

NAMBOUR COMMUNITY CENTRE INC
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Held on 13th October, 2009

At Nambour Community Centre, 2 Shearer Street, Nambour

1. **Meeting opened:** 6.55pm
2. **Present:** As per attendance book
3. **Apologies:** As per attendance book

4. **AGM Chair Welcome**

Di Riddell (AGM Chair) declared the annual general meeting open and welcomed everyone.

Di gave a brief summary of the history of the Nambour Community Centre and a background of our funding.

Ingrid Burkett (our guest speaker) was introduced with a summary of her achievements and qualifications.

AGM Theme: Sustainability

Guest Speaker: Ingrid Burkett, Social Innovations Manager with Foresters Community Finance

Ingrid spoke about “Financing civil society”. How current economic environments are forcing small organizations to reconsider ways to manage their income and financial independence.

Some of the pressures that organizations are feeling relate to:

- Global economic policies
- Movement of funding bodies to project funding rather than funding that enables general community & organizational building
- Competitive environment (looking at new ways of raising funds)
- Pressure to increase efficiencies
- Amalgamation of services
- An increasing focus on measurable outputs

Ingrid then outlined opportunities that may be open to community based organizations in light of the above pressures.

- Know who we are, who we want to be, why we exist and be prepared. Changing current attitudes. Create innovative governance.
- Responding to impact. Internal/external evaluation, telling stories, learn to use new technology and define why it’s good to have community centre’s around.
- Strengthen the financial well being of an organization by exploring how to work differently with funding bodies.
- Balancing income sources. Looking at where our earned income comes from. Blend and diversify income sources.
- Power of relationships. Connecting with other organizations. Within a federation of small organizations, try to maintain independence. Explore other sectors and develop relationships politically and within the corporate arena. Encourage these sectors to become champions for small organizations.
- It’s not all about us. Whose wealth are we growing? Defining that growing wealth is to enable our poorest constituents.

Ingrid then asked for questions

Q1: (Mark Wischnat) How do we measure or evaluate stories?

A: Most significant change methodology. People help in the construction of measurement and impact through the emotion of story telling.

Additional comment (Peta Jervios) about the power of story telling when it documents change, example recounted from an experience in a former role

Q2: (Toni Wills) How do we blend and diversify funding?

A: It's not just about funding but also about control. If we can't have income we can't become independent.

Q3: (Evv Vanderpoel) How do we change our perception of funding bodies. Currently we feel owned by them. How can we work differently with them?

A: This would be a role for governance of the organization. This is where strategic things happen. Reinvigorate governance planning structures.

5. Minutes of Previous AGM:

Minutes for the 2008 meeting were tabled by Di Riddell. It was then *Moved*, Mark Wischnat, *Seconded*, Theresa Seiuli that the minutes be accepted as a true record of the previous AGM – *carried by all*.

Business Arising from Previous Minutes:

There were no matters outstanding from the previous minutes.

Previous Correspondence:

There were no items of previous correspondence.

6. Reports:

Chairperson: Vice Chairperson, Narelle Poulsen spoke on behalf of Thelma McDougall regarding the Chairperson's report, with the following highlights:

A big thank you to our coordinator Mark Wischnat, staff, volunteers and members of the management committee.

A farewell to Nerissa Rohan (Treasurer) and many thanks for her hours of service and professional advice. A welcome to our current treasurer for coming on board and bringing with him many years of accounting experience.

Our strategic planning day took place on March 28th, workers and management committee members were guided by Fiona Guthrie to reflect on our centre's history and current position, such as financial, operational, staffing and strategies been used to reach community needs. In this session a draft strategic plan for 2009-2014 evolved and the final document was adopted in August 2009.

A big challenge in 2009 has been around the Queensland Industrial Relations Commission decision to increase the QLD state SACS award wage levels. The possibility of wage increases for all NGO workers has been drawn out and some what disappointing following the initial budget response from the Department of Communities. The recent announcement around supplementary funding, which amounts to a very small financial increase, will not be sufficient to enable many organizations to pass on the appropriate wage increases to their staff. Pay equality issues are currently being discussed at our management committee meetings. With NCC's history of lobbying and advocating, I believe its time for all NGO's to join collectively and voice our concerns to our major funding body.

I look forward to 2010, building future friendships and partnerships with our local community.

Moved, Peter Baxter, *Seconded*, Belinda Irvin, that the Chairperson's report be accepted. *Carried by all*.

Treasurer's Report:

Peter stated how he has greatly enjoyed working with Mark and the other members of the committee and expressed a huge thank you to Natasha McLardie (Finance administrator) for all her hard work during the year. Peter highlighted a number of

issues about the financial performance and position of the NCC for the 2008/2009 financial year, and concluded that the NCC is in a relatively strong financial position. *Moved*, Narelle Poulsen, *Seconded*, Donna Holdom, that the Treasurer's Report be accepted. *Carried by all*.

5. Appointment of Auditor

Treasurer continued,

Several months ago, the management committee voted to appoint Love & Partners at Maroochydore as the new auditor for the NCC. The main reason for this was to streamline the audit process as the previous auditor used a mainly manual system. Further more, Love & Partners are familiar with the computerized accounting system used at NCC. Both Natasha and I were very satisfied with the efficiency and level of professionalism demonstrated by the Love & Partners staff during the end- of- year audit.

Moved Narelle Poulsen, *Seconded* Donna Holdom, that Auditors, Love & Partners be appointed as the official Auditors for the next financial year 2009/10. *Carried by all*.

