

## Australasian Bluegrass & Old Time Music Association Inc.

DATE: 29 October 2013	TIME: 8:00-9.35pm	LOCATION: Teleconference – Australia
ATTENDANCE:	(WM) Will Manovel – Chair, (LD) Lachlan Davidson – Deputy Chair, (GM) Gregory McGrath – Secretary, (BW) Blair Webb – Treasurer, (GB) Geoff Bridgeland, (HL) Helen Ludellen	
ABSENT:	(RB) Rebecca Bradbury	
PROTOCOLS:	Minutes of the previous meeting held on 24 <sup>th</sup> September 2013 were confirmed.	

### 1. Update of Don Rigsby

LD:

- Cheque paying for Don's flights has been sent to him.
- Don has confirmed shows in Melbourne 21<sup>st</sup> Nov, Bendigo 19<sup>th</sup> Nov, then MountainGrass
- John Taylor has done a press release
- LD is distributing Flyers at Jamgrass and all their other gigs

### 2. Festival Operations Planning

HL:

- Has organized 3 banners to set up behind the stages at a cost of \$400
- WM to bring along the 2 small black stage curtains he owns.
- LD and Hamish are assisting with the design, layout, printing of Festival programs
- HL will ask Emma Hinchliffe and Melanie Tekin about possibility of printing them locally or through the Shire
- WM to email Dear family ensuring they feel welcome to attend and participate.
- GB is able to bring/organize a small PA for the AGM to be used on the grass outside
- It was mentioned that perhaps the Local Community could run the Community Hall Venue next year

### 3. Succession Planning

WM:

- Discussion about separating responsibilities of ABOTMA and Festival Operations Committee next year. Different purposes acknowledged. ABOTMA still seen as fundamental towards bringing cohesion and raising funding in the Australasian Bluegrass community.
- Noted that all Executive Steering Committee positions will be declared 'vacant' at the AGM and open for nomination and election by any ABOTMA member.
- Noted that specifically the positions of Treasurer and President will require filling with persons with the necessary skill mix and experience. WM is willing to mentor/advise anyone elected to these roles.
- Agreed to call for nominations for the following positions:
  - ABOTMA positions – president, secretary, treasurer, fund raising coordinator
  - MountainGrass Festival Committee – operations manager, festival program manager, artistic director, marketing/media manager, Alpine community liaison officer

ACTION:

1. WM to prepare an AGM Flyer to be emailed out asap, summarizing ABOTMA and forward view, positions for election, call for nominations (referring to website and contact details).

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2. Everyone currently on Exec Committee to start sounding out possible candidates for election and discussing the role with them.

### 4. Finances

- BW provided a statement of accounts prior to the meeting showing about \$14,000 remaining in the bank account. The Alpine Shire and RAV grants totaling \$8000 have been received. The RDV grant (\$5,000) has been approved but not received, and possibly won't be paid until July 2014 (which is unhelpful). WM and Michael Whelan to pursue RDV to get the grant (or some part of it) paid earlier.
- BW reported early ticket sales of about 100 tickets (approx \$9,800 in funds), and HL commented she expects the majority of ticket sales to occur over the Festival weekend.
- WM noted we need minimum \$30,000 total funds to break even, and \$48,000 to pay musicians properly. WM also noted the importance of retaining funds in trust for next year, to lower risk, and because grant funds may not be available again.
- WM noted, taking care before promising payments to anyone, before a final reconciliation after the festival, so musicians can be paid as a priority.

### 5. Program Finalisation

- GB has reorganized the Strezlecki Stringbusters, Dear Orphans and Appalachian Heaven, and is finalizing the program now.
- Bands with any other timing issues will have to coordinate with the Venue Managers through email or at the festival.
- GB to email bands a week before the Festival with 'final program' and contact details of their Venue Managers.

### 6. Local expectations/stalls/accommodation update

- HL noted external icecream vendor would take away business from Harrietville locals, so had to be refused. Apart from coffee stall, organizing other stalls was too difficult this year, with unforeseeability of numbers, and the existing businesses struggling. Retain idea for next year.
- LD noted he had managed to book some rooms in Feathertop, which still has availability.
- Bennett at Snowline has decided against fundraising dinner Sunday night, due to clash with Finale Concert. Encouraged to maintain the idea for next year, when he can do it on the Thursday night.

### 7. Final marketing

- JohnTaylor and HL have coordinated a free review article and local media attendance through the Alpine Observer, to report on the weekend – marketing for next year.

### 8. Other business

- WM thanked all committee members for their extraordinary contribution in time and effort, founding the structure, purpose, and philosophy of both ABOTMA and MountainGrass, and specially to HL as Operations Manager for getting the Festival planned and organised this inaugural year.

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**The next meeting of the Association's Executive shall be on a Tue night in early December 2013 at 8:00pm AEST. WM to advise date. Newly elected committee members to attend for handover, and 2013 funds to be paid and appropriated.**

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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.



29/10/2013

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