

**THE HISTORICAL  
INC**  
Gorge Road,



**SOCIETY KATHERINE**  
**KATHERINE NT 0850**

## **MINUTES**

**Held at the Katherine Museum  
13<sup>th</sup> of May 2020 at 5.00 pm**

### **OPEN @ 5.00 pm by**

- 1. PRESENT** Lauren Reed, Simone Croft, Jacquie Christie, Jodie Locke, John Obrien, Robert Buzzo, Kelly Angel, Valerie Smith, Kath Neil

**Apologies** – John Leo, Alicia Grenfell, Elizabeth Moran, Robert Renner, Jake Quinlivan

**Guests** – Jessica Powter – Dept. of Chief Ministers Office

**Katherine Town Council Representative** - Peter Gazey

**Staff** – Manager Simone Croft

- 2. MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING**

- 2.1 Minutes of the Meeting 8<sup>th</sup> of April 2020  
Moved Jodie Locke / Lauren Reed

- 3. ANY BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE LAST MINUTES**

Nil

- 4. FINANCIAL REPORT**

Attached Report. \$4700 received from KVEC. Wages are being currently being funded by Job Keeper due to Covid-19. In effect nothing has changed from last year – the only thing that is keeping us afloat due to Covid-19 is the funds from the Katherine Council and the NT Government. The fundamentals of the business do not support the on going trading.

Moved Lauren Reed / Valerie Smith

- 5. PRESIDENTS REPORT**

Robert and Simone met with Annika (KTVC) and Marksie (who use to be at the Museum before). He (Marksie) doesn't have a place to operate at the moment; he is keen to keep himself active and the question was raised if he could operate out of the Museum. A ticket sale in conjunction with him for his breakfast. Ticket Sales would be sold at the Katherine Visitor Information Centre. This would only be for three months and only for three months. It can be reviewed after the first month. There can only be a limited number of people due to Covid-19. He does have a

Covid-19 plan in place and a copy of his Insurance. Cost to us is labour – on a Saturday or a Sunday – if he only gets 5 people that is \$50 – we won't be able to cover wages. Val Smith mentioned that there was also damage to the grounds, damage to the grass and it took a long time for the area to recover. Lauren also mentioned that there was an issue with cleanliness. Museum staff were picking up rubbish after their event. There is cleaning of the toilet facilities and the tearooms. If he uses the tearooms – we have a cost for the electricity. Lauren asked if there would be a rent to cover this cost. Robert said that there was no discussion regarding rent as such.

Our experience working with him in the past did cause a lot of ill feeling – but that was 9 years ago and we didn't have anything in writing. Simmone asked if he would be paying for electricity? Jodie Locke suggested that Volunteers might wish to volunteer on a Sunday so that could save wages. Jodie believes that he needs to pay for power, that there needs to be an agreement in place and the grounds need to be rehabilitated after the event.

**Motion:** Agree in principle that we negotiate with Mr Marks on mutually acceptable terms for an initial one-month from the date of execution.

Moved Lauren Reed / Kath Neil

Robert and Lauren met with Jake Quinlivan and Jess Powter from the Dept. of Chief Ministers Office last week. Jake suggested requesting \$150,000 per annum in recurrent funding for five years and write to the Government and to meet with Mayor Fay Miller. Mayor Fay Miller has already written a letter to the Chief Minister requesting funding of \$150,000 per annum for five years. Her letter of support was very much appreciated. Robert will thank her tomorrow when he meets with her.

Jessica suggested we do a footprint of where we are going, where we are at. What we are trying to say to the NT Government is this is who we are, what we do, this is what we want funding for, this is where we are looking at funding, this is the possibility of raising funding ourselves through various means – we will highlight this. Jessica is a wonderful supporter of the Museum and her assistance is much appreciated. Jessica advised that Jake has communicated that there is consistent messaging to both sides of Government as there is 100 days till the Election.

Jessica also mentioned that there might be an opportunity to work with Roper Gulf Council and link to the Mataranka Museum. Simmone advised that she is already working with the Mataranka Museum closely and advising them on all sorts of matters – signage, their auction dinner etc. Lauren suggested getting a letter of support from the Mataranka Museum.

