

THE NATIONALS - MURRAY PLAINS AEDC

President	Treasurer	Secretary
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ORDINARY MEETING Sun 2 May 2021, 11 am Kyabram Club, 82 Allan St, Kyabram - Summary

WELCOME: By President, Elaine Lees

PRESENT: As per the attendance sheet

APOLOGIES: As per the attendance sheet

That the apologies be accepted

Moved: Barry Bishop Seconded: Fairlie McDonald - Carried

MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING HELD 28 TH FEBRUARY 2021 – Kerang

The Minutes of the previous meeting are accepted as true and correct

Moved: Douglas Amos Seconded: David Hackett - Carried

BUSINESS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MEETING: Nil

TREASURER'S REPORT – As Presented

Moved: Robert Amos Seconded: Barry Bishop That Treasurer's Report be accepted. - Carried

CORRESPONDENCE:

Inwards:

1. Matt Harris – Update from National Conference
2. Federal Conference Motions 2021
3. Federal Seats Nominations Open
4. State Conference Motions 2021
5. 2021 NAB Bank Statements

Outwards:

1. Previous meeting minutes
2. Notice of meeting

That the correspondence received accepted and sent endorsed.

Moved: Ron Hooper, seconded: Neil Pankhurst Carried

REPORTS:

President- Elaine Lees Nationals Federal Conference in Canberra March 26th to 28th. Elaine attended as Nicholls Federal EDC delegate. Friday evening welcome at Old Parliament House. it was lovely to see the old National Party rooms, and catch up with former Mallee MHR Peter Fisher, who proudly sat in his old seat in the house.

Young Nationals breakfast speaker was Jacinta Price, Director of Indigenous Research, Advance Australia spokesperson, Sky News & Australian contributor, Alice Springs Deputy Mayor, longtime advocate against domestic violence, child sexual abuse & positive cultural change for Indigenous Australians.

The conference was addressed by Michael McCormick, Bridget McKenzie, David Littleproud, Keith Pitt, all were interesting, as they re-enforced the values of our members. Keith Pitt spoke of his background, and the great diversity of industry and business experience within the Nationals membership.

A tribute to Doug Anthony, with outgoing president Larry very moved by the recognition for his father. Kaye Hull from Wagga, is the incoming Federal President. Congratulations to Neil Pankhurst on his election to the vice presidency. Outgoing VP, James Hayward, has been elected to the WA upper house.

Saturday Night Dinner at the Arboretum was magnificent. The auctioneer was Barnaby. He was very entertaining and certainly maximised the fundraising efforts.

Federal Conference Motions Summary.

Aged Care –That Conference calls on Federal Government to support (A) thorough & holistic ongoing reform of aged care sector & endorses recommendations of Final Report from Royal Commission into Aged Care Quality & Safety; (B). endorses proposed Australian National Aged Care Classification (ANACC) funding model for Residential Care; (C) calls on Federal Government to investigate feasibility of increased funding for homecare packages in rural areas to address disadvantage of distance to service providers. (I queried fact that two commissioners disagreed on 43 of 148 recommendations, response was they agreed on (AN-ACC) funding model.) Carried.

Defence - That this Federal Conference calls for agreement between Australia & France for production of 12 Shortfin Barracuda Attack Class submarines to be immediately terminated.

(Plenty of informed debated - the most interesting of the conference.) Lost 50/55 after recount

Childcare- That Conference calls on the Federal Government to invest additional funds to provide more flexible & accessible childcare options for Australian families. (Considerable debate) Carried 53/48

Emergencies - That this Federal Conference implement an online portal, accessible by emergency services, with purpose of linking emergency services with relevant community relief organisations. Carried. David Littleproud said already happening as result of loss of trust in states after last bushfires

Religion - That Conference reiterates support for freedom of faith, conscience & calls Federal Govt to progress legislation to protect freedom of religion in this term of Parliament. Carried - Unanimous

Vaping- That Conference support regulatory framework to legalise vaping products & e-cigarettes with appropriate regulations to restrict access to underage Australians. (Considerable debate) - Carried 63/33

Water - Urgency Motion - Barmah Choke (Vic) Elaine moved an urgency motion from the Nicholls FEDC - That Conference recognizes natural constraints of Murray River & opposes infrastructure works designed to bypass Barmah Choke. Motion was carried, despite a couple of speakers against.

Energy - Conf calls on gov't to remove federal legislative prohibitions against construction of nuclear power stations & supports construction nuclear stations subject to strict regulatory approval. - Carried

2. Fundraising Report –Elaine - 60 attending fundraising dinner at Frank & Claire Miller's on Fri 6th May.

3. State President – Neil Pankhurst

- Neil reinforced Peter Walsh's comments on how well Elaine did at the Federal Conference
- State Conference venue changed to Wonthaggi Workmen's Club to meet Covid requirements.
- State & Federal elections next year. Lot of background preparations. Responsibility of all members to spread National's message. Mildura, Morwell, Shepparton & Northern Victorian Upper House seat being targeted in state election. The three Federal members all re-endorsed by party for Federal election. Senator Bridgett McKenzie already endorsed.

