

**ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE
ARTESIAN BORE WATER USERS ASSOCIATION OF NSW INC.
HELD AT THE CROSSING THEATRE, NARRABRI ON 12th APRIL 2011**

PRESENT: **Executive Members:** Kevin Duncan, Jim Matchett, Mick Marshall, Sonya Marshall, Anne Kennedy, Neil Kennedy and Brian McMullin.
Members: Bill Moore, Graham Madden, Robert Harris, Jeff Holcombe and Barbara Deans.
Secretary: Joan McNaughton.
Visitors: Steve Cheal, Liam Rice, Bevan O'Regan and Ross Beasley

APOLOGIES: Jan White, Peter Waterford, Ros Rowland, David Cross, David Denyer, Mal Riddiford, Barbara Fagan, Janet Bayliss, Rob Colless, Rory Treweeke, Bill Parsons, Mick Altus, Ranald Warby, Peter Coulson, Rob Officer, Bart Officer, Brian Hanigan and Jeff Austin.

PRESIDENT: Geoff Nicholson welcomed all present and thanked them for attending the meeting and welcomed our guest speakers. Geoff also asked those present if they would accept Kevin Duncan to chair the meeting and this was accepted.

CHAIRMAN: At the request of the President Kevin Duncan chaired the meeting commencing at 11.00am and welcomed those present, thanking them for their attendance and also a special thanks to Steve Cheal and Ross Beasley for coming along to update our members on the Cap & Pipe program and the proposed GAB monitoring network.

MINUTES OF SPECIAL MEETING 12/4/10 Minutes of the Special Meeting of the Artesian Bore Water Users Association of NSW Inc held in Narrabri on the 31st March 2010 were read and it was moved by Mick Marshall seconded by Geoff Nicholson that changes to the Constitution be accepted. **CARRIED**

Copies of the Constitution, including changes made last year, were provided and items that needed amendments were considered and are as follows:-

Delete:- Paragraph 2 clause (c)

Paragraph 3 Membership:- (a) (b) & (c) include the word "artesian bore/bores".

Paragraph 5 (a) delete the words "approved by the Minister and as".

Paragraph 6 (b) replace typographical error "by" to "be".

Paragraph 7 (d) replace "Rural Land Protection Board" with "Livestock Health and Pest Authority".

Section 11 Working Regulations. (3) Delete "as approved by the Minister and"

(5) Delete.

Amend - (7) Membership fee for all members be \$100.00 per annum for organizations and \$50.00 for private bores, or as determined by the Annual General Meeting.

(8) An annual fee to be paid to the President at the discretion of the Committee to defray his/her costs.

Interpretation - "NSW Office of Water" is a component of the Department of Primary Industries.

MOTION: It was moved by Anne Kennedy seconded by Bill Moore that the amendments be made. **CARRIED**

MINUTES OF LAST MEETING:

Secretary, Joan McNaughton, read the Minutes of the previous meeting. Moved by James Matchett, seconded by Geoff Nicholson, that the minutes of the previous meeting be accepted. **CARRIED**

BUSINESS ARISING FROM MINUTES:

- Out of pocket expenses by delegates can be approved by the Committee (Working Regulation 7)
- Ranald Warby was not present to give an update on the proposed Queensland bore insurance scheme.
- David Harriss of the Office of Water only confirmed that the Chairman is not a representative of the Minister or the department. It is not sure what the legal implications are.
- Anne Kennedy is to raise the extension of GABSI funding beyond 2015 at the coming GABAG Meeting.
- The letter to Jeff Austin regarding concerns of mining and the impact on the GAB was not done and will be carried over to the coming year.

PRESIDENTS REPORT:

Geoff Nicholson addressed the meeting recalling many items that had occurred during the year and how he had been approached by several members to look into water usage by mines and the problems that could affect the GAB because of coal seam gas drilling.

