf of me. Can I bloody well speak I am sick and tired of the sexist F\$%^&* Ar&^%\$#. I think every woman should walk out until you actually open your ears and hear what we are saying.

David: I am actually too afraid to ask women what they actually think.

Coral: I'm walking and I hope women will walk out with me. We will come back if you want to hear what we have to say. Men you are invited too, if you would like to support us and we hope you do but we don't want a spokesman

8 people walked out to hold an alternative meeting.

Mark: Well can someone tell be what the problem is.

David: I thought it was that vaginas are a dirty word.

Coral: This has got nothing to do with vaginas being a dirty word, please listen to what we are trying to say.

Two meetings take place.

Meeting 1. Inside room.

Denise: From what I deduced from that is that people are not listening to what she tried to say, and I did see several men jump over her.

David: With respect I was speaking and she jumped over me Denise. So did you, Robin does too, everyone does. I have the audio to prove it.

Peter: I think they were pretty hostile due to something they had read.

Mark: I didn't like Coral ask Peter to have mediation or counselling because that is attacking somebody. It should be put up as a motion to the room.

Lars: (from online) Can I speak to the males in the room, young and old to be quiet and let the women have their say.

Kathy: Lars, Vanessa and I are the only women left in the room.

Ian: Well half the room is gone. Coral wants Peter to have counselling, I have a problem with that if we go down that path we will need a full time councillor, because everyone steps over the line every week. We are opening up a Pandora's box.

Kathy: The actual agenda item was put up by Robin not Coral. It would have been better if the discussion had been initiated by Coral and been clear what it was about.

Robin: Don't take away from my complaints. I have said complaints so I was supporting the situation of what happened today.

Kathy: It should have been heard separately.

Robin: While people are still in the room I can speak about one of the issues of privacy. There were a number of people making decisions, a committee made the decision. It is not right for me to be targeted for what has taken place. All people in Memcom were up for making it public. People have to be sent the link, it is not out there for the general public. Kathy was one of a group who was vocal about making it public. There is more than me in Memcom.

Kathy: I said people should be able to check, what we need is name, folio, if they are active ie. time sheets are filled in. I wasn't vocal about making all details available.

Robin: Well you should have been vocal about that in the meeting.

Lars: No one is a vocal as you are Robin.

Mark: Robin I personally agree with you. I believe that when a committee makes a decision then one person should not be attacked. Can people request that we take the personal details off that link and know that will happen.

Robin: It is just not right that I should be targeted for what has taken place here and until the community comes up with a collective policy, it was never a public thing, you have to be sent a link so it was not there for anyone to google and see. I have taken the list off line and I suggest we have a conversation about how we marry the requirement of the cooperative act with the respect for privacy of the individual. When any one asked for information to be removed, it was removed very quickly.

Ian: There is no reason, no benefit, no authority, no need for it to go up online. It was reprehensible. The perpetrators should be reprimanded for putting that in the public domain. I take strong offense.

Robin: Ian it was never in the public domain, you had to be sent a link. When Memcom took over we inherited missing members, missing folio names, no dates of members joining, no dates when they left, no links to meetings when they were told they were longer a member of the coop. To make it easier for memcom to rebuild our membership list we used a tool that is used all over the world. We did the right thing, what we needed to do to get it done. I don't see you bitching about the dishevelled mess of lists we inherited.

Marty: Language please

Robin: Dishevelled? / Messy?

Outdoor meeting 2.

Shardae: We need a zero tolerance for sexism.

Elyza: Counselling is personal, may not have been an appropriate suggestion.

Denise: We could invite a speaker to DTE who can educate us about the difficulties women have in DTE. Trevor, Bubba, Joel, Shardae, Coral, Tania, Emma Denise agreed. This is the proposal we will take inside.

Combined meeting resumes

Motion: Coral: To have a facilitator come to DTE to speak on the topic of bullying, protecting volunteers and sexism.

Seconded: Denise **No objections PBC**

Marty: This is a WH&S I would like to talk to Coral about that. Is that Ok

Coral: Yes

David C: Who is going to see to it.

Coral: I will organise a speaker for either the AGM or next OC/CC meeting.

Robins Motion

David Cruise: I believe to cut someone out at this time before the AGM could be politically motivated.

Ian: I believe that a person should be given a warning first.

Robin: Peter Tippit was warned at the ICT group, this is repetitive behaviour.

Peter: So I was banned from the ICT group, that is good to know.

