

Down-To-Earth (Vic) Cooperative Society Limited

ConFest Committee

Minutes

Date: Thursday 10 October 2019
Scheduled Start: 7.30 PM
Venue: Ceres Learning Centre, Lee St East Brunswick
Audio: <http://dte.org.au/audiominutes>
Register on line: <https://dte.coop/live.meeting>
Zoom Connect: <https://dte.coop/to/zoom>
Phone Connect: (02) 8015 2088 Meeting ID Number 2362803611

#	Item	Raised by:
1	<u>Acknowledge and pay respect to the traditional owners and ongoing custodians of the land</u>	
	We gather on the lands of many Aboriginal Nations. We pay our respects to Elders past, present and emerging. Indigenous sovereignty has never been ceded in Australia and we should endeavour to be mindful of this in everything we do, given our focus is gathering to create better ways of living in our society, not just for festival attendees but for all.	
2	<u>Meeting Started</u>	<i>Procedural</i>
	7:47 pm	
3	<u>Meeting coordinators</u>	<i>Procedural</i>
	Chairperson: David Cruise Minute Keeper: Melody Braithwaite Host: Zoom / Woorooma (The Cottage)	
4	<u>Attendance</u>	<i>Procedural</i>
	1. Alexander Trevor 2. Braithwaite Melody 3. Brock Elisa 4. Cruise David 5. Ernst Kathy 6. Fitzpatrick Skye 7. Hunt Lindy 8. Kirsten Joy 1645 9. Larke Coral 10. MacPherson Robin 11. McDonald David Ramon 12. Morsman Tania 13. Murray Jude 14. Rasmussen Mark 15. Reid John 16. Reid Troy 17. Ryan Darrylle 18. Schwarz Martin 19. Shapiro Kate 20. Shipperlee Aaron 21. Smith Dan 22. Taylor Kevin 23. Waldram Grant 24. Wells Jack	

5	<u>Confirmation of 8th August 2019 minutes</u>	
	<p>Corrections:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> ADD to Attendance list of August 2019 meeting Kate Shapiro, David Cruise, Kathy Ernst (correct spelling), Troy Reid & Ray Higgins ADD to Attendance of July 2019 meeting Tania Morsman, Kathy Ernst and Martin Schwarz ACTION: That Kate Shapiro listen to the audio recording of the 8th August 2019 ConFest Committee and rewrite Item 15 Summer ConFest of the minutes and submit to the ConFest Committee for approval. As at 12 September only part way through audio. Minutes Meeting Date changed from 10th to 8th August <p>MOTION: Passing of the minutes deferred to next meeting in October 2019 Moved by Tania Morsman Seconded by Kathy Ernst PBC</p>	<p><i>Passing of Minutes Deferred until November meeting for Item 15 to be rewritten and submitted for CC approval</i></p>
6	<u>Confirmation of 12 September 2019 minutes</u>	<i>Procedural</i>
	<i>Motion: That the minutes of 12 September 2019 be accepted.</i>	<p>Moved by Kathy Ernst and seconded by Coral Larke PBC</p>
7	<u>Matters Arising from previous minutes</u>	<i>Procedural</i>
	No matters arising from the last minutes	<i>Confirmed</i>
8	<u>Correspondence</u>	
9	<u>Action Tasks</u>	
	New item added per procedural minutes section above. Nil further WIP updates.	<p>NO PROGRESS WORK IN PROGRESS COMPLETE @ NO LONGER RELEVANT TAKEN OVER BY</p>
10	Bowling Club Tickets	
	<p>Agenda item ID: 7145 Item Proposed by Coral Larke</p> <p>Agenda details: Questions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What was the gate verification process when locals presented for having purchased a ticket at the bowling club? • What arrangement was made with the bowling club? • How many tickets were sold? <p>Status: Troy contacted Bowling Club two weeks ago (before August 8th 2019 CC Meeting), but received no response - will need to follow up again to confirm number of tickets sold.</p>	<p><i>To be advised</i></p>