Simmone also briefed the members on the augmented reality app that Simmone and

Mike Reed are working on. Simone and Mike have mapped out a path on the river corridor highlighting WW2 plus other significant sites. They have planned out the stories already.

Sunrise (Ch7) – Weather report. They are highlighting Katherine tomorrow, so if you are up at that time of the morning, please promote the Museum if you can. It is a Zoom meeting and they have a couple of spots available.

Correspondence is listed. If anyone has questions regarding the correspondence; please email Jacquie or Robert.

Opening of the Museum – after much discussion the decision is made that the Museum will stay closed and we will reassess at the next Meeting, which will be the 10<sup>th</sup> of June 2020.

## **6. MANAGERS REPORT**

Simone has been investigating what Grants are available. Simone has applied for a Regional Museum Grant for some audio and sound showers to be installed into the Wallie Christie Shed and the Bush Kitchen. Innovative ways of bringing our History alive instead of just static, ideal for school tours.

A lot of background planning and work is happening with books and the Facebook page; this time has allowed us to do several jobs that we have wanted to do for a while.

Moved: Jodie Locke / Kath Neil

## **7. OPEN DISCUSSION**

7.1 Katherine Council Funding – verandah repairs have been done. Mitre 10 has ordered fascia and John Forester will do that work once it arrives. Scatts will install the gutters. We plan to have the work completed by the end of May. We will then invoice Katherine Town Council in time for them to pay by the end of June (Financial Year). This will allow us to receive the remaining \$25,000 approx. from the Council.

7.2 Mural – list of female pioneers from the Katherine and Big Rivers Region. We will discuss this at the next Meeting and put them forward to Jessica. If you have any suggestions, please send them to Jacquie.

7.3 Museum & Council Partnership Agreement – Lauren advised that these meetings have not been going ahead due to Covid-19. Lauren and Robert met with Ian and Rosemary two weeks ago to provide an update on where we are at with the Agreement, regarding the Business Growth Plan – we are working with Deloitte to establish the plan – it is progressing.

7.4 Sensory Grant that needs repurposing – we submitted a letter through Ian

and rosemary was submitted to Council. We have repurposed that Grant to do a coffee table, it will include our Story Boards. It will be something saleable and tangible; visitors can buy and take it home with them. Waiting on some printing quotes. It is close to being all submitted and then we can get on with it.

7.5 We have also signed up for the Katherine Shop Local – great initiative for the Town.

7.5 Museum Dinner – **Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> of June 2020**. We need to make a decision so we can start advertising the event. We will work through Covid-19 plans and social distancing.

#### **Welcome to Jessica Powter:**

Jake puts in his apologies, he wanted to attend but unfortunately an urgent matter came up.

Jake and Jessica have met with Robert and Lauren several times and have provided support on Grant processes, ideas and concepts on funding. Jessica wanted to let the Board know that both Jake and she work closely with a range of organisations – like Council and ourselves; we are offering support you need now and in the future. For funding, Jake has stressed that the lobbying is done now as we only have a limited time till the next Election.

Grants – Holiday Programs. That may be an opportunity for the September holidays or going into next year to apply for these. Lauren advised that she has spoken to Thomas Manning in regards to Holiday Programs and that there is some funding held over from the Easter Break when we were hoping to run an Easter hunt for the program.

Meeting Space – could be a facility to be hired out as a meeting place. Jake and Jessica are always looking for other meeting spaces available other than Council Chambers. We get requests often where there may be a space available. It may be an opportunity to raise some funds during this time.

Covid-19 – happy to feed through any changes that are happening. It is changing constantly.

Robert thanked Jessica and Jake for their generous support and guidance they have provided. He assured Jessica that once we have finalised the plan, we will be hitting both sides of the Government, public and private sector in our campaign. We have a great belief in what we have here. Talking to the Honourable Administrator this week, she was extremely impressed with our Museum and was upset that we are struggling. She has asked to be notified of the Auction Dinner, as she would like to support.

**Next Meeting Date – 10<sup>th</sup> of June 2020**

Meeting Closed 6.15pm