



**Slow Food
Canberra Capital Country Convivium**

AGM 22 June 2020

7:00pm

Online Zoom Conference

Minutes

Prior to the AGM a discussion was held on the results of the the survey. A summary of the survey can be found at: <https://www.slowfoodcanberra.com/agm2020>

Following the discussion we did a visual food sharing event. Those participating sent pictures of their creations. The pictures were made available to all attendees and we voted on the winner. The winner received some yummy sourdough bread made and donated by Eliza and Mark.

1. Welcome and apologies

The meeting was attended by: Peter Boege, Kaveri Chakrabarty, Chris Curtis (Southern Harvest), Mayra Escobedo, Mark Fraser, Lilian Falero, Carolyn Ho, Fiona Humphries, Eliza Ngan, Michael Palmer, Judyth Pilkington, Ian Ryall, Walter Steensby, Cindy Steensby, Anna White. Apologies were: Bronwyn Richards, Helen Lynch

2. Reports: The previous AGM was held on 30 April 2019. Therefore, the period covered in this report is from 1 May 2019 until 22 June 2020.

Convivium Leaders Report: Walter Steensby provided the report.

The report, started with an *Acknowledgment of Country*. The year has been challenging. We have had to deal with drought, bushfires, smoke and hail. Then just as we thought things were settling down we were hit with Covid-19 and the quarantine.

Our Convivium's Committee was also not without its challenges/changes. Ian Ryall and Carolyn Ho who had been stalwarts of the Committee for many years had stepped down at the 30 April 2019 AGM. We are very appreciative of the work that they put in over the years. Nick Staniforth stepped up to fill the Convivium leader role and initially the Committee was comprised of Nick, Arian McVeigh, Mark Fraser, Eliza Ngan, Mayra Escobedo, and Walter and Cindy Steensby.

The changes within the Committee continued with Nick Staniforth resigning from the Committee in June 2019 due to other priorities. Initially it was decided to operate without a named Convivium Leader with Nick's roles being divided amongst the rest of the Committee. However, when it came time to renew the insurance we needed to nominate a leader so Walter became the Convivium Leader. Further changes occurred with Mayra resigning (Sept/Oct) as she needed to devote more time to her studies. Then in February Arian resigned to spend more time on the Canberra Seed Savers. In January we had Judyth Pilkington and Anna White join the committee. Members at the time of the AGM were

Mark, Eliza, Walter, Cindy, Judyth and Anna. Anna has decided not to nominate for the Committee. Walter thanked, Nick, Arian, Mayra and Anna for the work that they put into the Committee this year.

A summary of the events undertaken during the period since the last AGM is included in the Activities Report provided by the Secretary (see [Attachment A](#)).

Restrictions are starting to ease, and we will see what functions and events we may be able to resume. As a result of this years troubles, people are caring more now about food security. One response is the *Food in the Capital* conference, arranged and sponsored by Regional Development Association ACT, or RDA ACT. This was to have been held in April but owing to the virus it has been postponed to November. Slow Food will be represented on a discussion panel. We have a part to play in rebuilding the local food economy. This may be an interesting year.

Activities since last AGM : Cindy Steensby provided the report as the Secretary. A copy of the report on activities is included as [Attachment A](#).

Membership: Eliza Ngan provided the report as the membership secretary. Membership numbers have been declining. At the end of April 2019, we had 44 members; in August 2019 in dropped down to 35 and then climbed up to 48 in January and it has now dropped down to 41 members.

Financial: Mark Fraser provided the report as the Treasurer. Financially we have shown a small profit since the last AGM.

- At 29 April 2019 we had \$5792.08 in the bank but owed SFI \$760 .00 (component of locally paid memberships that are owed to SFI). Leaving \$5032.08 available.
- As of 21 June 2020, we had \$7214.81 in the bank but now owe SFI \$1395.00 (estimated) for their portion of locally-paid memberships. Leaving \$5,819.81 available. This is an increase of \$787.73 for the year.
- Income during the year was \$1,391.67 and expenditures were \$615.94. Detailed breakdown of income and expenditures are included as [Attachment B](#).

3. Election:

The following people nominated for the committee: Walter Steensby (Convivium Leader), Mark Fraser (Treasurer), Cindy Steensby (Secretary), Eliza Ngan (Membership Secretary), Peter Boege, Mayra Escobedo, Michael Palmer, Judyth Pilkington.

4. Other Business and

Briefly talked about options for the next event since Covid-19 restrictions are being relaxed.