11	FINCOM Report	
	<p>Agenda Item ID: 7265 Item Proposed by Robin MacPherson</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Would appreciate extra help to code accounts - not a difficult job • Proposing a February 2020 AGM to allow a better quality result • Processes are being reviewed to enable presenting a ConFest expenditure report at each CC meeting • Keen to avoid a recurrence of \$60k in unexpected expenses, running out of funds and a log jam of processing 	<i>Information Only</i>
12	FINCOM Village Budgets for 2020	
	<p>Agenda Item ID: 7267 Item Proposed by Robin MacPherson</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If CC keeps funding whatever is asked, it could lead to the ticket pricing increases - the community needs to realise we have a limit • Need to consider the best way funds are allocated/distributed • Find the balance between funding existing long-term Villages (put aside an allocation - if so how much?) and making funds available for new villages/new ideas • CC viewed Villages spreadsheet & Villages tab https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1EAstPpxRxEYi7_itNfK_zGUqp-UglBwH_pV5X8EwNMY/edit?usp=sharing • Villages should be able to define their own spaces and model • Suggest Village budgets be submitted by the end of October 2019 • Suggest that if villages leave a mess on their sites, that someone else gets preference 	<i>Information Only</i>
13	Personal Items	
	<p>Agenda Item ID: 7274 Item Proposed by Martin Schwarz 1731</p> <p>Agenda Details: The lockers in the brown village container, that was being boris, has had all its lockers broken open and their contents removed.</p> <p>Motion: I would like to know who emptied the brown container and what has happened to my personal items that were stored in my locker.</p>	<i>Item Deferred until next meeting when Martin Schwarz is present</i>
14	Dates of next Years Confest	
	<p>Agenda item ID: 7287 Item Proposed by Robin Macpherson</p> <p>Agenda Details: What are the dates for next year's Confest</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There is soft (unpublicised) opening from midday Wednesday 8th April 2020 • Agreed that ConFest centres around Easter, which coincides with days most people don't have to work and are able to attend <p>Motion: "That the 2020 Autumn ConFest dates are from Thursday 9 April midday to Tuesday 14 April midday with gates opening on Wednesday 8 April at midday and closing at midday on Wednesday 15 April 2020"</p>	<p><i>Moved by Troy Reid Seconded by Lindy Hunt PBC</i></p>

15	Budgets	
15.1	<p data-bbox="309 257 1181 291">Agenda item ID: 7288 Item Proposed by: Robin Macpherson</p> <p data-bbox="309 322 1214 479">Agenda details: If the CC budget process was to go over a nine week period as prior to ConFest '18 would the following dates suffice. 9th Jan, 16th Jan 23th Jan, 30st Jan, 6th Feb, 13th Feb, 20th Feb, 27th Feb, 5th March, 12th March Budget decision which works out 4 weeks prior to ConFest</p> <p data-bbox="309 510 1067 544">CC discussion topics on this agenda item were as follows:</p> <p data-bbox="309 575 579 609">Budget Application</p> <ul data-bbox="309 609 1211 703" style="list-style-type: none"> • Last year everyone got what they wanted when they applied for it • Previous year, that process involved putting it all together and then trimming them back <p data-bbox="309 734 494 768">Submissions</p> <ul data-bbox="309 768 1189 1055" style="list-style-type: none"> • Budgets can be approved up to 12 March 2020 • Remove 9th Jan; everyone can start from 16th January onwards • Ideally applications should be submitted earlier • Some people need time to procure things • The problem with late considerations is that people don't end up buying what they wanted to buy • Applications need to be in two weeks before required • Decision for funding approvals for previous month can be approved at the following CC <p data-bbox="309 1086 414 1120">Priority</p> <ul data-bbox="309 1120 1208 1373" style="list-style-type: none"> • Some areas should be considered a priority • If budget applications are submitted only 3 weeks before the gathering means villages are delegating the priority up to CC • They don't have to be sacrificed because something that is a priority comes in late • Confest is a creative process, some creatives are not organised • Maybe consider an early disbursement for priority areas, and then a later one, for those with a fabulous idea but submitted late <p data-bbox="309 1404 727 1438">Funding Allocation Strategies</p> <ul data-bbox="309 1438 1214 2011" style="list-style-type: none"> • At what meeting do we decide who will get funded? • The process has to been seen to be fair • Could end up with the budget being whittled away • CC reviewed Budget Finances spreadsheet on the Zoom screen • What will be our processes be after fixed areas like Emergency Services and Infrastructure who have their own budgets? • How much do we allocate to villages, and then how do we distribute funds across 40 - 50 villages (Chicken vs Egg)? • A rolling system needs to be set up to do it equitably otherwise the early person gets money and late applicants miss out • Can trust some of the permanent/long-term camps spend based on their budget history, therefore can we come to an agreement sooner for them and that leaves us with another amount of money that can be for newbies, and/or for those who start later • Can we put all on the table, big budgets, constant villages, and then look at the rest of them, and choose which ones will give us the best value 	

