



## RSAB Meeting MINUTES

Held 1pm Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> September 2018 at Barkly Motor Lodge Main Road Ballarat

**Chair:** Ian Rossiter (BREAZE)

**Minutes:** Ian Rossiter

Agenda Items	Discussion	Responsibility
<p><b>1. Welcome/ Apologies/ Introductions</b></p>	<p><b>Attendance:</b> Ian Rossiter (BREAZE), Belinda Coates (BCC), Ray Draper (BEN), Cherie Draper (BEN), Tim Hudspith (DELWP), Jeff Rootes (FOCC), Andrew Lang (VBN), Ross Irving (SV).</p> <p><b>Apologies:</b> Craig Hurley (Fed Uni), Peter Gell (Fed Uni), Janene Trickey (DELWP) Hazen Cleary (PLEA Network), Rob Law (CVGA), Quenton Gay (BCC) Laurel Freeland (SHARE), Keith Jackson (GCWWRG), Brendan Clarke (CHW)</p> <p><b>Guests:</b> Micahela Settle, Linda Zibell, Juliana Addison, Serge Simic. (Apology from Alice Barnes).</p>	
<p><b>2. Victorian Election Candidates Briefing</b></p>	<p>Ian explained that he had invited the candidates for Buninyong and Wendouree from Liberal, Labor and Greens parties and that all had indicated they would attend with exception of Alice Barnes. Greens asked if Serge Simic candidate for Ripon could attend. It was noted that neither Amy Johnson or Andrew Kilmartin (Liberal Party) attended or provided apology, despite verbal confirmation last week of attendance.</p> <p>Ian asked each of the candidates to provide a brief introduction and background:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Michaela Settle, ALP candidate for Buninyong, has a long interest in Landcare through her parents farming and conservation background.</li> <li>• Linda Zibell, Greens candidate for Buninyong, grew up in La Trobe Valley near coal mines and moved to Daylesford as a teacher then Ballarat championing biodiversity issues.</li> <li>• Juliana Addison, ALP candidate for Wendouree, has worked as union official in the steel industry, then teaching at Ballarat Clarendon College.</li> <li>• Serge Simic, Greens candidate for Ripon, came to Australia as a refugee and worked in the mining and construction industries before moving to Blampied to work as an organic farmer.</li> </ul>	

Ian asked the RSAB members to present environmental issues and opportunities that faced the region:

- Ray Draper (BEN) raised the issue of power line impacts on threatened species, specifically the loss of habitat of golden sun moth with power lines approved for the Lal Lal wind farm, despite the species being listed as threatened under the federal EPBC Act. The species are protected under the Victorian Flora and Fauna Act, however the installation of power lines is designated a "controlled action". Similarly the construction of a new youth correction centre in Melbourne has seen destruction of habitat and fauna species, which cannot be relocated to offset areas.
- Andrew Lang (VBN) raised the issue of the planning for wind farms as between Inverleigh and Port Fairy there is a 15 km corridor between the electrical transmission wires which is seeing unprecedented development for wind farms and a lack of coordinated planning to take into account the location of new transmission lines, threatened species habitat (especially brolga).
- Andrew Lang pointed out there has been much emphasis on renewable energy for electricity generation, but no clear policy on heating and transport fuels. There needs to be a policy position in relation to blending biofuels with petrol / diesel. Currently the VRET is silent on contribution of bioenergy. There needs to be recognition that woody biomass (i.e. chips, pellets and briquettes from wood and straw) is a wasted resource. There needs to be a policy on farm forestry.
- Belinda Coates (City of Ballarat) raised the opportunity of supporting Council's strategy to achieve carbon neutrality by 2025 by assisting with projects that can be demonstrations for other municipalities including sustainable street lighting, landfill gas electricity generation, electric vehicles, waste to energy.
- Belinda Coates (Grampians Central West Waste Resource Recovery Group) spoke about the opportunities of market development for waste products, support for the Ballarat All Waste Interchange Project that has missed out on state and federal funding this year, responses to the Victorian Auditor General Office's report on Waste Management and Waste to Energy initiatives.
- Belinda Coates (Central Victorian Greenhouse Alliance) pointed out the initiatives that CVGA were delivering that need support from state government including the MASH (solar bulk buy) program, bulk street lighting (LED) program, Solar Savers (low interest or nil interest solar installations paid through power bills or rates).
- Ray Draper raised the planning permits for residential development where bushfire management provisions are frequently used to justify the removal of vegetation. This is attributed to a lack of biodiversity knowledge by planning staff and decision makers and the suggestion that perhaps we need within DELWP resources that could be shared across the LGA's to better inform applications and assess planning applications.
- Jeff Rootes (Friends of Canadian Corridor) asked what can the State Government do about the loss of biodiversity through poor planning decisions and lack of permit enforcement at a local government level. Jeff pointed out that there is an opportunity to support the Bunanyung Landscape Alliance (a landscape scale partnership and strategy to address land use and conservation issues across the Moorabool, Woody Yallock and Leigh Landcare regions)
- Ian Rossiter (BREAZE) suggested there are opportunities for Victorian Government to invest in demonstration projects to deliver improved public and active transport to break dependence on

