

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE
ARTESIAN BORE WATER USERS ASSOCIATION OF NSW INC.
HELD AT THE CROSSING THEATRE, NARRABRI ON 16th April 2014

COMMENCING AT 11:AM

PRESENT: Kevin Duncan, Anne Kennedy, Neil Kennedy, Sonya Marshall, Karen Nicholson, Geoff Nicholson, Andrew Kerr, Tony Pickard, Brian Hanigan, Rod White, Jan White, Bill Moore, Janet Baylis, Richard Slack-Smith, Bill McCumstie, Bruce Marshall, Paul Colwell, Terry Hanigan, John Holcombe, Brian McMullin, Roger Sendell, Shane Murphy, Graham Cameron, Peter Falton-Kennedy,
Secretary: Joan McNaughton and Karen Thurston, assisting.
Visitors: Alistair Donaldson.

APOLOGIES: Robert Harris, John Polglase, Steve Cheal, Mark Ranger, Mathew Stewart, Bevan O'Regan, Tony Dowton, Ross Beasley, Gerard O'Brien, Michael Treweeke, John Stratton, Bill Colless, Allan Mason, David Currey, Michael O'Connor, Peter Veech, Richard Marshall, Mick Marshall, Ray Williams, Pat Wilcox, Paul Lefebvre, Geoff Bury, Ian McFee, Bruce Picone, Bernard Boland, Jack Gooderem, Ken Kirkby, Simon Cameron, Jeff Machee, Randald Warby, Tom Murray, Roy Johnston, Rick Hall John Knight, Tony Wood, Lawrence Carrian, Michael Mailler, John McDonald, Phillip Marshall, David Cameron, Jeff Holcombe, Mark Newton, Bill Zell, John Witts, James Matchett, Roger Shorter, David Shorter, Cameron Rowntree.

MINUTES OF LAST MEETING: Secretary, Joan McNaughton, read the Minutes of the previous meeting.
Moved Brien McMillan, seconded by Neil Kennedy, that the minutes of the previous meeting be accepted. **CARRIED**

PRESIDENT: Anne Kennedy welcomed all present and thanked them for attending the meeting and welcomed our guest speakers. Anne asked those present if they would accept Kevin Duncan to act as Chairman for the meeting and this was accepted.

CHAIRMAN: Kevin Duncan addressed the meeting and thanked those present for attending. A special thanks to Alistair Donaldson, Tony Pickard and Brian Hanigan for coming along to pass on updated information to our members. Kevin Duncan spoke of the improvements that the Cap & Pipe Program has had, with recovered pressures being evident over the GAB.

PRESIDENTS REPORT:

Anne Kennedy spoke widely on Coal Seam Gas mining and the damage that it will have on our artesian water, and the likelihood of it destroying the water pressures. Anne told about the damage that has already occurred in Queensland from CSG mining, and the huge falls in pressure that bore-users have had on the Darling Downs since CSG commenced there; with bores bubbling with gas, and dozens of bores having failed altogether. Anne also presented information from Robert Banks, from Soil Futures Consulting Pty Ltd, re mapping of the recharge areas of the GAB to show how vital our tiny recharge areas are. Anne also spoke of all her hard work during the last 12 months with all present agreeing that Anne is doing a fantastic job, fighting CSG and keeping up with the government's refusal to take the risks seriously.

- FINANCIAL REPORT:** The financial report for the past year was read by the Secretary, Joan McNaughton. Income for the year ending 31st December 2013 was \$22,944.18 and the expenditure was \$25,466.89.
Balance all accounts \$58,331.35.
- MOTION:** Moved by Sonya Marshall, seconded by Bill McCumstie, that the finance report for the year ending 31st December 2013 be accepted. **CARRIED**
- AUDITOR'S REPORT:** The Auditor's report was read by the secretary.
- MOTION:** Moved by Joan McNaughton, seconded by Anne Kennedy, that the Auditor be retained for the next financial year. **CARRIED**
- CORRESPONDENCE:** On agreement all correspondence was tabled for all those to read at their leisure.
- MOTION:** Moved by Geoff Nicholson, seconded by Anne Kennedy that the correspondence be accepted. **CARRIED**
- CHAIRMAN:** It was declared by the Chairman, Kevin Duncan that all positions were now vacant and called for the election of a President and Executive Committee.
- PRESIDENT/CHAIRMAN**
- MOTION:** Moved by Geoff Nicholson, seconded by Sonya Marshall that Anne Kennedy continue with the role of president/Chairman - Anne Kennedy accepted the position. **UNANIMOUS**
- VICE PRESIDENT:** Moved by Anne Kennedy, seconded by Brian McMullen that Geoff Nicolson continue with the position as Vice President.
Geoff Nicolson accepted the position. **UNANIMOUS**
- EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE AND REPRESENTATIVES:**
- MOTION:** It was moved by Geoff Nicholson, and seconded by Anne Kennedy that the executive committee and representatives remain the same as last year
North: David Officer and John Oats.
South: Geoff Nicholson and Neil Kennedy.
East: Brian McMullan, and Sonya Marshall.
West: Bill McCumstie, and Brian Lees.
Private Bores: Representatives – Anne Kennedy and Tony Pickard.
CARRIED

