

**THE COASTWATCHERS ASSOCIATION INC.**

**ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

**Meeting Room, Tomakin Community Hall, Tomakin, NSW**

**2.00 pm Saturday 12 November 2016**

**MINUTES**

**1. Open Meeting:**

The President opened the 2016 Annual General Meeting for the 2015-16 Financial Year, at 2.10 pm, and welcomed the members present.

**2. Apologies:**

Derek and Fran Anderson, Jeff Aschmann, Peter Bailey, Maureen Baker, Reina Hill, Chris Kowal, Anthony Mayne, Martin and Jan Phillips, Mark Rote, John and Anne Stowar, Gillian Tedder

**3. Confirmation of Minutes:**

It was moved that the Minutes of the Coastwatchers AGM held on Saturday 8 October 2015 be confirmed. Moved John Perkins, seconded Nick Hopkins PASSED

**4. President's Report:**

John Perkins, the Coastwatchers President, presented the following report.

“...Ladies and Gentleman, I welcome you here today.

I am pleased to report that the Association has had a successful 2015-16 year.

I am not sure if members realise, but the Association is now over 30 years old. Over that period there have been both high and low times, there have been a huge array of issues considered, some major, and a number ending in appeal courts. Some Coastwatchers members with specific environmental interests have moved away from the Association and pursued their specialist interests in groups such as the Eurobodalla Regional Botanic Gardens, the Greens and the Marine Group. These specialisation interests are embraced. But to me what is so good, is that the Coastwatchers are still here and viable.

At the 30 June 2016 membership of the Association was 138. As members know, we have had a new Application Form prepared, to assist in attracting new members. The distribution of that form is underway, and we hope we can particularly attract younger members. At the same time, we are also updating the Association's Website and Facebook page.

The workload of the Association falls on the efforts of the members of the Management Committee. This Committee met eight times during the 2015-16 financial year, a constant commitment for the volunteer members.

Because of these commitments, it is inevitable there will be ongoing changes in the members of the Management Committee over time. There were a number of changes in the Management Committee in October 2014, when I became President, and again further changes last year (2015).

I would like to thank the members of the Management Committee for their on-going contribution during 2015-16, and particularly thank Reina Hill for her environmental advocacy on the Eurobodalla Shire' Coastal Environment Management Advisory Committee. Because of the sceptics on that Committee, issues such as sea level rise, can lead to unnecessary pressure on conservation delegates. I also thank Candice Wirth and June Mills for their efforts and assistance over a number of years. They are not seeking reappointment today.

The major issue the Association has had to address over the past two years, has been the modification to the 2010 approval of the Dargues Reef Gold mine at Majors Creek, at the headwaters of the Deua River. As members know, this river supplies nearly all Eurobodalla's drinking water.

Coastwatchers in association with lead groups from Majors Creek and Araluen opposed the modification. The Environmental Defenders Office in Sydney, assisted and engaged specialist consultants to provide expert advice for the three groups. At each stage of the planning process, professional submissions were prepared by this Association. It was this opposition from the lead groups, and opposition from so many individuals including about a third of Coastwatchers members, that the use of cyanide and a massive expansion of the tailings dam, were withdrawn. In addition to the submissions to the NSW Planning Department and the Planning Assessment Commission, the Association made further submissions to the Commonwealth Government, regarding endangered species in the Majors Creek and downstream area, listed by the Commonwealth under the *Environmental Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999*. This issue is it still on-going with a determination expected at any time.

I would like to specifically thank one individual and one local group for their assistance with the submissions regarding the gold mine.

Emmett O'Loughlin is in my opinion, a legend in his own lifetime. Emmett had a highly distinguished career with CSIRO, and in his retirement assisted this Association when the Broulee Charcoal plant was proposed ten years ago. While most people consider it was people power that stopped the proposal, in fact it was largely the work of this wonderful man, quietly working behind the scenes on a legal appeal. He arranged for all the professional experts for the Land and Environment court case. The result was that the applicant and State Government withdrew within days when they realised the futility of persisting. He also assisted the Association with the various Dargues Reef Gold Mine applications in 2010 and 2015. His input and assistance has been invaluable. This man single almost derailed the entire project. I believe his evidence in large part led to the withdrawal of cyanide processing and the tailings dam increase, and the resignation of the proponents CEO and two Directors.

I would also like to thank the Eurobodalla Natural History Group. They assisted with data on endangered species sightings in the Deua Valley downstream of the mine, which was used in our submissions to the Commonwealth Government.

The financial position of the Association is sound, and the Association has sufficient funds to meet expected commitments. It also has limited reserves to meet some of the challenges ahead. The Coastwatchers Environment Fund Committee is shortly to consider the use of some funds to support the pupils in primary schools in the Eurobodalla Shire, involved with vegetable gardens, especially those involved with the Stephanie Alexander Kitchen Garden Foundation.

The Association continues to maintain its membership with the NSW Nature Conservation Council and the NSW Environmental Defenders Office, which provides an invaluable two-way exchange particularly with State and National conservation issues.

I thank all members for their continued support.

