

**PROSTATE CANCER FOUNDATION OF AUSTRALIA
THE CENTRAL AUSTRALIA CHAPTER**

Minutes of Chapter Council meeting held
Thursday 18th November 2010 at Wellbeing Centre
Swanport Rd, Murray Bridge

The meeting opened at 10.00am

Present: Malcolm ELLIS, Keith WILLIAMS, John BAULDERSTONE, Ron LEHMAN, Murray NECK, Jeff ROBERTS, John SHIELDS, Bryan HEARN,
Observers: Bev ELLIS, Di BAULDERSTONE, Phyllis SHIELDS, Kay HEARN, Richard HARRY and wife Heather (Limestone Coast), David MERRY and Terry HARBOUR, Max - Murray Bridge member
Apologies: Dean WALL,

1. Welcome and Apologies

Chairman Malcolm Ellis opened the meeting and officially welcomed all those present including the observers. He expressed a special welcome to both David Merry and Terry Harbour as new councillors elect. He noted that Murray Neck had retired as a councillor and that this was his last council meeting. On behalf of the council Murray was thanked for his commitment to the Chapter and all he had been able to achieve at Alice Springs. The Chairman presented him with a PCFA Certificate of Appreciation. Murray responded by thanking everybody for their support and camaraderie during his time as a councillor and knew that he was going to miss the interaction with everybody.

Following this Jeff Roberts presented the Chapter with a cheque for \$450 raised by Bill & Marilyn Toop in conjunction with the Action Group, The Adelaide Harriers and Harriettes who had all organised a fun run around North Adelaide known as The Red Dress Run

2. Minutes of Council meeting held 15th September 2010

The minutes of the last Council meeting held at the Arkaba Hotel were presented for approval. Moved they be accepted as a true and correct record. John Baulderstone 2nd Murray Neck **Carried.**

3. Matters Arising

(a) Item 4 Financial Report. Comment that some funds were currently being held in trust by PCFA for payment to CA Chapter. Treasurer comments that no funds as yet received. He to follow up with PCFA During discussion on this topic Chairman confirmed that he had received e mail from PCFA CEO Andrew Giles authorising him to work directly with Corporate Travel to make own travel arrangements for Chapter members.

(b) Comment was made relative to the lack of information available in SA re National PCFA fund raising initiatives. Several other members concurred with these concerns. Chairman to raise as an issue at SAC meeting in near future

(c) Loan DVD's available from PCFA. Still nothing heard from PCFA on this topic. Chairman to follow up via SAC meeting.

(d) Action list. Secretary reported that no new actions from last meeting but some existing actions had been completed. New list will be circulated following this meeting.

(e) Banners for Murray Bridge and Katherine. Limestone Coast and Whyalla also require same equipment. Chairman to follow up via SAC

(f) Keith Williams, Darwin commented on how well the recently received PA system worked and was grateful to PCFA for providing this item of equipment.

4. Financial report

Treasurer, John Shields, tabled a written report and spoke to the report. Report showed an opening balance of \$1259.06. List of income and expenses detailed. Closing balance of \$1259.11

Moved that report be received John Shields/Jeff Roberts **Carried**

At this point the secretary tabled an e mail received from Port Pirie relative to concerns expressed by Whyalla support group and the lack of “seed” funds promised by PCFA at their formation. Following discussion it was resolved that the Chapter should provide both Whyalla and Limestone Coast each with \$500.00. Moved Malcolm Ellis 2nd John Shields Carried. Treasurer to draw relevant cheques and forward as appropriate.

Richard Harry commented that PCFA had reported holding \$700.00 in trust for them and were still awaiting receipt of these funds. Keith Williams made a similar comment regarding \$1500.00 being held for the Darwin group. Members agreed that such “seed” funding should be a responsibility of the PCFA and since they had not provided these funds to these groups the treasurer should take steps to claim a reimbursement from PCFA for these funds on behalf of the Chapter and to seek clarification of the payment of these trust funds to the relevant groups.