	<p>individual car transport. A good example was the School's Ballarat Active Transport Challenge run as a World Environment Day activity 10 years ago with state sponsorship.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ian Rossiter (BREAZE) suggested that the State needs to be more active in setting energy efficiency standards for new housing and major renovations. There is a need to bring planners, developers, building designers, builders and real estate agents together to develop a shared desire to educate buyers, embrace the Victorian Residential Efficiency Scorecard and improve our housing stock through regulation.</li> <li>• Tim Hudspith (DELWP) explained that the department is committed to the current renewable energy targets, providing grants from the Sustainability Fund for adaptation to climate change and pointed out to candidates the Victorian survey on attitudes to climate change.</li> </ul>	
<p><b>3. Minutes of Meeting 17/7/18</b></p>	<p>The minutes of meeting held on 17<sup>th</sup> September were adopted as a true record of the meeting, <i>Moved Tim Hudspith, seconded Jeff Rootes.</i></p>	
<p><b>4. Actions Arising from Minutes</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A meeting with City of Ballarat representatives Justine Linley (CEO), Terry Demeo (Director Infrastructure and Environment), Belinda Coates (Councillor) Hazen Cleary and Ian Rossiter was held on 7<sup>th</sup> August to discuss letter regarding City of Ballarat biodiversity personnel and proposed Councillor induction on Climate Change. Outcomes were: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Under current staff ceiling and budgetary constraints the CEO will not approve a new position and environmental issues are shared responsibility of a number of staff. Terry indicated the recently vacated Botanical Gardens Education Officer position could have a broader environmental education role when re-filled.</li> <li>○ The CEO embraced the concept of the regional specific councillor induction program as presented at July meeting by Hazen</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Feedback to City of Ballarat on draft Carbon Neutrality Strategy and Action Plan. Ian reported that feedback received at the last meeting and individual comments from RSAB members was compiled and was circulated as part of the July minutes.</li> </ul>	<p>No further action</p>

<p><b>5. MOU between City of Ballarat and RSAB</b></p>	<p>Ian reported that the current MOU (reviewed annually since 2013) expired in August 2018 and he read out the report sent to City of Ballarat on requirements and outcomes of the MOU to the meeting (sent as attachment to agenda for September Meeting). The conclusion of the report was that RSAB and Council should consider whether a further MOU should be entered into. Feedback from members was:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The formal agreement between RSAB and BCC is thought to be beneficial.</li> <li>• We need to identify how both parties can get better value from the relationship.</li> <li>• The MOU relationship provides expertise and connections (contacts) to Council, although it is not necessarily well known within BCC staff.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Action:</b></p> <p>Ian and Belinda to discuss with Quenton Gay and Terry Demeo</p>
<p><b>6. Chair and Secretariat Roles for RSAB</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ian pointed out that he had performed the role of chair and secretariat since 2014 and was not able to continue beyond 2018.</li> <li>• If the MOU is renewed with BCC, the Council provides \$5,000 to RSAB, which could be used to source the required secretarial support if one of the member organisations (with an incorporated entity) could take on the role.</li> <li>• Prior to the MOU, RSAB operated with each member taking it in turns to provide a venue, take and distribute minutes and set agenda for the meeting.</li> <li>• Tim Hudspith indicated that DELWP would be able to provide a venue and secretarial support for RSAB for the foreseeable future, as his area of DELWP relies on networking with our membership plays a key role in coordination of sustainability activities for the region.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Action:</b> Ian to meet with Tim and provide relevant information in order for formalised arrangements to be determined at November Meeting.</p>
<p><b>6. Information Sharing</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Andrew Lang reported that the Straw Alliance (Group of farmers supported by Pyrenees Shire and BCC) have just had a representative return from Germany where they have been visiting the manufacturer (Krone) of a tractor drawn straw pelletising machine. Next steps will be to see if Krone can manufacturer units that are better suited to Australian conditions.</li> <li>• Andrew Lang reported that he attended the Mortlake Windfarm meeting on 17 September at which over 400 people met to voice concerns over the extent and proximity of wind farms to the Mortlake township and seek intervention by state and local government to manage the planning processes and consultation with their community.</li> <li>• Jeff Rootes reported that the Bunanyung Landscape Alliance will be launching their documentation for the Landscape Scale Strategy at Sovereign Hill on October 26.</li> <li>• Belinda Coates reported that at the City of Ballarat Council Meeting on 3<sup>rd</sup> October Council will consider a report recommending joining the Cities Power Partnership.</li> <li>• Ross Irving reported that the Community Power Hub Ballarat has completed feasibility studies for a number of projects and was undertaking business cases for major projects that could be selected as the Flagship Project, which include McCallum Disability Services Linen Service and/or packaging facility and East Grampians Health Services rooftop solar in Ararat and Willaura. The program is now in its second year and a number of other projects are under investigation.</li> </ul>	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Jeff Rootes spoke about the Macedon Ranges Amendment to the Victorian Planning Provisions in which recognition has been given to the presence and preservation of flora and fauna and the opportunity for a similar amendment to be created locally.</li> <li>• Laurel Freeland sent an email advising that she is withdrawing from RSAB membership as is returning to her facilitation and training roots and asked that I inform members of an Art of Facilitation intensive training program for people who work in sustainability, regenerativity, humanitarian and community sovereignty. It is to be run October 17-21 in Daylesford. Please contact Laurel for more details on 0498 066 660 or <a href="mailto:laurelfreeland@bigpond.com">laurelfreeland@bigpond.com</a></li> <li>• Ian reported that BREAZE had taken over the organisation of Ballarat's Green Drinks, which now are scheduled for the first Thursday of the month at the Main Bar from 6.30pm. Last week's Passive Haus session was well attended and October's topic will be BREAZE's programs and projects, with November allocated for Victorian Election Candidates to come for a Q&amp;A session. Green Drinks is an international network for people working in or interested in environmental sustainability.</li> <li>• Ian reported that Sustainable House Day was again a great success with BREAZE supporting home owners with volunteers and local promotion with homes in Scarsdale, Mollinghip, Beaufort and 3 in Buninyong.</li> <li>• Craig Hurley could not attend today due to a funeral and wanted to share the progress report for Federation University's Principles for Responsible Management Education which is attached to these minutes.</li> </ul>	
<p><b>7. Next Meeting</b></p>	<p><b>Tuesday 20 November 1pm to 3pm</b> at a venue to be decided.</p>	<p><b>Action:</b> Ian to liaise with Tim Hudspith to confirm arrangements.</p>

