



**Mornington Peninsula and Western Port  
Biosphere Reserve Foundation Limited**



**MINUTES  
2008 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

Sunday, 12 October 2008  
Koo Wee Rup Community Hall  
Rossiter Road, Koo Wee Rup

The Chair, Rob Gell, opened the meeting at 11.00 am and welcomed members and visitors.

**PRESENT**

Board and General Members

Rob Gell, Jane Jobe, Jack Krohn,  
Patricia Bennet, Tim Ealey, Marnee Fraser, Doug Hamilton, John Holmes, Jim Kerin, Alison  
Kuitert, Rob McNaught, David Nicholls, Yvonne Reifenberg, Bruce Ridgway, Reade Smith,  
Judy Wachendorfer, Jeff Weir, Cecelia Witton, Peter Woodgate,

Visitors

Janet Borley (Watson Creek Project Officer), Mandy Frew

**APOLOGIES**

Lois Airs, Robin Borger, Hans Brunner, Gavin Curnow, Gillian Gordon, The Hon Greg Hunt  
MP, Dr Michael Kennedy, Barbara Kuhl, Patricia MacWhirter, Anwyn Martin, Doug Miller, Jan  
Oliver, Rhys Walkley, Patricia Wallis, Helen Ward, Rosemary West

**CHAIR'S REPORT**

Rob Gell presented the Chair's Report, as printed in the Foundation's 2008 Annual Report,  
and reiterated our primary achievements of 2008:

- The relocation to our own office in Hastings
- The ongoing success of the Watson Creek and Southern Brown Bandicoot Recovery  
Projects
- The development of a Tactical Business Plan
- The formation of an "Think Tank" Reference Group to assist us in taking a lead role in  
achieving sustainable social, economic and environmental outcomes within the Biosphere

The Chair also spoke about the Research Committee's involvement with CSIRO Division of  
Sustainable Ecosystems in developing the Mass Balance Project and about the opportunity  
to relaunch some initiatives (including a review of the General Membership Fee Structure) as  
the fifth Anniversary of the Inauguration of the Foundation approaches in December.

Rob felt that the Foundation was headed in the right direction and engaging with the right  
people. He also acknowledged the positive outcomes achieved by Executive Officer, Cecelia  
Witton, and the contributions of Volunteer Board Minutes Secretary, Yvonne Reifenberg.

## **OTHER ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

As Director of the Frankston Roundtable, Jim Kerin expressed his thanks to Alternative Director, Alison Kuitert, as well as to Frankston City Council's Libby Anthony and Kevin Alexander, who staunchly supported the Biosphere concept within the Council.

## **FINANCIAL REPORT**

Honorary Treasurer Jeff Weir reported the Foundation's financial situation as printed in the audited Financial Report for 2007-2008 and commended Executive Officer, Cecelia Witton, for the accuracy of her comprehensive financial statements presented to the Foundation's auditors. Chair Rob Gell also acknowledged the contribution of Doug Hamilton of the Foundation's Audit & Compliance Sub-Committee.

The Meeting was given the opportunity to raise any questions, but as there were none, Jeff Weir called for a motion to adopt the report:

### *MOTION:*

*That the Foundation adopts the Audited Financial Report 2007-2008 as presented.*

*Moved: Doug Hamilton; Seconded: Peter Woodgate; Carried.*

## **APPOINTMENT OF AUDITORS 2008-2009**

WHK Day Neilson, the Foundation's financial year 2007-2008 auditors, have merged with WHK Horwath, to consolidate and strengthen the Victorian audit practice and presence of the WHK Group Ltd. This required WHK Day Neilson to resign and the new organisation to be appointed, if the Foundation wished to retain the services of the WHK Group.

As this occasion presented an opportunity to consider the selection of auditors for 2008-2009, tenders from local firms were assessed. The Board decided to retain the services of the WHK Group, once it finalised the name change and received ASIC approval.

### *RESOLUTION:*

*The Meeting resolved that WHK Horwath, Melbourne, be appointed auditors of the Foundation commencing for the year ending 30 June 2009, subject to the Australian Securities and Investment Commission giving its consent to the resignation of WHK Day Neilson.*

*Moved: Jeff Weir; Seconded: Tim Ealey; Carried.*

## **LAUNCH OF PUBLICATION - "Recovery of the Southern Brown Bandicoot in the Mornington Peninsula and Western Port Biosphere Reserve and surrounding districts – A report on the Public Meeting, 14 November 2006"**

In his introduction, Research Committee Chair Peter Woodgate pointed out that the Southern Brown Bandicoot Recovery Project was one of the first Biosphere initiatives set up in 2005 under the leadership and direction of David Nicholls.

He also acknowledged the generous contribution of the Chisholm Institute, Cardinia Shire Council and Frankston Roundtable in facilitating the public meeting on 14 November 2006 as a means of engaging the Biosphere community in this conservation project.

Peter then invited David Nicholls to outline the Southern Brown Bandicoot Recovery Project.

David spoke of the organisation of this event in 2006 and the amount of effort put in by all involved (including Alison Kuitert, Tracy Westwood, the Research Committee and others) and the impetus this workshop generated within the community to move forward and to engage a large list of partners.

He also spoke of the sizeable DSE grant application, which was unsuccessful, but subsequently restructured into smaller grant parcels, and the successful outcomes generated for the Pines Flora & Fauna Reserve (Frankston) and habitat restoration in Koo Wee Rup (Cardinia). He also outlined the visions and challenges ahead for the project – securing ongoing funding and having regard for development issues.

David expressed his thanks to the Research Committee for its ongoing constructive support, and also to Cecelia Witton for the financial management of this project.

In closing, Peter announced the publication launched.

NB: This report is available in pdf format on the Foundation's website.

**GUEST SPEAKER – Cr Reade Smith**  
**Report on the 3<sup>rd</sup> World Congress of Biosphere Reserves held in Madrid**  
**in February 2008**

In introducing Cr Reade Smith, the Chair briefly outlined the importance of this World Congress in determining the role of existing, new and potential Biospheres in the new century.

Reade's PowerPoint slide show presented the Meeting with the wondrous sights and sounds of Madrid and surrounds, but also highlighted that the *MaB* Committees of delegates from all around the globe were hard at work during the Session Days, exploring and developing the new Madrid Declaration and Madrid Action Plan.

Reade's report presented for consideration by the Foundation's Board, 8 recommendations which cover a wide range of options for taking this Biosphere to the next evolutionary stage.

An opportunity also exists for an Australian Biosphere to host the TAHITI 2009 Scientific Forum, to which the Foundation was invited and which is being organised by PACMaB.

At 11.35 am the formal meeting closed.