

**MINUTES OF THE CROMWELL AND DISTRICTS PROMOTION GROUP'S ANNUAL
GENERAL MEETING HELD AT THE GOLDEN GATE LODGE, 6th JULY 2006
COMMENCING AT 8.09pm.**

PRESENT

President A Somerville (Chairperson), Committee members S Howard, H Scoles, E Williamson, C Crawford, K Scott, R Galvin, S Brown and T Emmitt (Secretary); and N Gillespie, O Somerville, P Scott, G Stewart, C Brown, G Anderson, G Hunter, R O'Meara, N & H Hucklebridge, G Christensen, H Egerton, A Mason, E Dawe, S Gauthier, M Trotter, S Kernahan (8.32pm) and guest speaker Jon Doust.

WELCOME

President welcomed everyone to the meeting and especially N Gillespie, Chairman of the Cromwell Community Board and Jon Doust from Perth.

APOLOGIES

Received from G McDowell, D McAuliffe, P Mead and D Horton. **Moved** K Scott / C Crawford that apologies be sustained. **Carried.**

MINUTES OF 2005 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

These had been circulated to all members in the Annual Report and it was **Moved** S Howard / E Williamson that they be taken as read, and that they represented a true and correct record of the meeting. **Carried.**

CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT

Chairperson A Somerville read the Annual Report on the activities of the Group over the last year. **Moved** A Somerville / K Scott that Chairperson's report to members be adopted. **Carried.**

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

The financial statements contained in the Annual Report were tabled and discussed by Auditor R O'Meara. He noted there had been positive total income that had been assisted by grants; and expenditure was lower because of the non-use of Destination South. The major event was the Canterbury A&P Show which also included two years of NZ Trotting Cup sponsorship. The negative bottom line could not go on indefinitely – nor could any accumulation of funds – and the incoming Committee has that in their hands to deal with. **Moved** S Howard / S Brown that the audited financial report and position, as presented, be received and adopted. **Carried.**

APPOINTMENT OF COMMITTEE

President A Somerville stood down and Secretary called for nominations for President.

PRESIDENT

Nominated Adrian Somerville by K Scott / E Williamson. There being no further nominations it was declared - **A Somerville re-elected.**

COMMITTEE

Nominated. C Crawford by H Scoles, T Emmitt by H Scoles, H Scoles by E Williamson, K Scott by A Somerville, S Howard by E Williamson, G McDowell by C Crawford, E Williamson by H Scott, R Galvin by S Brown, S Brown by C Crawford, and D Horton by C Crawford. All were seconded by N Gillespie. **All Elected.**

ELECTION OF AUDITOR

Moved C Crawford / S Howard that Mr R O'Meara be commissioned to audit the financial statements in the coming year. **Carried.**

GENERAL

- C Brown asked what was happening with the Tourism Cromwell Group. Chairperson noted that a few operators were keen to get the group up and running and some progress was expected soon.
- N Gillespie, as Chairman of the Cromwell Community Board, noted he enjoyed coming to the meeting to recognise the contribution by the Group. He acknowledged the initiatives and activities of the Group and requested the President to keep up the good work. The Chairperson's report summarized what is happening in a calm and rational manner. He was not pleased with the prospect of increased rates for the next three years and there was a 'move' to cap increases to the rate of inflation. Cromwell has big challenges with growth and more especially the Roothing Development Contributions, that were undergoing a further review. He thanked the Group for their good work over the past year.

There being no further business A Somerville thanked everyone for attending and declared the meeting closed at 8.40pm.

S Howard then introduced guest speaker Jon Doust who was a facilitator from Perth. Jon explained that he had floated the idea of a Cherry Pip Spitting Competition to other towns and had got no bites – apart from Cromwell who invited him to speak to the AGM. Using a power point presentation Jon noted that Manjimup in Western Australia was a big timber town with a population of 4500 – with the timber running out. Residents were getting miserable and asked him what to do with the future - and a Cherry Festival was devised. He had grown up in the district and wanted to put something back – but he did not want it to turn into a whinging town waiting for government assistance. The festival started some 4-5 years ago with four local women starting it up – they had three months to get it off the ground and got no assistance from the Shire (Population 16k). After the first year the Shire gave them everything they required and now they have too much money. Everyone put obstacles in their way but the committee refused to be stopped and the first year blew everyone away – and has got better each year on.

The Manjimup Cherry Harmony Festival attracts some 5000 visitors and has street theatre (by young people), the Army Band for music, 'toast mosaic', and the pip spitting competition. Require important people in competition but not those who cost \$10-50k per day. There is a Saturday night Ball with Rock Band; and Sunday's Long Table Lunch in cherry orchard featuring 200 diners c/w silver service at \$200/head. It attracts the wealthy and the event is sold out every year. Cherries usually sell at \$10/kg but later at \$50/kg.

A Cromwell event will celebrate the produce and the harvest. He was offering first prize of ticket to Perth for two nights at Manjimup plus ticket to the Long Table Lunch. Dates for the Manjimup Cherry Harmony Festival were 15-17 December 2006. Cromwell should run event along with another; go from 10-4pm and use the crowd wisely by keeping interest up with spitting etc. Needs a natural amphitheatre. Contestants get to eat three cherries and it is distance not accuracy that wins. Could have novelty events such as avocado spitting.

Shirley Howard thanked Jon for his inspiring talk to the Group who would take everything on board and investigate a Cromwell competition.

Confirmed a true record

Chairperson

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