FINANCIAL REPORT:

The finance report for the past year was read by the Secretary.
2010 Income \$37,869.58 - 2010 Expenditure \$22,805.27
Balance all accounts – y/e 31/12/10 \$56,119.76

MOTION:

Moved by Joan McNaughton, seconded by Bill Moore, that the finance report for the year ending 31st December 2010 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:

A brief outline of the correspondence was provided by the chairman and members invited to read the correspondence should they desire to do so.
ie:- 15/7/10 From NSW Office of Water – Appointment of Chairpersons
29/7/10 From Kevin Duncan in reply to Letter from NSW Office of Water 15/7/10
17/11/10 To Janine Lonergan – NSW Office of Water re Reform of Joint Private Works
9/12/10 From Tim Holden Re Water Management Act 2010 (Email to various People)
6/12/10 From Tim Holden Re Reform of Joint Private Works
8/12/10 From Kevin Duncan Re Cap & Pipe the Bores Meeting at Coonabarabran 25/11/10
15/12/10 To Tim Holden Re Reform of Joint Private Works

MOTION:

Moved by Joan McNaughton, seconded by Anne Kennedy that the correspondence be tabled and received. **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: It was moved by Anne Kennedy, seconded by Neil Kennedy that Geoff Nicholson, continue as president/Chairman. **CARRIED**

VICE PRESIDENT: Geoff Nicholson nominated that Anne Kennedy be Vice President and seconded by James Matchett.

Anne Kennedy accepted the position. **CARRIED**

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE AND REPRESENTATIVES:

MOTION: It was moved by Bill Moore, seconded by Neil Kennedy that the executive committee and representatives remain the same as last year with the exception of Ian Dunstan who is no longer in the area.

As there were no Western area members present it was not possible to elect a replacement for Ian Dunstan. This will need to be done by the executive at a later date. **CARRIED**

SECRETARY/TREASURER/PUBLIC OFFICER

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

MEMBERSHIP FEES:

MOTION: It was moved by Mick Marshall, seconded by Geoff Nicholson that membership fees for each Trust remain at \$100.00 and the fees for Private Bores be \$50. GST to be added to each. **UNANIMOUS**

TRUST CHAIRMAN FEES:

MOTION: Moved by Brian McMullen, seconded by Robert Harris that the chairman's fees remain the same at \$400 per annum. **CARRIED**

ADVISERS: Moved by Neil Kennedy, seconded by Anne Kennedy that Kevin Duncan and Tony Hall be appointed as advisers for the ABWUA. **CARRIED**

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

GENERAL BUSINESS: Licenses for water wastage – According to Robert Harris this will not happen until after GABSI (iii) has been completed.

A break was then called to have lunch and a walk around, with the meeting to resume in a half hour.

STEVE CHEAL: Steve addressed the meeting and informed us that seven projects were to be done this year. Plugging old bores around the Coonamble area were to be carried out. Steve said that funding can be carried over to next year due to summer conditions and floods etc that have delayed the work schedule of Cap & Pipe projects. Steve said that if the ABWUA felt the need for increased funding for the last part of GABSI 3, there was a good opportunity to approach the Minister. Steve spoke of the advantages of using a superintendent on pipe schemes to better manage administration and problems between contractors and landholders. Private bores need to set up a legal agreement between all users. Some changes to pipe-works on bore-heads necessary to provide for installation of monitoring equipment. Changes to the Water Management Act, - full implications for Bore Trusts are not known at this time.

ROSS BEASLEY: Ross presented a display of the Whole of Basin Monitoring Program and talked at length about the type of equipment that will be used and how the data could be collected. An urgent need for funding this program is needed.

ANNE KENNEDY: Anne discussed her research on Coal Seam Gas Mining and the possible hazards that could occur from the chemicals and procedures used. The problems for the GAB and groundwater tanks could be catastrophic. She believes that a halt should be called on coal seam gas drilling until it is proven that there will be no harm to our environment and the GAB.

Barbara Deans suggested that Mining Companies should be made responsible with obligations to provide funding for future generations so that similar cases, like the James Hardie cases cannot occur again.

Robert Harris and Anne Kennedy will be attending a meeting in Inverell on the 10th May 2011.

COUNCILLOR BEVAN O'REGAN: Addressed our meeting informing us of a meeting that he attended in Brisbane (which had enormous fees to attend) Bevan stated that the implications of coal seam gas mining, was inconclusive and that there were no guarantees for the safety of our environment. Bevan will give us a copy of his report when it is available.

Letters needed:

1. Jeff Austin – concerning additional funding after GABSI 3, water extraction from GAB for mining and basin monitoring.
2. Office of Water Legal people re Bore Trust Management

VENUE FOR NEXT YEARS AGM: Secretary asked those present for suggestions on a venue for next year's AGM and spoke about two other venues. 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 3.02pm.

President/Chairman..... Secretary