5. Conference review

Members generally agreed that it was an excellent conference with some very good speakers. Some concern was expressed relative to the quality of the food and the general adequacy of the venue – long, outside walks from members rooms to the facility and lots of stairs and steps to be negotiated on arrival. Keith Williams commented that very pleased that some health professionals from the Darwin Oncology Unit were able to attend and that some very favourable outcomes had been delivered as a result. Members felt that it was not too early to commence considering a venue for next years conference.

6. SAC meeting report and outcomes

Reiterated that at the Chapter conference, the SAC Chairman had requested all support groups to provide information relative to any problems or concerns being experienced.

Keith Williams reported that PCFA National Chairman is working on establishing a Chairman’s Award to be presented to PCFA members who perhaps don’t quite qualify for a Max Gardener award. Criteria yet to be provided.

Members were informed that PCFA Board is working on developing strategies for the future of the Foundation. All appears to be positive but there is much to be accomplished. Some reports that a widespread view is being experienced that PCFA is good at spending money on general expenses but not so much going to research. This is clearly a PR problem that needs addressing at National level.

Members will soon be provided with a list of questions developed by a health professional which it is considered all prostate cancer patients should ask of their GP. Will be of great help to support group members.

7. Appointments

(a) *Executive.* Appointment of Chairman, Deputy Chairman, Treasurer and Secretary to be made with incumbents to take up their duties from 1st January 2011

Current Chairman Malcolm Ellis stood down and requested Deputy Chairman Keith Williams to conduct appointment of Chairman’s position.

Malcolm Ellis nominated himself, 2nd by Bryan Hearn – no other nominations – Malcolm appointed as Chairman and resumed control of meeting.

Deputy Chairman – Malcolm Ellis nominated Terry Harbour, 2nd by Keith Williams – no other nominations – Terry appointed as Deputy Chairman.

Secretary – Malcolm Ellis nominated Bryan Hearn, 2nd by John Shields – no other nominations – Bryan appointed as secretary.

Treasurer – Malcolm Ellis nominated John Shields, 2nd John Baulderstone – no other nominations – John appointed as Treasurer.

(b) *SAC.* Bryan Hearn had fulfilled role as SAC rep for the past 12 months as a casual vacancy. Did not intend nominating for position. Malcolm Ellis nominated Terry Harbour, 2nd Keith Williams – no other nomination – Terry appointed as SAC rep.

1100 Break

1125 Resumed

8 Any other business

(a) tenure of service

Chairman tabled the following proposed amendment to our guidelines:-

Replace existing clause 7.2(b) with

(b) *As per clause 7.1, the term of office for Chapter Council members shall be 3 years. However this may be extended by a further, consecutive term of 3 years at the discretion of the Chapter. Following this second term of office a member may be re-elected to the Chapter Council after a one year break*

- (c) *Clause 7.2(b) will only apply in the event that insufficient nominations are received for Council membership at the Annual general Meeting.*

Malcolm Ellis moved the adoption of this change, 2nd John Shields. General discussion followed after which the proposal was carried. It should be noted that this change is only applicable where insufficient nominations are received for vacant Council positions.

As a further change to our guidelines the Chairman will consider introducing a clause covering circumstances whereby a councillor may be dismissed from Council membership. Terry Harbour suggested that consideration also be given to including a “definitions: clause within our guidelines

- (b) Limestone Coast affiliation

Richard Harry tabled the written application from the Limestone Coast Support Group for affiliation to the PCFA. Malcolm Ellis proposed its acceptance, 2nd Ron Lehmann Carried.

- (c) Succession planning – Council positions. All members agreed that every effort should be made to introduce new blood onto Council where possible.

(d) Prostate Supporter articles - concern was expressed relative to the content of a recent Supporter article. After discussion it was agreed that those Council members allocated the Media portfolio under the Business Plan (Malcolm, Jeff and John B) would be responsible for proof reading all future articles and responding accordingly.

(e) Donation to Darwin Oncology Unit. Keith Williams reports that a table as originally proposed has been purchased but, as reported at the conference, an external bench seat was now much needed. Murray Neck reminded Keith that the Alice Springs group had agreed to cover the cost of supplying and installing this bench on behalf of the Chapter. Keith to ascertain costs and forward to Alice Springs for payment.

