

## Australasian Bluegrass & Old Time Music Association Inc.

DATE: 14 May 2013	TIME: 8:00pm	LOCATION: Teleconference
Proposed agenda for teleconference meeting of interim steering committee		
ATTENDANCE:	(WM) Will Manovel – Chair, , (GM) Gregory McGrath – Secretary, (BW) Blair Webb – Treasurer, (GB) Geoff Bridgeland, (HL) Helen Ludellen	
APOLOGIES:	(LD) Lachlan Davidson – Deputy Chair , (RB) Rebecca Bradbury	
PROTOCOLS:	Minutes of the previous meeting held on 5 <sup>th</sup> May 2013 were confirmed. Moved GB, Seconded BW.	

### 1. Association

#### a. Foundation structure

ABOTMA is now incorporated. Rob Lewis has advised the Committee to obtain an ABN. BW has applied for one and is to investigate the implications of having one.

Not for Profit status: With this status the ABOTMA can make a profit but profits must not be used to pay members dividends. All profit must be invested back into the organisation. WM suggested the Committee confirm and resolve (in accordance with Model Rules) that ABOTMA is not-for-profit and was founded on this basis.

Resolution: 'ABOTMA is a not-for-profit association and was founded on this basis.'  
Unanimously agreed.

#### b. Bank account signatories

WM is to draft a second trust deed and give it to BW in the next couple of weeks. The bank is waiting to see proof that the association is incorporated. WM advised that they need to be looking at the Consumer Affairs , Victoria, website.

The PayPal function can't be finalised for some time because they need a copy of the Model Rules (completed) and an Incorporation certificate or evidence the Association is registered. In the interim we can put the BSB and Acct number on the website so that we can receive donations etc.

Signatories to the bank account: Only two signatories are required for any amounts over \$500. Two (2) additional signatories are required for practical reasons, when another is away eg. overseas.

Resolution: That 3rd and 4th signatures be recorded on the bank account(s), and that these be the President and the Secretary. BW to give effect to this resolution

#### c. Categories of membership

Website billing issues with child & overseas guest memberships discussed

Resolutions:

- To abolish overseas memberships. To give the Committee discretion to gift an annual adult membership or a life membership to any international musician who attends to perform or teach.
- That a child membership must be linked to an adult or family membership.

#### d. Setting annual membership fees

Carried over until the June meeting.



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### e. Communication

Website, graphic design/logos, when online?

GM advised that the website would be completed by the end of the current week. The Committee thanked Greg for the huge amount of work that he has done to get the website up.

### f. Fundraising

WM asked about appointing fundraising coordinators, suggesting John Tait (JT) & Michael Whelan (MW). He has spoken to John who will be seeking a \$3000 grant from Regional Arts Victoria after June. GM spoke to Michael Whelan. GM to coordinate Michael and John to talk to each other regarding obtaining annual public funding. GM to ask MW to obtain Federal Arts grant.

WM unable to report re seed loans at this stage. ABOTMA website needs to be up, before he can ask for formal private loans of \$2000-10,000. However WM's preliminary estimates suggest we can raise \$37,000 from memberships, donations, seed loans, and a major Alpine Shire grant prior to this year's festival. May have to be retained funds, to support a larger event in 2014 to allow time to plan and book performers.

Resolution: BW to approach the Mountain Pickers Association in order to drum up memberships to ABOTMA. WM to pursue seed loans once ABOTMA website is public.

## 2. MountainGrass

### a. Dates

Has anyone informed the town and specially Feathertop?

Christo at Feathertop has been informed of the dates. Emma Hinchliffe is aware as well.

### b. Feedback from Dears & Jones re terminology used on the ABOTMA website regarding the November event

Rod & Judy Jones and Janet Dear sent WM emails regarding terminology used on MountainGrass website, and respectfully requesting ABOTMA consider changing and correcting some references. The Committee agreed it was appropriate to change terminology on the MountainGrass website regarding

- the incorrect references to BTCSMA rather than HBTCMC Inc on the website,
- references to MountainGrass being the 25<sup>th</sup> bluegrass and old-time festival, and
- the word 'premier' being present in the MountainGrass promotional blurb.

Resolutions:

- References to BTCSMA and HBTCMC Inc on the website shall be corrected asap, to reflect the correct organisations associated with organizing the old Harrierville convention.
- References to this year being the 25<sup>th</sup> festival will be removed in favour of publicising this as the 'Inaugural' MountainGrass Festival.
- The word 'premier' in the promotional blurb is to be removed and replaced with the word 'national'.