Marty: No official warning has been given or from WH&S

Robin: I am talking about the lot, having my daughter and my female friends abused.

Motion Robin: Give Peter Tippit a break from CC mailing list for a period of six weeks **Seconded:** Troy

Amendment 1. That Peter T be on probation for 6 weeks, for emails to be monitored.

Amendment 2 That Peter T be on probation for six pending removal from the CC mailing list for failing to adhere to the Code of Conduct **Seconded Coral Motion Failed**

Attachment 2

The following is partly transcribed.

Jenny T complaint T expressed her fears regarding having her contact details made available to DTE members. And has an internal threat from inside DTE. That her safety and privacy has been breached.

Peter T: I know a of a DTE member who police have interviewed on a number of occasions regarding child abductions and disappearances and now that person knows my address, they are also on Active. Robin has tried to distance himself from it saying false promises. The data is out there you can never get it back. The fact that he has not acknowledged this highlights the fact that he should not be touching the data.

Robin: With all due respect Peter if you are aware of someone, a member or out cooperative that is a danger to the 100 or so members of our cooperative then I want you to name that person now.

Peter T There is no conviction so I cant say anything.

Robin Give me Crap. Seriously you are telling us we have a member on our membership / cut off

Peter T You are deflecting from the fact that you have put information on line, you have put everyone at risk.

Robin: You are lying

Peter T The fact that you cannot acknowledge it is the worst thing, that it is terrible what you have done. If you just acknowledged it we could breath easier.

Robin I have acknowledged it, I have removed the list until everyone comes up with a policy. Now we came up with a policy at memcom, everybody looked at it, everyone agreed, we were working out who was a member, who was not, the facebook links were only ever part of Scouse's member page, I gather the Jenni contact was already there on a FB page that she was involved in the DTE area.

Scouse: I have never given details from facebook ever.

Robin You are the administrator of that facebook group Scouse,b we were looking at the members in the Down To Earth page, You are the administrator.

Emma: Hey guys this is about Jenny unsafe. I hope that has been rectified and that the data is no longer available, We need to know that data is secured that it cant be accessed any more, and we need to do something to rectify the situation.

Peter T: Have Robin acknowledge his error would be a great start. To say it just be realistic about how it happened and where we are at.

Robin: Can I just point out the link to the page is not a public link, the page is not a public document, unless you have the link you do not access the list.

David: How is the link secured?

Robin: The link is secured because if you look at it. The link across the top you cannot go google.com. The only way you get that document, the only people who had access at this particular time were the members inside memcom. The question needs to be asked who is the person who grabbed that list and shared it irresponsibly that list inappropriately.

Emma: There was concern that the link was posted on a skype link and you was the person who posted it.

Robin: At the time I didn't have a problem with it being posted. Neither did anyone else in Memcom. Only since posting it has people had a problem with it, I think we did the right thing and listened to the people and removed the list and asked the community to come up with an appropriate policy that meets our obligations within the cooperatives act and respect for individuals privacy. That is all we can do here. We did not think we were doing anything wrong in sorting out the list. So I didn't have a problem with the list. f

Jenni T

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Scouse: I have never given details from facebook ever.

Robin You are the administrator of that facebook group Scouse, we were looking at the members in the Down To Earth page, You are the administrator.

Emma: With respect guys this is about Jenny not feeling safe. Regardless, a mistake happened it is unfortunate What are we going to do, we need to move forward with this.

Peter T: A great place to start is if Robin can acknowledge what he has done.

David: How is the link secured.

Robin: The link is secure, the only way you get that document who is the person who grabbed and shared it, it is that person who you don't want handling the list.

Emma: There was concern that the link was posted on a skype

Peter C: Jenny If you feel upset why don't you call the police, they are the ones to deal with it.

Troy: Some people don't want their details shared amongst other members, there is a process where people can apply to the secretary of the cooperatives for an exemption of the law, to have their contact details maintained as anonymous. When people join a cooperative where their information is going and who has access to it. This needs to be comm

Denise: Proposed motion: That under no circumstances are facebook details are made public. **Passed by consensus**

Scouse: Can I make an amendment, that information available to other members is name, folio number and if they are active.

Troy: What is the point of moving a motion that contravenes the cooperatives act.

David: Please if you are quoting the law then know what the law is.

Troy: Cooperatives National Law that members have access to other members details. 214 Section

Kathy: We need to go away and read that law.