

355 BEM Committee

25 February 2021



Minutes

HELD AT **Umbarra, Wallaga Lake**

Present

Glenn Willcox (Bega LALC)	Keith Tull (BVSC)
Mark Bateman (Eden LALC)	Saphron Scott (BVSC)
Di McVeity (Merrimans LALC) - Zoom	Tamara Whiting (BVSC)
BJ Cruse (Eden LALC)	Scott Baker (BVSC)
Anne Cleverley (BVSC)	Shelli Reid (BVSC) <i>minutes</i>
Alice Howe (BVSC)	
Apologies: Sophie Thomson, Donna Aldridge, Lorraine Naylor	

1 Welcome to Country

Welcome to Country performed by BJ Cruse.

2 Harmony Day Event Planning (Scott Baker)

Scott Baker addressed the group.

Background: Harmony Day in 2020 was cancelled. Successful meeting held last year with a wide range of stakeholders. From this group, a number of stakeholders were enlisted this year to participate in a follow-up meeting. It was suggested that:

- a) A working group be formed to build a conversation/forum for questions and answers around racial discrimination, constitutional change, treaty dates.
 - Outcome: BJ Cruse to bring together a panel of participants
- b) Reform BEM Federation

New Action: Scott Baker to distribute current Harmony Day poster to BEM Committee for feedback.

New Action: Scott Baker to finalise run-sheet and distribute to BEM Committee for notice.

MOU Ceremony Event Planning (Saphron Scott and Tamara Whiting)

Anne Cleverley requested feedback on:

- How the BEM Committee see the celebration of the 20 year anniversary.
 - Saphron Scott has collated a list of achievements from the past 20 year period. Additional information to be collated from LALCs.
 - Recognise what Bega Valley Shire Council have done to interact with the Aboriginal communities and collaborate. Appreciate the time and investment.
 - Merriman's: Wednesday 2nd June 2021
 - Eden: Thursday 3rd June 2021
 - Bega: Friday 4th June 2021
 - Offer a bus on the Friday for Eden and Merriman's to join Bega.
 - Group addressed that it would be ideal to apply a local flavour to each celebration to make it meaningful.
 - Stories from each group to be gathered to form a publication for the celebration.
 - **New Action:** Anne Cleverley to attend the Board meetings of the three LALC groups to discuss specifics of achievements and event specific celebrations at each location.
 - **New Action:** Anne Cleverley to give list to the LALCs for the language list.

Other Business

Workloads: Mark Bateman and Glenn Willcox commented that there is a huge workload currently and has been for some time. It was suggested that it would be ideal for Bega Valley Shire Council to support them through administration assistance/funding for administration assistance.

Aboriginal employment opportunities: Mark Bateman enquired about the number of Aboriginal employees were currently on staff and how many successful trainees/apprentices/cadets were still employed by Council following the completion of their training period.

New Action: Anne Cleverley to source information about this and collate this in the presentation for the celebration.

Meeting closed: 4:05pm

Next Meeting

Thursday 15 April 2021 at Bega Valley Shire Council Offices, Bega at 10:00am to 12:00pm.