Action:

GM to make the corrections asap and let Angela Whitehead know, as she is designing artwork for the logo.

WM to write back to the Jones' and Dears informing them that we have agreed to the changes and will email the Committee a copy of the letter.



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### c. Separate bank account required

WM to draft Trust Deed and give to BW.

### d. Fundraising

- Targeted seed loans – phone/website. WM to speak to Bruce Packard and Ian Alexander. GB to speak to his contact about this. Should we also speak with Steve Gilchrist?
- Donations – website and anyone else to volunteer?
- Memberships – HL and John Taylor to drum up new members
- Festival fee – any preliminary thoughts? Discount for ABOTMA members? \$60 was suggested as reasonable
- Sponsorships, advertising – thoughts? Instrument makers should pay \$50 for a display area; Other suggestions included a raffle; ABOTMA merchandise stall - car stickers; t-shirts; downloadable poster; caps; souvenirs; CD sales – BW can do stickers/labels, other local businesses? Laurie Grundy (caps), HL's Canberra friend for t-shirts?
- Public grants – Shire event and funds application

Action:

- HL to co-ordinate the grant submission with Emma Hinchliffe & Bec Bradbury to the Alpine Shire Council and submit prior to the 9 July 2013 deadline for lodgement
- WM to send the event and grant application documents to HL asap.

Resolution:

- Members will get a discount to MountainGrass, but not yet clear what %. Discussion to be reconsidered at June meeting.

### e. Financial Modelling

Approach to analysis devised and data gathering has commenced. BW/LD/WM continuing to gather cost information. Preliminary figures suggest old convention cost \$75-100,000 annually. Once costs are clear, discussion with Harrieville business community can occur to see what type of music event is sustainable, particularly given increasing accommodation costs.

GM suggested a 10% contribution to festival from every local booking.

Preliminary offers from town reflect goodwill, but are grossly insufficient to resolve the funding issue. Public funding will also be critical. For review when analysis complete (expect July), and discussion with Shire and business community in due course.

Some aspects of financial model will remain commercially confidential to analysis team, to protect candidness/trust of businesses who are providing information.

### f. 2013 Festival

Workshops? What/where/when – who to organize

Action - GB and John Werner to organise workshops.

Performances? Who/what site/when – who to organize?

John Werner wants to run a stage at the Snowline. Jim Golding wants to run an MPA stage - at the Harrieville Hall. Suggestion is to get someone to run a stage for younger bands at the Harrieville Hotel Motel possibly by the Jamgrass organisers. Tony from the Harrieville Hotel Motel is offering a free room + \$1500 in cash to run a venue there.

Resolution:

Discussion about performers/bands to be carried over to the June meeting



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### Actions:

- GM and LD to develop a standard response to bands who have already applied to play in 2013.
- LD, GM, GB & HL contribute to selecting performers.
- WM to talk to Jan Dale about advising on acts including young bands.
- GM to contact Jason Taylor from Jamgrass regarding running a stage at the Harrietville Hotel Motel.
- GM/LD contact Mark Woods regarding what he'd charge to provide the PA and do the sound at the hall at Feathertop (seats 400).

### g. Mountaingrass website – update? Logos, info

GM expects to have the website finished by the week ending 18 May. Emma has spoken to Greg to let him know that the Harrietville logo that he's got on the Mountaingrass website is incorrect.

Action - HL to follow this up with Emma and ensure that Greg gets the correct logo.

### h. Insurance

Unknown until event size clear – WM to inform once nature of event decided.

### i. Next Interim Steering Committee meeting date

Tuesday June 18 at 8pm by teleconference.

### j. Other business

GM asked whether the period for which annual ABOTMA memberships run could be changed from the financial year to the calendar year i.e. Jan 1 to Dec 31 because it simplifies renewal administration.

Resolution: ABOTMA memberships will commence on 1 January and end on 31 December each year.

Merchandise: stickers, T-shirts, and raffle as noted previously. Anticioated to run a raffle and get stickers made. Merchandise to be discussed in more detail at the June meeting.

The meeting closed at 10:00pm.

**The next meeting of the Association's Executive is set for Tue 18<sup>th</sup> June 2013 at 8:00pm EST.**

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## END OF MEETING MINUTES

I declare these minutes an accurate record of the matters discussed at this meeting, attended by me, and which may be confirmed at the next interim steering committee meeting.



14/5/2013

Will Manovel  
President  
Interim Steering Committee  
Australasian Bluegrass & Old Time Music Association (Inc.)