4. State Council - Elaine Lees

State Council on Sat March 20th at St Arnaud, was the 1st face to face meeting held for 15 months. A Federal Centenary Dinner St Arnaud Town Hall, on Fri 19th, commemorating 100 years of the Federal National Party, was addressed by Federal & State Members, including deputy PM, Michael McCormack.

State Director, Matt Harris, gave a presentation of the State Election Campaign Strategy including the use of data to enhance understanding of attitudes, values, & behavioural drivers of potential voters.

Proposed State & Federal redistributions were outlined. The potential Federal change is inclusion of Stawell & Halls Gap in Mallee, objections closed on 16th April, with announcement of final boundaries expected on 26th July. The redistribution committee members, David O'Brien, Bill Baxter, Bridget McKenzie & Danny O'Brien, presented our submission via a live stream to the Victorian Electoral Boundaries Commission on March 29th, and release of proposed boundaries is expected on June 30th.

The formation of a Policy Committee was approved, and committee elected. Bruce Nicholls from Euroa was appointed chairman, Damian Drum/Bridget Mc Kenzie, Federal Rep, & Melina Bat/Steph Ryan State Rep. Elaine was appointed the other committee member. The committee's purpose, is to have members more involved in policy making processes, with voices are heard & respected. Sessions are scheduled during State Conference for discussion on "How can Regional Areas best respond to Covid recovery".

5. Local State Member – Peter Walsh MP, Leader of The Nationals, State Member for Murray Plains.

- Attendance - Peter thanked everyone for attending & commented on good number attending.
- State Conference for the members to attend, have their voices heard and not for MPs to grandstand.
- Four Priorities moving forward: o Health o Jobs o Corruption & Chaos o General Live ability
- Health, 29,000 women missed breast screen due to COVID, very hard to catch up. Mildura "Hands Off Our Hospital" campaign. Apparent state government policy is centralised management of rural hospitals

- Payroll Tax – National’s policy - State cannot get rid of payroll tax altogether as the revenue is too important. The policy is designed to shift the burden from small to large business. Rebate of \$1,500 for Businesses with no payroll tax to help pay government fees & charges
- Vacant shops - Too many in regional Victoria, also in cities due to a lack of support from Vic gov’t.
- Energy Rebate - Peter’s office sent a hard copy letter to all in electorate who may have been eligible for rebate of \$250. very well received, office had many enquiries to assist with claiming the rebate. Ongoing physical contact essential (not just online) to help people access government programs.
- Daniel Andrews return to work - Speculation. Changed dynamic of politics since not there. Now a tremendous opportunity to change the narrative over next 18 months in lead up to election.
- Prevention Cruelty to Animals Act not yet enacted. Will impact agriculture. Nationals watching closely.
 - Allowing camper’s access to river frontages - Proposed legislation, query re’ National’s response, potential opportunity to fight for landowners. MPs need submissions of objections from public to give them better chance of fighting. Possible split between Ministers may provide opportunity to overturn.
 - Speed limits - Query re’ government may reduce maximum to 80kmh. Unlikely, probably a “loss leader” where policy put out, then removed to make gov’t appear as though they are listening to public.
 - Trevaskis Road closure Query - strong campaign against this, Peter recommended road not closed until at least the intersection upgraded at Echuca Shepparton Road turnoff. Ongoing fight.
 - Special Visa for refugees to work in electorate Query, although federal issue we need more workers including backpackers, need Visa system change, particularly for workers already here.

GENERAL BUSINESS:

1. Urgent resolution to Annual State Conference at Wonthaggi: “This Conference strongly rejects the proposed new camping regulations relating to the Victorian Crown Land River Reserves that are due to commence in September 2021.” Moved Barry Bishop, moved Seconded: David Hackett – Carried

2. State Conference Motions – Printed copies were circulated for discussion.

Motion 18, Flying Planning Squads – move to be reinstated - are expert planners who travel around state assisting local councils. with planning decisions.

Motion 35, The Change and Suppression Practices & Prohibition Bill, - move to repeal

Motion 4, Greater Shepparton Secondary School – Super School Safety Issues, aggression, fighting, cultural differences, Potential vote changer in Shepp, an elected coalition would look at winding back.

Motion 5, School Principal Contracts - School Councils need more say on School Principal contracts.

3. State Conference Neil Pankhurst urged attendance at State Conference. Everyone’s opportunity to be heard & debate motions, your forum to have input. Senior & Junior VP’s to be elected, six candidates.

Next Meetings, 11.00am Lockington Hotel, 29th Aug,2021, Guest Speakers, Brad McEwan & Peter Walsh
Gunbower Hotel, 31st Oct 2021 AGM

CLOSE President Elaine thanked everybody for their attendance and closed the meeting at 12.50pm.