15	Budgets (continued)	
15.1 Cont.	<p>Village Budget Application Review</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CC has the right to find out before funding what Villages are about, particularly as some are providing for only a small group of people • Need to avoid villages buying the same items over and over again, what did they do with past purchases? Can they justify purchases, like expensive tents, and like where they are, e.g. \$2k tent <p>Disbursements</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Some of the bigger budgets (e.g. \$5k) may only need \$800 now, • Is there any reason we couldn't give out money in Dec, Jan or Feb? 	
15.2	<p>Villages Providing Other Confest Resources</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Villages receiving significant funding (\$1k or more) should be providing a workshop space and other support services • If every village supplied a workshop space for themselves and others, it allows more workshops and adds back to ConFest • Bigger villages should be pushed to manage an area, e.g. an adjacent the cooking circle, toilets, and rubbish, or at least report back on Maintenance of the areas in need of attention • An information sheet is sent to Villages which mentions providing a workshop space called 'Information for Villages, workshop and activity spaces' https://drive.google.com/file/d/1WRt6iNQyniQIZ32lwaiOrL-ndJYSQJir/view?usp=sharing • Villages can view prior year's submissions to get ideas and show what they could be doing • Need to look at what the villages are able to adopt and what their village can include, versus what can they give us • Discussion looking at the value of contribution of villages, it has a quadruple bottom line, might be other stuff such as content that brings people to the festival who become producers, workshop facilitators, needs to be treated with great amount of care. • David dreamed of a food inclusive ConFest as a process that builds community 	
15.3	<p>Cooking Circles (Funding Example)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A lot of Confest kitchens depend on DTE's support • Small villages use a cooking circle while larger villages like Bliss and Family have a whole process around cooking on their facilities • A village bought stove and gas burners, but they couldn't use them because it wasn't a ratified cooking circle, otherwise its a problem for Rangers and a safety hazard to the community • Discussion concerning equipment for cooking circles and villages/ facilitated communal cooking areas, a bulk buy is being planned by the Cooking Circle Facilitator/Coordinator and the Villages Coordinator to ensure that the villages & facilitated spaces have safe equipment and to make the cooking circles better equipped and accessible to more Confesters. 	

16	Attendee Bans	
	<p>Agenda item ID: 7289 Item Proposed by Melody Braithwaite</p> <p>Agenda details: Sydney ConFesters suspects a person banned from Confest attended our October spring gathering, also dealing with multiple complaints of an individual's alcohol-fuelled harassment of others including racial and sexual slurs - request for DTE policy clarification</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DTE's Attendance Restriction Policy will be sent that outlines the best way to move forward 	<i>Information Only</i>
17	Survey	
	<p>Agenda item ID: 7290 Item Proposed by: Coral Larke</p> <p>Agenda details: The survey has progressed with further input from members. Does the CC consider it ready to go out?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CC recommended testing the survey on 20 people before the next CC meeting 	<i>Item Deferred until next meeting</i>
18	Images for Websites	
	<p>Agenda item ID: 7291 Item Proposed by: Coral Larke</p> <p>Agenda details: A number of people have sent in photos for DTE websites to replace certain images. They have been sent to cc@dte.coop for consideration</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There was a motion passed in December last year that photos could go up on the DTE website • CC viewed all photos proposed to be uploaded to DTE website • All photos are assumed to have given permission (consent) of people (although this was queried for children - legal issue) • Agreed that no nude photos would be uploaded • No photographer watermarks - most may disappear anyway when photos are cropped 	<i>Information Only</i>
19	White Tent (Silent Disco)	
	<p>Agenda item ID: 7292 Item Proposed by: Robin MacPherson</p> <p>Agenda details: Silent Disco's (SD) White Tent - costs \$10k pa which x 5 years equals 50k</p> <p>Background</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This is a recurring annual expense as nothing stays behind after each festival - a CC decision because there was no storage • SD is extremely popular • SD evolved from a simple structure into a very big (ugly) white tent with a roof and walls, closed off, no flow which creates issues around safety and security, it needs to be monitored to avoid abuse • Questionable whether SD promotes ConFest values particularly as it is a commercial enterprise 	

	<p>Infrastructure Alternative</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How can we have SD continue but use this money elsewhere? • Could we build a structure which could be used all year round, better fitting visually as an alternative this high recurring expense • Doesn't have to be a fixed structure that requires Council approval • Potential to provide a large structure that our community can use, still use it as a SD during festivals but it becomes a year round available structure, for meeting spaces or a big community dorm and possibly be opened up to people from Moulemien • For example a large structure, made up of black butt poles base with tarps, maybe located on the ConFest badlands that is not costing thousands a year • Soon ConFest will move to the other site, do we wait, or can we learn for an alternate structure we build now, then we can spend money on better infrastructure? <p>Headphones</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • White tent evolved out of operators not wanting to lose their headphones • At this price we could replace all the headphones - \$10 each if order above 2000 with free custom DTE engraving • ConFest could supply headphones, check the box when you book online, Villages can own a transmitter and broadcast within a 50 metre perimeter, e.g. meditation talks workshops, tour of the land, • For this system you don't need a tent 	
20	<u>Carried Resolutions</u>	<i>Procedural</i>
	<i>Motion: That the minutes of 12 September 2019 be accepted.</i>	<i>Moved by Kathy Ernst Seconded by Coral Larke PBC</i>
	<i>Motion: "That the 2020 Autumn ConFest dates are from Thursday 9 April midday to Tuesday 14 April midday with gates opening on Wednesday 8 April at midday and closing at midday on Wednesday 15 April 2020"</i>	<i>Moved by Troy Reid Seconded by Lindy Hunt PBC</i>
21	<u>Next Meeting Date & Time Confirmation</u>	<i>Procedural</i>
	Thursday 14th November 2019 7:30pm	
22	<u>Meeting Ended</u>	<i>Procedural</i>
	10.08pm	