6. Reports:

Coordinators' Report

Mark Wischnat delivered his report and talked briefly around a couple of matters;

Firstly a huge thank you to all the Staff, volunteers, students, management committee and general community participants that contribute to this place. It feels to me like we have had a pretty good run in 2008 / 2009. While luck might be a small factor it's really the contributions from all these people that make that happen.

Secondly, just like last AGM, once again I'm delighted to be here tonight to talk to you as an employee and as a representative of NCC.

Thirdly he referenced a quote from 'Dialogical Community Development: with depth, solidarity and hospitality' (2009) Peter Westoby and Gerard Dowling

".... we should imagine a healthy society as one not without problems, but rather as [one] aware of its problems, learning to live creatively and imaginatively with them, and engaging them socially"

For me this has resonance not just for the work we do but also organisationally. The reality of it is that at the organisational level we are going to be effected by a whole lot of stuff, much of which will be way outside our circle of influence, but by learning to live creatively and imaginatively with this I'm certain we will be able to manage and thrive with all the challenges.

Good Beginnings Coordinator's Report

Belinda Irvin delivered her report and the highlights were as follows:

The development of mutually supportive relationships underpins much of our work here at Good Beginnings. When reflecting on the relationships that have developed over the last year I feel secure in saying that everyone involved here at the Community Centre has contributed enormously to the success of our program and also to a stronger sense of community.

- Kenilworth Community Early Parenting Project. Good Beginnings continues to provide support in the Kenilworth region via the Kenilworth Early Parenting Project which up until May 09 was funded by Local Answers Round 2. This parent group meets on a fortnightly cycle at the Kenilworth Park and engages in a range of activities.
- Volunteer Family Support. Our program continues to work with families compromised by isolation and adversity. Good Beginnings Annual Self-evaluation report for FaHCSIA estimates the volunteers have contributed 3,252 hours in the past year. A high level of satisfaction is generally reported both from families and the volunteers themselves.

- Currently we have 19 linked volunteers with 7 in transition due to health.
- We have received 84 new referrals in this reporting period. Through our collaborative working arrangements we have also noted a significant increase of referrals to other Sunshine Coast services.
- Parent education. A number of parent sessions were conducted during the year including AAA & P5.
- The Good Beginning's Advisory group continues to meet quarterly and provides supportive networking opportunities. The meetings are well attended and feedback indicates that this group provides vital information on referral pathways between services.

Cultural Connections Report:

Naomi Wiley delivered her report highlighting:

- The Cultural connections Program comes into focus this year with stronger networks and partnerships and more participation in systemic advocacy.
- Queensland Accessing Interpreters Working group. This group succeeded in getting the Queensland government to provide fee free interpreters to all its funded non-government organizations. Not being able to use interpreters has been a huge barrier for people who have English as a second language.
- CALD Education and Training Providers Network. Education and Training is one of the key issues culturally diverse people face and it is the second most frequent kind of referral I provide. Accessing the correct education and training can be difficult for migrants, because of the complex eligibility requirements for each program. The network has also enabled its members to provide and share training across each others organizations, in on-line multilingual resources and educational tools.

Community Development Report:

Naomi Wiley delivered her report highlighting:

- "A place to belong" would be the motto of the community development undertaken in the 08/09 period. Whilst the Nambour Community Centre facilities continue to be in high demand from a wide range of self run groups. This year we have focused on developing groups and connections for people who have not yet found a place in our community and indeed our 'Community Centre'. This has been a period of reaching out to connect more people with each other.
- The Meeting Place. On the first Friday of every month, Nambour Community centre holds a community meal where people can bring their own acoustic instrument and play together
- Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Tours. "This tour brought home the significance and awareness of Aboriginal culture and the importance of respecting and honoring the heritage and the land". Brent Miller and Neville Blackman educated us by taking 32 people to places of Aboriginal cultural significance and telling us stories of these places.
- Wednesday Friends. A group of people getting together to enjoy each others company, enjoy a coffee and a chat.

All reports were moved and seconded together

Moved, Petra Strong Seconded, Evv Vanderpoel, that all reports be adopted. Carried by all.

10. Endorsement of Financial Members:

Memberships for 2008/09 were endorsed as per membership registrations. *Moved, Lisa Dale and Seconded, Belinda Irvin, that all financial members be endorsed. Carried by all.*

11. Election of Office Bearers:

Di Riddell announced all positions of Management Committee be declared vacant. Nominations were then called for the incoming Committee, nominated as follows:

Chairperson: Thelma McDougall, *Nominated*, Narelle Poulsen, *Seconded*, Gay Lyell.

Vice-chairperson: Narelle Poulsen, *Nominated*, Gay Lyell, *seconded*, Maryanne O'Flynn.

Secretary: Maryanne O'Flynn, *Nominated* Corin Kelly, *Seconded*, Thelma McDougall.

Treasurer: Peter Baxter, *Nominated* Maryanne O'Flynn, *Seconded*, Corin Kelly

General Committee members as follows:

Gay Lyell, *Nominated* Narelle Poulsen, *Seconded*, Thelma McDougall.

Corin Kelly, *Nominated* Maryanne O'Flynn, *Seconded*, Gay Lyell.

Lisa Dale, *Nominated*, Chris Langlasse, *Seconded*, Sujini Damodaran.

Carried by all.

13. Presentations:

Narelle Poulsen handed out certificates & presents to all those Good Beginnings and Nambour Community Centre volunteers who were present on the night.

Previous management committee received a gift and flowers as an appreciation for a job well done.

Di Riddell and Ingrid Burkett also received gifts from Narelle as an appreciation of their time and professionalism.

Di Riddell declared the meeting closed at 8.26pm and all were invited to stay on for a chat.