**6 June 2022**



**Slow FoodCanberra Capital & Country Convivium**

**Special General Meeting  
Tuesday, 31 May 2022, 7:30 pm (Zoom)**

1. **Welcome and apologies:** Eleven members and three non-members attended the meeting. The members were: Helen Buchanan, Mayra Escobedo, Mark Fraser, Desiree Heather, Fiona Humphries, Peter Menhenick, Eliza Ngan, Michael Palmer, Frances Summers and Walter & Cindy Steensby. Three non-members attended: Valerie Albrecht, Todd Heather, Jens Svensson.
2. **What were the issues?**

* Why we were considering disbanding the Convivium. We provided a quick summary of the reasons listed in the discussion paper.

1. **What were the options?**
2. Continue with the Convivium (see 4. below)
3. Disband the Convivium
4. Explore the option of creating at least one Canberra Slow Food Community.
5. **Continuing with the Convivium.** *Discussion on ‘****Agenda Item 6: Items to be voted on’*** *is combined with this item.*

* As outlined in the Discussion Paperwe have a persistently declining membership and a Committee that is too small to be sustainable. A committee larger than 5 would be necessary to turn things around. No-one expressed interest in joining the Committee or forming a new one, but attendees thought there were potential advantages to the Community model.
* Pro-rata refunds of the unexpired portion of membership fees were discussed and thought unnecessary as the fees help support the broader Slow Food cause (local, national, international). With the closure of the Convivium, members will remain members of Slow Food and can apply to transfer their membership to another Convivium. Those who do not transfer their membership will become ‘members at large’. Membership renewals are sent out by SFI.
* A decision on the disbursement of the remaining funds after paying liabilities was deferred until after we see what eventuates in relation to the setting up of a community. It might be possible to provide funds to a new Community.

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| **Summary of Decisions:** |
| 1. Members unanimously agreed to wind up the Convivium. 2. Members agreed it was not necessary to offer refunds for the remaining portion of the membership fees as the fees support the Slow Food cause. 3. Decisions on the disbursement of remaining funds and physical assets, and whether we want an End of Slow Food Canberra farewell party, were deferred until after we see what eventuates in regards to setting up of a Community. |

1. **Exploring the option of setting up a Community.** *See attached Discussion Paper under Discussion of options point 3: Community Model.*

* Setting up a Community was supported in principle, although no-one had a specific project in mind. All did agree that for it to succeed we need more people involved than just those at the meeting. To identify a good project could attract participants, but to identify participants and then jointly decide on a project also has merit.
* The Community model is project-driven, but not everyone involved in a Community need be a Slow Food member. However, the Community should demonstrate its support for and contribution to the international movement. The amount of any contribution can be negotiated and does not have to be monetary, although the Singleton Community donates $500/year to SFI. The Community and its project(s) need to be approved by SFI before permission will be given to use the Slow Food logo and other branding. Criteria to be met are available from the SFI website.
* Networking with other groups may assist the Slow Food Community to figure out how it can assist in building a resilient local and regional food system that supports Slow Food values. Such groups would include organisations such as Seed Savers, Canberra City Farm and Southern Harvest.
* A new organisation called [*Canberra Fed*](https://communityfed.com.au/) was recently set up by Trish Talob, by which she aims to create a “digital platform that connects consumers, businesses and community groups through their local food system.” Community Fed could be useful to help a proposed community to network with other organisations and help the Canberra Slow Food Community choose a useful project.
* Member Desiree Heather volunteered to explore the feasibility of creating a community. She will contact Trish for a preliminary discussion, and can help organise a meeting with Trish and any others interested in taking part.

1. **Final Thoughts**

* Everyone was thanked for their participation at the meeting and for their help and support of the 4Cs Convivium over the years.