The President moved acceptance of his Report, seconded by Nick Hopkins PASSED

## **5. Treasurers Report**

The Treasurer's Report prepared by June Mills (not present) for the 2015-16 financial year was considered. (see Attachment)

The report indicated that in respect of the the day-to day "Working" account, total receipts (mainly membership fees) in 2015-16 were \$2,630 and expenses \$2,995, resulting in a deficit for the year of \$366. That left a balance of \$1,359 in the "Working" account as at 30 June 2016. Half the expenses (\$1,542) were paid to the NSW Environmental Defenders Office for the engagement of specialist consultants to assist in the preparation of submissions to NSW Planning for the Dargues Reef Mine development application (modification 3). The Araluen and Majors Creek groups each paid an equal amount to the EDO.

The day-to-day "Environment Fund" account received donations of \$1,728, and had no expenses in 2015-16, leaving a balance of \$4,793 in the account.

The Association has two investment bank accounts, one for the day-to-day "Working" account, and one for the "Environment Fund". The "Working" investment account had a balance of \$5,544 at 30 June 2016. The "Environment Fund" investment account had a balance of \$4,459 at the 30 June 2016.

It was moved Richard Roberts seconded Peter Dunn that the Treasurer's Report for 2015-16 be received. PASSED

## **6. 2015-16 Audited Financial Statements**

The Auditor's Report for 2015-16 was presented to the meeting. (see Appendix)

It was moved Lyn Bain, seconded Peter Hill, that the Auditor's Report be accepted. PASSED

## **7. Appointment of Auditor 2016-17**

It was moved Richard Roberts, seconded Peter Dunn that the Auditor Ian Traynor be reappointed as the Coastwatchers Auditor for the 2016-17 financial year.

## **8. Election of Office Bearers for 2016-17**

It was moved John Perkins, seconded Richard Roberts that all Committee of Management positions be declared vacant and Dr Emmett O'Loughlin be invited to chair the election of Office Bearers for 2016-17. PASSED

John Perkins vacated the chair and Dr Emmett O'Loughlin accepted the position.

There were 7 nominations for each of the 7 Committee of Management positions, all received in accord with procedures outlined in the Coastwatchers Constitution. These were for the positions of President, Vice President, Treasurer, Secretary and 3 Ordinary Members.

In accord with the Coastwatchers Constitution, there being no other nominations received, the Chair declared each nominated person duly elected.

The successful nominees were:

President	John Perkins	(nom Mark Rote, sec John Stowar)
Vice President	John Stowar	(nom Mark Rote, sec John Perkins)
Treasurer	Mark Rote	(nom Reina Hill, sec John Perkins)
Secretary	Richard Roberts	(nom Mark Rote, sec John Stowar)
Ordinary Member	Reina Hill	(nom Barbara Roberts, sec John Perkins)
Ordinary Member	Joslyn van der Moolen	(nom John Perkins, sec Richard Roberts)
Ordinary Member	Barbara Roberts	(nom John Stowar, sec John Perkins)

**9. Close Meeting:** The President closed the meeting at 2.32 pm

After the closure of the AGM, the Association held a wide ranging constructive discussion session.

**COASTWATCHERS ASSOCIATION INC.**

**ADMINISTRATION DETAILS**

**2015 - 2016**

**Committee of Management 2015-16 (elected 8 October 2015)**

President	John Perkins
Vice-President	John Stowar
Secretary	Richard Roberts
Treasurer	June Mills
Member	Candace Wirth
Member	Reina Hill
Member	Barbara Roberts

**Committee of Management Meetings 2015-16**

23 July 2015  
12 August 2015  
23 September 2015  
11 November 2015  
09 December 2015  
10 February 2016  
20 April 2016  
01 June 2016

**Allocations Committee - Environment Fund**

Richard Roberts (Chair)  
June Mills  
Reina Hill  
Maureen Baker

**Affiliations**

NSW Nature Conservation Council  
Environmental Defenders Office NSW  
South East Region Conservation Alliance

**Newsletters 2015-16**

5 July 2015  
27 July 2015  
2 October 2015  
3 January 2016  
27 March 2016  
1 June 2016

**Auditor**

Ian Traynor Accountant,  
Tuross Heads NSW 2537

**Bank**

IMB Bank,  
Moruya NSW 2537

**Insurance**

NCC Member Insurance Policies for Public and Product Liability, and Volunteers Injury Assistance.

**Regulatory Details**

- (i) **ABN Number** 66003550939 Australian Securities and Investment Commission
- (ii) **Incorporation Number** Y0001240 NSW Fair Trading
- (iii) **Charitable Funding Authority** CFN 17576 NSW Trade and Investment,

(This permits the not-for-profit Coastwatchers Association to publicly fundraise with NSW Government authority, for actual or potential issues such as the Charcoalition campaign, or any future legal appeals etc. These fund raisings are not tax deductible.)

- (iv) **Registered on the Commonwealth Department of Environment and Heritage's Register of Environmental Organisations**

(This permits the Association to obtain Commonwealth Government eligibility for tax deductible donations, specifically to the Coastwatchers Environment Fund)