



## NRWC General Meeting of Directors – All Directors

### Minutes

Notice was given that the National Rural Women's Coalition Ltd  
Directors General Meeting  
will be held Monday 12<sup>th</sup> February 2024  
Zoom  
1:00pm AEDT (NSW/VIC), 12:00pm (QLD), 12:30pm (SA)

### Business

Meeting opened at: 1:00pm

- Welcome – [Cr Jan Clifford OAM](#)
- Acknowledgement of Country – [Keli McDonald](#)
- Attendance – [Jo Stewart-Ratray \(Ext 1:32pm\)](#), [Windy Hick](#), [Karen Holder](#), [Dr Melanie Bournnell](#), [Jacqueline Brotherton](#), [Nicole O'Reilly](#)
- Apologies – [Nat Sommerville](#)
- Observers- [Nil](#)
- Secretariat – [Keli McDonald & Gay Quelch](#)

### 1. Minutes

Minutes of last General Meeting of the Board held the 29<sup>th</sup> November 2023 - **Appendix 1**

Motion *“Minutes from the General Meeting of the Board held on 29<sup>th</sup> November 2023 be accepted”*

Moved: [Dr Melanie Bournnell](#)

Seconded: [Jo Stewart-Ratray](#)

### 2. Actions from the Minutes

**Appendix 2**

**See Attachment – As per Action Sheet**

[Keli McDonald - Discussions on Action Sheet](#)

### 3. Correspondence

#### Appendix 3

- **Leonie Noble – Farewell Gift Thankyou** – ‘My book just arrived, what an amazing body of work you girls did to achieve such a spectacular gift. I smiled and cried and I thank you for thinking I was worthy’
- **Letter from Minister Rowland** - The Australian Government has announced a series of reforms to support the modernisation of postal services following extensive consultation with businesses, unions, governments, licensees and other stakeholders this year. Additional information on the outcomes of the Government’s consultation is at: [www.infrastructure.gov.au/HYSAusPost](http://www.infrastructure.gov.au/HYSAusPost). – distributed to all NRWC Directors 08/12/2023
- **Office for Women Biannual Update – See Attachment** - distributed to all NRWC Directors 15/01/2024
- **NRWC 20 Year eBook – NRWC Website About Us / Our History** - Due to budgetary constraints, we have not printed a hard copy. If, however we got enough interest from members we could do a small print run for circa \$25 for each person that wanted one.
- **Sudden passing of David McDonald (ML Finance Services) Auditor** – *David was sick at the time of AGM meeting in November and sadly passed away in December.*

Any questions on any of the correspondence? **NIL**

Motion: “That all correspondence be accepted”

Moved: [Dr Melaine Bournnell](#)

Second: [Wendy Hick](#)

Carried

### 4. Finance Report

#### Appendix 4

Finance Report tabled by Treasurer Jacqueline Brotherton.  
Jacqueline and Keli to discuss any issues of interest to the Board.

Discussion: See how much it would be to print 10 book copies.

Motion. “The Finance Report be accepted”

Moved: [Jacqueline Brotherton](#)

Seconded: [Jo Stewart-Ratray](#)

Carried

## 5. General Reports

### Appendix 5

#### 5.1 President's Report – Verbal

#### 5.2 Company Secretary Report & Governance Committee Report – Natalie Sommerville

**Natalie Sommerville – An apology for meeting**

**Keli McDonald – My comments as chair of the Governance Committee Are: AS per email 12/02/2024**

My comments as chair of the Governance Committee are:

The Governance Committee has met on the 3/1/24 & 5/2/24 to address important policy reviews including updating the Stipend Policy to reflect modern expectations in valuing women's work on boards. We feel that if we do not plan for this change we will not achieve this goal. Currently our financials are tight and therefore option 3 is a negotiated recommendation. We feel this is a whole board issue and therefore bring it to the board for strategic input in how we can raise funds to pay future directors to meet current standards. The philanthropic sector is an ideal avenue for strong funding however most require DGR status which NRW currently does not have to my knowledge. We raise this now prior to the Strategic Planning session so we can collectively action and brainstorm other opportunities.

We have also been reviewing the proposed Ambassador position. Our committee felt that the name 'ambassador' is not reflective of the duties. Therefore we are still exploring what this should be titled along with the needs of the organisation. Other suggested names were immediate past president or simply mentor. Our committee discussed that this is a board succession issue due to the nature of the board, like many, the knowledge does not always transfer as it needs too. There is also the financial commitment to the new position that needs to be taken into consideration in an already tight budget.

The committee will be working on updating other priority policies over the next few months.

*Ambassador Role Discussion – see Minutes of General Meeting of Directors 29/11/2023*

- Discussion alternative Title / Name
- Discuss how long does a Director hold an executive office position before being offered an Ambassadorship

Jo Stewart-Rattray / Jacqueline Brotherton - Discussion was carried out- need to move forward with actioning and Ambassador Policy, not to hold back because of Title / Name / Position

Action: Writing Policy and establish Ambassador Role

Motion: Stipend Policy to be Endorsed by Board

Moved: [Nicole O'Reilly](#)

Second: [Dr Melanie Bournell](#)

Carried

Stipend Policy tabled by Company Secretary Natalie Sommerville

Second:

### **5.3 CEO Report – Keli McDonald**

- See Attachment

### **5.4 Social Media - Report provided**

### **5.5 Rural Regional and Remote Communication Coalition (RRRCC) – Wendy Hick / Jo Stewart-Rattray**

#### **Wendy Hick**

- **No formal meetings, committee has been formed.**
- **Coalition by each group, has been put forward & being considered.**
- **NBN- Second section to follow up.**
- **Telstra, Optus – Want to speak with RRRCC**
- **Keep informed / updated – where we are missing the marks and more development.**

### **5.6 CSW68 – Keli McDonald**

- EOI Expression of Interest for the UN CSW68 Civil Society Delegate Position
- Webinar

### **5.7 CEDAW – Keli McDonald**

- Engaged 2 x Writer / Editor – Megan Johnson / Clare Tatyzo

### **5.8 Submission – Keli McDonald**

- VET Submission
- RIC Submission

**Available for reading:** [Submissions - National Rural Womens Coalition \(nrwc.com.au\)](http://nrwc.com.au)

### **Any Other Reports?**

#### **Nicole O'Reilly – NWAH**

- **Policy and feedback / How to use Policy's in comparison to Organisation, Government or Services**
- **Link into strategies**

## 6. Date for next Director's Board Meeting

**Date:** Monday 15<sup>th</sup> April 2024

**Time:** 1:00pm (AEDT)

## 7. Any other Business

### 7.1 NRWC Portal - all Directors can now access

[Contact Gay if require any assistant accessing the portal.](#)

All Directors emailed Username / Password and Instructions on the 6<sup>th</sup> February 2024

- Policies & procedures – NRWC Acronyms Updated
- General Meeting of the Director's papers
- AGM Papers

Any other business?

[Keli McDonald – Acknowledge and congratulations to Cr Jan Clifford OAM for Jan's award.](#)

[Noted: Go ahead with the April face to face Strategic meeting in Adeliade as most Directors will be attending. There will be a discussion on the dates / preference for all members.](#)

## 8 Meeting Closed

Time: 1:54pm