(f) Port Augusta update. Chairman and secretary reported on their recent visit to the public awareness meeting held at Port Augusta. About 100 members of the public were in attendance and the whole meeting was very successful. It would seem most likely that a support group will be initiated in the very near future. Thanks must be extended to Paul Smith and the three local service clubs for all their work in facilitating the evening. Members reported potential for similar awareness meetings to be arranged in Berri, Gawler, Port Lincoln and Copper Pedy. A need was seen to maintain this momentum towards establishing new support groups within SA.

(g) Pocket cards. Chairman to follow up with Carla at PCFA re provision of these cards.

(h) Barber shop cards Chairman also to follow up the provision of these by PCFA

(i) Chapter guidelines – commonality – a need has been identified to ensure that all Chapter guidelines across Australia contain some semblance of commonality. Chairman will attempt to initiate a meeting of all Chapter chairmen and secretaries with a view to commencing this process. Request for all CA support groups to consider and review the contents of our guidelines. Any proposed changes to be forwarded to secretary for consideration by Chapter council.

(j) Click for ProstateCancer. John Shields provided details of a web site which he visited daily and which was a source of fund raising for breast cancer. He suggested efforts be made by PCFA to initiate a similar site in Australia for prostate cancer.

(k) SA Prostate Cancer Outcomes data base. Jeff Roberts reports that this data base was established in 1988 at the Repat Hospital and now collects data from RAH, QEH and Repat. Has about 5300 patients listed with most coming from public hospitals. The committee consists of a wide range of health professional including several urologists and oncologists. Jeff also commented on the Lions Prostate Cancer website and the need for this to be reviewed and updated. Jeff and secretary to undertake this review.

(l) David Merry raised issue of potential for compiling a kit that could be issued to urologists and GP’s for issue to patients diagnosed with prostate cancer. Secretary responded that in the near future all support groups will be receiving a GP information card which can be copied and provided to local GP’s.

(m) Max (Murray Bridge member) commented on perceived need for information gathered by prostate cancer sufferers to be collated and to be made available via GP’s to newly diagnosed prostate cancer patients. Keith Williams responded that in the absence of such information GP’s could simply refer these patients to a local support group.

(n) Ron Lehmann commented on the need for prostate cancer nurses and could see this as a response to the problem raised by Max. It was noted that there had been a lack of applicants for this role under the Trevor Hunt funding program.

(o) David Merry suggested that steps be taken to arrange an informal meeting between the Council and the SA Board. Chairman to follow up.

(p) Richard Harry (Limestone Coast) suggested the possibility of establishing a 1300 phone number for use by prostate cancer sufferers. Keith Williams responded with fact that PCFA already have an 1800 for this purpose. Concern was expressed by some members on the failure of the Cancer Council SA to pass on to support groups any information gathered re PC sufferers. It appears that this information is kept in house with it subsequently being “lost” in the system.

(q) Richard also raised the question of receipt of Prostate Supporter newsletter for his group members. Chairman will follow up on this issue.

(r) Richard also commented on difficulties being experienced in obtaining suitable guest speakers for their group. Chairman responded with fact that some consideration is being given to recording many presentations on DVD which can then be utilised by all or any support group.

(s) A general discussion ensued re the cost of PC screening on a National basis. It was noted that a whole range of topics had to be considered when considering the cost of screening and in particular time lost from work. This was also applicable when employees had to undertake the external radiation process and the possibility was seen whereby companies might be willing to donate funds to assist with screening costs in an attempt to deliver early diagnoses thus avoiding a large amount of subsequent treatment to employees. During this discussion Terry Harbour commented that on a recent visit to UK a lot of press coverage had been given to the doctor who first delivered the PSA test and how, in his opinion, it was now being misused as a diagnostic tool.

(t) Bev Ellis suggested that Chapter give some consideration to providing support for the three Cancer Council hostels where country members all stay when in Adelaide for treatment.

Chairman then closed the meeting and once again thanked Murray Neck for his contribution to the CA Chapter Council.

Meeting closed at 1.00pm.

Next meeting Thursday 20th January 2011 at Arkaba Hotel.

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(*chairman*)

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(*date*)