## Attachment 1

# Carbon Neutrality Strategy and Action Plan Index

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## Attachment 2

### Key Issues and Discussion Points by RSAB Members in Relation to City of Ballarat Carbon Neutrality Strategy and Action Plan

- How can the City of Ballarat lead in setting aspirational targets for whole of the city?
- Aquatic Centre could be carbon neutral with biomass heating instead of natural gas
- BWEZ stage 2 could be provided with woody biomass combined power and heat plant.
- Where does recycled product fit within Council's purchasing policy?
- Stakeholder workshop within Council staff identified a policy need for an environmental purchasing policy. Rules required for assessing green component of contract (energy, recycling)
- Consider a revolving fund to use savings from renewable energy and energy efficiency initiatives to fund more initiatives.
- Planning schemes and building stock issue was raised– lobby for ESD principles. Python approach. Lisa Kendal (Strategic Planning Mgr) has started ESD principles guidelines for new development.
- Housing stock / consumer choice – opportunity for council is to hold a summit on how to achieve long term ESD objectives. Builders, RSAB, council, owners. Identify opportunities and issues. Developer forum – raise with the facility group??
- Rather than restricting our planning and thought to old technologies, how do we aim to make a strategy for 2035 more innovative to make Ballarat the first in new energy technologies? Not only focus on the here and now – look at something huge. Hydrogen city??, etc.
- Infrastructure Victoria's transport report has some great initiatives, could these be incorporated?
- Where is the education element to change community behaviours?
- How do we build the relationship with innovative corporations on our doorstep. E.g. Acciona Energy who have expertise in so many technologies including wind, water, solar, thermal, bioenergy to contribute to making Ballarat an example for the rest of Australia? Build relationships with experts in this space – responsibility of council. Innovation and organisational group – Cameron Gray.
- We are measuring CoBs emissions – can community emissions be shown? And reductions achieved?
- Best strategies are bold – lead the community along the low carbon path
- Drive one big project which showcases CoB as a leader
- Growing community support so that they become drivers to ensure CoB is kept on this path.
- Commit to what we know will reduce CO<sub>2</sub>e, and commit to implementing what is not currently known.
- Link up with MAV to send CoB representatives to conferences to keep tabs with latest directions as many other places have been operating with zero / or greatly reduced emissions for years/decades
- Understanding what's possible, Proactively support / fund demonstration
- Community education component of the strategy
- Consumption – food waste. Include in document.
- Encourage speakers from experts – keep an eye on growing trends and not remain insular
- Consider how CoB can be a leader and not just be another carbon neutral Local Government Authority.