



**BARUNG LANDCARE ASSOCIATION**

## **ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

**9 NOVEMBER 2019**

**RSL HALL, MALENY**

**Attendance:** as per register

The President, Ian McMaster, opened the meeting at 10.15 am. Ian acknowledged the traditional owners of the land on which the meeting was being held, particularly the contribution of the Kubbi Kubbi and Jinibara peoples in our area. These peoples lived in relative harmony with the environment for approximately 60,000 years, using management techniques such as fire in a balanced way, which is a lesson we need to learn today.

The annual report was not available for the meeting but the financial report was available and the annual report would be forwarded to members within the next week.

**Apologies:** Darryl Ebenezer, Ian McKay, Sue Brieschke, Susie Duncan, Narelle McCarthy, Barbara and Dave Purcell, Marie Livingstone, Bob Philpot, Fran Guard, Matthew Grey, Mary King, Danielle Steele and Kate Seehaussen.

Fiona McGill advised that Sue Brieschke and Susie Duncan made their apologies for not attending the meeting as they were in Cairns for this year's Qld Landcare Awards. Hinterland Bush Links received the Community Group Award this year!

The President moved that the minutes of the previous AGM as circulated be adopted with one change to wit that the time it closed (at 1.55) which should be 11.55. Passed.

### **President's Report:**

The President gave his report, details of which may be found in the Annual Report. Importantly, the President noted that Barung had taken a major step forward in achieving international standards accreditation (ISO), now a requirement of a number of our clients, and thanked members of the committee and staff who had helped achieve this.

### **Treasurer's Report:**

Alan Harrington spoke to the audited financial reports which were available at the meeting and which may also be found in the Annual Report.

The Treasurer moved that the audited accounts as circulated be accepted. The motion was seconded by Peter Stevens and passed.

The Treasurer moved that SDE Audit & Corporate of Nambour be re-appointed as the auditor.

Peter Stevens seconded the motion which was passed.

### **Precinct Report**

The President spoke about the reasons for the precinct project and in particular its two main goals of revegetating the Sunshine Coast and hinterland, and education. The precinct development will help Barung to do both more efficiently as the site is more visible and accessible and will be an area where people can see regeneration in action, including in native gardens.

Other organisations such as Mary Cairncross are eager for Barung to take on the challenge to build an education program together.

Diana O'Connor from the floor raised the point that Noosa Council is very active in this area and there is a huge uptake of environmental issues by residents and local businesses. Eric Anderson AM from the floor moved a motion that Barung declare a climate emergency. Seconded by Edith Anne Murray. Carried.

Tim Guymer spoke to the project itself and advised that his goal in this project is to touch the site as lightly as possible while still achieving government requirements, for example disabled access. There is minimum cut and fill and the buildings are elevated timber platforms as timber has the lowest energy input of any building material. The modular design of the buildings is intended to be both durable and flexible, allowing future change of use over the years without the need to demolish and rebuild. The building is a style that suits Maleny – stilts, lightweight, joyful, humble and hopefully ageless. Each unit of the development is separate to allow the environment to grow between the buildings.

The design is done and stage 1 has been approved. One builder is very keen but we have to go through due process.

Tim spoke to a question from floor as to costings. Stage 1 is estimated to cost \$500,000 which includes a number of one off costs such as the sewerage treatment plant, solar power, car parking, wheelchair access, cut and fill without retaining walls but using planting into the battered banks. To put up the remaining buildings perhaps \$1 million.

Ian confirmed stage 1 costs of approximately \$500,000 of which Barung has approximately \$400,000.

Question from floor as to whether we would use timber from local area. Tim said he couldn't guarantee it. Ian responded to say that to extent possible materials would be sourced locally.

### **Fund raising:**

Ian invited Heather Spring to talk.

Heather advised that it was important to note that this is a capital fund raiser not a general fund raiser, plus it is modular (stage 1 and stage 2) which makes it easier to raise funds.

Heather advised that \$600,000 was raised for the Maleny Community Centre and confirmed that the Maleny community has a great capacity to make things happen. It is important for all members to talk to people they know who might be interested, so it is important for all members to educate themselves about the project and understand what the outcomes will be, and particularly, what Barung can give to the community.

Barung has 750 members so even \$100 each is a significant amount of money! Projects like this take persistence and commitment and so support from everyone makes it easier. Sometimes assistance might be physically on the site that could be of great value so everyone can contribute even if not financially.

This project is bigger than just Maleny – it's about connections with people who see the value of what Barung will be doing. There could well be big organisations willing to donate for their green credentials.

Question from the floor about the website. Heather said Barung is moving towards that and also confirmed that Barung has tax deduction status for donations.

Peter Stevens asked whether Barung had considered taking out a loan. Alan responded that this had been raised but banks will not lend on the security of a lease from the Council because of the conditions of the lease. There may be an opportunity if FirstMac takes over the Credit Union as FirstMac can be flexible and may wish to increase local support.

Ian thanked Heather, who has already given committee considerable help in the fund raising, and advised that the first publicity for the fund raising campaign was available at the meeting.

Ian then called on Katrina Atkinson to speak, to bring a younger perspective to this issue.

**Katrina** said she and her partner had moved to Maleny 2 ½ years ago to start a mushroom farm, and she works 3 days a week in the Barung office. 'The precinct project gives our generation hope – it is something we can inherit and which will be part of our future. It is important for the Blackall Range but also for humanity. The problems that my generation and my children's generation will face are enormous. The separation between the environment and the use to which people put the land must come together in a sustainable way. The project is very exciting and I will be putting lots of effort into this project so together we can create an incredible footprint to leave for future generations.'

#### **Election of Office Bearers:**

Ian said the current committee had nominated for the committee positions and there were no other nominations. He asked members to consider standing next year.

He thanked past vice president John Dillon who had to retire from the position as a result of ill health and presented him with a small gift. John responded to say that working with Barung was one of the most rewarding and pleasantest experiences of his life.

The following persons declared elected:

Sue Brieschke, Secretary

Alan Harrington, Treasurer

Fiona McGill, Committee member

Fiona Emberton, Committee member

Stephanie Hicks, Committee member

Ian McMaster, President

The President closed the meeting at 11.30 am