SECRETARY/TREASURER/PUBLIC OFFICER

MOTION: It was moved by Sonya Marshall, and seconded by Anne Kennedy that J & K McNaughton, continue to act in these positions and a fee of \$25 per hour to remain. **CARRIED**

MEMBERSHIP FEES:

MOTION: It was moved by Neil Kennedy, seconded by Sonya Marshall that membership fees for each Trust remain at \$100.00 and the fees for Private Bores be \$50.00. GST to be added to each. **CARRIED**

TRUST CHAIRMAN FEES:

MOTION: Moved by Bill McCumstie, seconded by Brian Hanigan that the chairman's fees be increased by \$50 to be \$550 per annum. **CARRIED**

ADVISERS: Moved by Brian McMullin seconded by Janet Baylis that Kevin Duncan and Tony Hall remain appointed as advisers for the ABWUA. **CARRIED**

NSW GOV. GABAG: The ABWUA four representatives on the GABAG are remaining the same as last year, Geoff Nicholson, Anne Kennedy, David Officer and Sonya Marshall. These representatives are appointed by the Minister and not elected at the AGM.

GENERAL BUSINESS: **Alistair Donaldson:** gave a presentation about the invasiveness of Coal Seam Gas mining, his property is near a current CSG operation and he has many concerns regarding the industry. He presented a Video on Brian Monk's CSG damage, very interesting and worth watching, you can watch this video on youtube @ brian monk "where are the gas wells"- (And we will put the link on our new web page). Alistair also had some amazing photos of well sites, and was asked if he was able to pass some of them on by email to us so that we are able to put them on our new website as well. We will put these photos on the website as soon as possible.

Anne Kennedy: President Anne Kennedy spoke of the legal predicaments that farmers are facing when they want to stop CSG mining on their properties, and that they are trying to get the legislation changed so that farmers have rights to protect their land and water.

Anne also spoke about the CSG Science Forum that was held on the 25th March 2014 in Parliament House, Sydney, and which raised a lot of concerns. There were excellent presentations from hydrogeologists, groundwater engineers, professors and ecologists - presenting about the risks of likely damage to groundwater from CSG mining.

Also some very serious concerns about our legal system were presented by solicitors, barristers and a retired judge; who explained clearly the loopholes in our laws, and that mining companies and landholders do not have equal rights – the landholder is at a distinct disadvantage, and that these laws need to be changed.

All detailed information about the speakers, and the full recordings of this Forum, are available at this link: <http://csgscienceforum.com/event-videos/>

(Note: We will also put this link on the ABWUA website).

New Web Site:

MOTION:

It was moved by Graham Cameron and seconded by Geoff Nicholson that a new web Website would be a good idea for the ABWUA and we should organise for this to be done. We are hoping that the web site will be a source of information, news and links for all interested parties.

Tony Pickard: Tony Pickard, a local Pilliga farmer, has had his bore contaminated by Santos' coal seam gas drilling beside him. His water is now not fit for human consumption (or any purpose at all) - but Santos have not done anything to correct the situation. Tony has been fighting Santos about the contamination of his water supply for a long time, and to date it has cost him \$75,000 and he is still fighting. He stressed the importance of having base line testing done on the water and the soil, that will hold up in a court of law; he told the meeting that Santos conduct their own testing but these tests do not show the damage done by various bacteria, there are eight different bacteria that should be tested for and Santos only test for some. Tony will supply some more information on the tests required and where these tests are done correctly; once this information is received they will be put onto the web site. Once the information is received ABWUA will find the costing on getting the correct water and soil tests carried out. Tony tells us that he is still unable to use any of his bore water that supplies his property, but Santos say that they are not responsible.

Base Line Testing:

Base line water testing and soil testing for bores over 2 million hectares should be considered for testing, so if things go wrong the land holder has a base line with the date of completion on file.

MOTION:

Moved by Brian Hanigan, seconded by Shane Murphy that the secretary contact all the landholders of their Trusts and suggest water and soil testing, with each landholder contributing to the costs after investigating these tests for a base line for future records.

MOTION:

Moved by Sonya Marshall seconded by Janet Baylis that a total cost of \$25,000 be spent by ABWUA on Water and soil base line testing after information from Anne Kennedy is provided.

White Cliffs:

There will be a meeting held in White Cliffs on 11/06/2014 regarding the Cap & Pipe Program. We hope to receive information that the Cap & Pipe funding will continue.

Letters and information needed:

1. Anne Kennedy - Legal aspects of CSG written information. Also Anne to look into the costs involved for baseline testing and the availability.
2. Tony Pickard - Tony for some written talk for our minutes and contacts.
3. Alistair Donaldson – for links and photos for the web site.

VENUE FOR NEXT YEARS AGM: Secretary asked those present for suggestions on a venue for next year's AGM. It was agreed by all those present that the Crossing Theatre was a great place to hold meetings and wished it to be there again next year. **CARRIED**

MEETING CLOSED AT 2.39pm.

President/Chairman..... Secretary