

MINUTES

BSFG AGM – Thursday 26th June 2025 – 7:30pm

- Welcome and Acknowledgement of Country – David Blore
- **Present:** Dylan McWhinney, Kay Blore, David Blore, Sjoerd Bakker, Judy Schwarzman, Peter Maddock, Liz Hillenaar, Mike Hillenaar, Kevin Smith, Peter Holmes, Jenny Monger, Howard Bartlett, Linda Tullberg, Kate Holmes, Peter Keane, Karen Nankervis, Heather Mannix, Nathan Gasperoni, Bruce Sonogan, Cr Justin King, Fuchsia Branwhite, Neville Gibb, Jane Rushworth, Brian Harker, Roger Harrop, Wendy Baker.
- **Apologies:** Alan Monger, Callum Morrison, Bev Lee, Christine Holmes, Ian Herbert.
- **Minutes of previous AGM – 24th May 2024**
- **Motion:** That the minutes be accepted
Moved: Karen Nankervis Seconded: Liz Hillenaar All in favour
- **President’s Report** – David Blore
- **Finance Report** – Wendy Baker
- **Motion:** That the Finance Report be accepted
Moved: Wendy Baker Seconded: Kate Holmes All in favour.
- **Action Group Reports**
 - Waste Wise – Kay Blore
 - NEWA – Kay Blore
 - Food Co-op – Sonia Bourke read by Peter Holmes
 - Greening and Cooling Benalla – Kate Holmes
 - Website – Peter Maddock
 - Ecological Sustainable Development – Peter Maddock
 - Ecological Sustainable Development – Howard Bartlett.
 - REB – Kevin Smith
 - NERSA – Kevin Smith
- **Motion:** That all reports be accepted as presented
Moved: Peter Holmes Seconded: Sue Campbell All in favour.
- **Vote of thanks** for Peter Maddock for his role and effort in putting together the Swanpool Film Festival.
Moved: Kevin Smith Met with acclaim by all.
- **Motion** – that the “Safeguarding Policy”, “Incident response Plan”, and “Conflict of Interest Policy” be ratified.
Put aside. Mike Hillenaar raised the question that prior notice to members may be needed for the motion. To be looked into whether it should be put to another General Meeting with notice, or the Committee can ratify.

- **Motion:** That Membership Fees remain the same as last year - \$25 annual membership, \$20 if also a Food Co-op member, \$60 for a 3 year membership, and \$5 for students or unemployed.
Moved: Howard Bartlett Seconded: Kevin Smith All in favour.

- **Motion** – that BSFG renew its 3-yearly Membership of Environment Victoria. This allows us to obtain Insurance through Environment Victoria which is paid annually.
Moved: Wendy Baker Seconded: Kay Blore All in Favour

- **Election of Office Bearers**
Cr Justin King takes the Chair.
All positions are vacant.
Cr King thanked David Blore for his role as President.

President: Nomination – Brian Harker	Accepted
Vice President: Nomination – Peter Holmes	Accepted
Secretary: Nomination – Judy Schwarzman	Accepted
Treasurer: Nomination – Kate Holmes	Accepted

Committee Members – Nominations –

Kay Blore, Kevin Smith, Peter Maddock, Karen Nankervis, Liz Hillenaar. All accepted

- Reminder that memberships are now due. Peter Holmes.
- Meeting Closed pm

GUEST SPEAKER – CEO of Benalla Rural City Council - Peter Keane

Peter to speak on his journey to Benalla Rural City Council.

Peter was welcomed and introduced by past President David Blore.

Followed by Q & A and Supper

BSFG committee reports to be attached: following dot points from Peter Keane’s presentation.

Benalla Rural City CEO Peter Keane. Presentation to the AGM.

Past history involved in: Manufacturing, Mining – own company, Agriculture, Gas, Sunraysia – organic vines and citrus, Local Government, Most experience in SE QLD & Bunbury with Waste Recovery, Resource Recovery in key areas like Organics.

Energy from Waste

The Regions have no size or scale and have transport distances = a problem, but not a problem in SE QLD.

A Sustainable Future is one that is fair and reasonable.

Can't look at the Environment in isolation.

Local Gov fits into Sustainability as it has a critical role being closest to the community, and sees the day to day impacts of Climate Change. Local Gov has or needs to get, the tools and partnerships to make things happen, to facilitate the initiatives.

Needs Climate Resilience and long-term efficiency.

Shifting away from Landfill and towards the circular economy. It is a long process and could take 100 years.

Need to promote smart growth especially in the farming industry. Support ethical supply chains which is not easy in regional areas.

Help residents live healthier, greener and more inclusive lives.

Sustainability means environment and equality – safe housing, food, transport, health etc.

Collaboration is the key.

Relying on residents to come along on the journey.

Sustainability is a mindset and it never ends.

Housing development needs innovative ideas

Waste consumption also.

Education – a slow drip in SE QLD community.

We are all custodians of the future. Council facilitates aiming to make our lives sustainable – it's not easy.

We drive it with the community; practical solutions, a shared purpose.

Questions:

Q - Kate H: What can you do about the loss of significant mature paddock trees for solar farms?

A - Peter K: The key is to keep the canopy – it is a balancing job between industry and environment.

Discussion followed

Peter K: Local Councils get more notice when they advocate in a group of councils.

Eg for Waste, the Murray Climate Alliance.

Make sure you get the ministers' (or chief of staff or cross bench) attention so they can get the bureaucrats to do something.