5. Timing of next AGM

It is proposed that the next AGM will be held in June again. Middle of winter seems to be a good time.

Summary of Activities Held Since last AGM (Tuesday 30 April 2019)

Our activities can be categorised as:

1. **Information stalls at community events.** The events where we had stalls were:
 - Canberra City Farm Open Day (Sunday 10 November 2019). Stall included a display of solar ovens. Numerous people stopped by and we had 10 sign up for the newsletter.
 - Sustainability Hub component of Tuggeranong's "SouthFest" (Saturday 16 November 2019). The Slow Food stall was run jointly with Seed Savers.
2. **Events:**
 - (Joy's) Book Club (*Nourishing Traditions* by Sally Fallon) generally meets fortnightly, but did not meet during Covid-19 restrictions.
 - Long Table lunch at Tweenhills Chestnut farm, held on Sunday 5 May 2019.
 - Truffle lunch at Mark & Eliza's, held on Sunday 4 August 2019.
 - Visit to Sully's Cidery on Saturday 24 August 2019.
 - Slow Food Canberra Planning event held on 28 November 2019. The survey undertaken in February March on people's interest arose out of the planning meeting.
 - A working bee held at Wynlen House on 22 January 2020. Four Slow Food Canberra members helped Bronwyn Richards and Helen Lynch, who were facing Level 4 water restrictions due to the drought, to prepare a number of their garden beds to rest them and still maintain fertility, as well as building small water retention swales using sand bags to be ready for the next rain.
 - Tour of the Canberra City Farm and lunch at *As Nature Intended* held on Sunday 8 March 2020. About 14 attended.
3. **Ongoing Projects** (including one no longer operating):
 - Orange Community Kitchen (Rhonda Doyle): A project we assisted with for a number of years, but which no longer is operating due to conflicting priorities of the people in Orange undertaking the project. Rhonda Doyle was a member of Slow Food Canberra and therefore project was covered by our insurance.
 - Implementing Snail of Approval in Canberra: Work on this has stalled with Arian's withdrawal from the committee. Do we have the resources to reactivate?
4. **Educational Events for both members and public:**
 - Walter Jehne's lecture on climate cooling through creating soil sponge and restoring the hydrological cycle. Lecture was co-sponsored with SEE-Change Belconnen and held on 18 September 2019 at the Renewables Innovation Hub. 54 people attended.
5. **Regional Terra Madre Celebrations:**
 - The regional Terra Madre lunch was held on 8 December 2019, in Kiama. It was hosted by the Saddleback Convivium and attended by people from the Shoalhaven, South Coast and Canberra Convivium.
6. **Campaigns on important food-related issues:**
 - Participated in a campaign asking the Senate to disallow Government amendments to its regulations on gene technology. Notice sent to our newsletter list requesting they write letters to their Senators (via the Friends of the Earth website) asking the senator to support disallowance.
 - The amendments allow the unregulated release of GMOs created using gene editing techniques such as CRISPR and TALENS into our food chain and environment.
 - The biotech industry claims these techniques are simple and safe and alters genomes at precise sites and without inserting foreign DNA. O
 - The US FDA has found instances where gene-edited calves using these techniques possessed DNA unnatural to cattle, and the EU's approach was that the new GM editing techniques pose similar risks to older GM methods.
 - Slow Food members (Amorelle and Walter) participated in an interview on radio 2XX on 1 November 2019.
 - The vote occurred on 13 November 2019. Unfortunately it failed.

4C's 2020 AGM Financial report

Financially, we have again shown a small profit since the last AGM.

At 29 April 2019 (last AGM), we had \$5792.08 in the bank, but owed Slow Food International \$760.00 for membership income due to be remitted to SFI (component of locally paid memberships that are owed to SFI). This means we effectively started the year with \$5,032.08 available

As at yesterday (21 June 2020) we had \$7,214.81 in the bank, but now owe SFI \$1,395 (est) for their portion of locally-paid memberships.

That means we have \$5,819.81 available, or an increase of \$787.73 over the year.

Income of \$1391.67 is mainly attributable to

Events net proceeds (\$1061.67)

- Tweenhills - \$30
- Sullys Lunch - \$363
- Truffle Lunch - \$526
- Walter Jehne Talk - \$142.67

4C's share of membership income (\$315)

Donation - \$15

Expenditures of \$615.94:

- \$235.00 for public liability and workers compensation insurance
- \$118.98 for web & email hosting services
- \$49.96 for purchase of weights for the marquee used for stalls.
- \$75.00 for Conservation Council membership
- \$137.00 for the 2019 AGM