

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE BILO BAR CLUB

HELD; 09/11/2023 at SHANGRI-LA YANUCA ISLAND RESORT,

OPENED; 10.00 am BY CHAIRPERSON; Graeme Harvey

- 1. Committee members present** - D Neaves, F Lee, G Harvey. Attendance: Avelina Namoumou.
- 2. Apologies** - A Hancock, D Hollis, M & S Mott, M & G Reid, M Neaves, Clotworthy, F Hollingworth.
- 3. Members Present** - C Neaves, A & J Steele, C Maddison, E Whiting, K Shoesmith, J & C Marshall, S & G Mcevoy, P & J Lonnevik, K Hollis, B Hollis, A Mccuddon, A Simone, D Lennox, P Walter, M Gildea, N Reeves, K Jeffree, G Markham, A & D Protich, A York, R & S Droughton, L Murphy, M Neaves, P Klages, A Neaves, J & V D'arcy, J Kennedy, M Wood, D Protich, S Markham, A Ross.
- 4. Welcome** - The Bilu Bar Club coordinator welcomed all for coming to the AGM and re-union and thanks from all staff.
- 5. Quorum Declared by Chairperson.**
- 6. Approval of Minutes** - Minutes of the 2022 AGM were confirmed as an accurate record. Proposed; C Marshall, 2nd; C Neaves, carried. Matters arising; Nil.
- 7. Reports from Trustee/s**

F Lee;

Thank everyone for their support; since covid substantial pent-up demand for the resort, some staff lost to other resorts; many were good people, but many new staff employed and under training might find shortcomings like A/C going unserviceable etc., most brought on by covid pause and time equipment in shutdown, Rooms & availability of your favourite –not possible to give exactly what you want but we try, rates for 2024 not out yet, but looking at BB rates at present. There is lots of work in place, like BBG needing urgent stabilization works and trustees making me put the start date off by ten days to give re-union period coverage, but we breached our contract with the builder to do it. Roof works over restaurants to stop the deluge has been done. No more funds to spend on room renovations. Thank you all.

Question from the floor on BB rates for outside re-union period – yes, special rates also apply,

Question on booking 12 months out and getting rooms held – not possible as it is too hard to hold rooms that get cancelled, but we do our best to fill requests.

Question on training new staff what courses are done – monthly basis refresher training modules of at least several per month per employee, compliant of food not arriving in time is a constant issue no excuse. Still, we are trying, and no other hotel has the same level of online courses; other hotels pinching our staff is a problem, like the front office manager leaving last week for a resort in Denarau.

Suggestion from the floor on fixed staff contracts – yes, we have them for managers but are not allowed to entrap lower staff into fixed periods unless they are doing overseas training sponsored by us. 2 unions cover staff and issues daily.

Question on Bure 3 not being a/c in the living area: I wasn't aware of this as no complaints have been raised to date; it is easy to place the same. Question any plans for Black Marlin bar to return to the old area – no, a total renovation plan would be needed.

G Harvey;

Reiterated issues with staff, especially in Australia after COVID-19, Tonight's cocktails venue is at Takali, People smoking at bars and some more no smoking signs, please.

Hospital visit yesterday. Do other hotels still contribute - F Lee, yes, query on what happened to Coral Coast Hospital Fund – no one knows. GH asked if the hotel could contribute to room maintenance at the hospital – yes.

J Steel issues with hospital staff, bad presentation given to us, what does Govt give to the hospital, F Lee - very little, JS I would like to see quotes on works requested, very disappointed 2 Bilu rooms used as storage. F Lee said that the hotel has helped with many other items at the hospital, and he will ask doctors for their views. GH's view is that trustees will not hand over buckets of money without details and costs. A Steel – no problem with hospital equipment, but structures, no.

Update on schools: D Neaves & I visited in May and spent a week on them; two have had works completed, others doing now, and new fences have been done on two. It's a different world here. Please let us know if any other projects benefit the area.

Question from the floor on hospital rooms and the possibility of the hotel meeting with the other Coral Coast hotels on existing hotel hospital rooms and keeping them up to scratch; Francis will follow up.

D Neaves;

3 AED units were in place, four stretchers were planned but sidetracked by wheelchair requests stretchers, two staff members were given fire damage assistance, and a report was given on the week we spent in May on kindy's, fence etc.

8. Financial Reports;

D Neaves; the question everyone wants is info on banking shortage; the allegation is that the then Bilu Bar coordinator gave the funds and bank book back to Sue & Kevin Brett the day after they gave same to her; Sue's response was "utter rubbish." This has

been reported to local police, with the Hotel giving a separate police report on the collection of coconut funds. Not a great deal more can be said, and at present, a judge will decide the evidence presented. Kevin & Sue can't travel, so there is no point in spending funds on legal advice, etc., as there is no chance of any recovery, but we want due process by the Police. Question on AED policy – we went with two-year replacement units rented at \$199 pa, not the \$1800 units the hotel has. Question from Allan McCudden re costs awarded against persons found guilty – response is that it is Fiji, not Australia, and there is no chance of them repaying it other than a small some; F Lee responded that the shameful act cannot go unchallenged and must be subject to the law of the land, Bilo bar can spend \$10,000 on legal and travel if they wish, but the principals must be followed for justice to be had.

A Neaves; Kevin & Sue have no part in this, and I want it recorded that their integrity is in no way in question.

Question from the floor on actions taken: DN, we have made a formal report, procedures changed for control and banking of funds so that the risk is reduced, a statement from c/tee made on 25th Oct and further to come. Back to financials, no further questions - the meeting approved the reports.

9. Motion to vote on Changes to the constitution;

The three rule changes were read out and explained by DN, no queries were raised, members were asked to speak for and against motions with none raised and put to the vote with all in favour, carried.

10. Election of Trustees and Imperial Bilo;

G Harvey; Election results nominations equalled the positions such that we have four new trustees and a new Imperial Bilo; Graeme said that after 12 years, I pass the job onto Andrew Neaves and welcome Chris Marshall, Ariane Simone & David Lennox, with David Neaves continuing as trustees.

A Neaves took the chair and welcomed the position.

AN – Graeme's tenure in the club and 100th visit have not gone unnoticed; his contributions are unparalleled. We thank you so much for your service, past and present.

GH: I have loved doing this and want to stay on a bit longer to help the new ones along before I join the other previous Imperial Bilo's up there.

A Neaves; I propose to nominate GH as a life member; D Neaves seconded – all in favour of the motion, carried.

New trustees gave a short bio of themselves. AN gave his thanks and a big thank you to all who helped out over the week in the fundraising and those who bought tickets & contributed.

A Neaves; Talked about long-term sustainability and clubs' position in 20 years, a reinvigorated committee with the committee acting as a whole with no one-person decisions.

Committee meetings planned for each quarter of the year, Davui subcommittee creation raised, e-commerce improvement, emails, collections etc, assigning trustee portfolio positions, code of conduct for committee.

Reunion dates – with the majority of members coming for seven days, going for Saturday 2nd, Nov 24, to the following Sunday 10th, Nov 24, for the next reunion – can look at when you are staying and change the events to suit.

11. General Business;

- D Neaves reported that \$15,024 was raised from the Melbourne Cup events this year and a breakup of individual items given, an excellent result and coconut was \$1804 - thanks to Peter for that.
- A McCudden on Kidney building – GH responded that Avelina is trying to get in touch with the new health minister and is still very keen to get it going; another clinic trying to open closer to town will try and work together; AMcC asked for progress reports. Andrew gave ideas for alternate building use.
- A McCudden - thought 2nd kindy should be shut down. The hospital should not be funded for building until our ward is restored. AN – The builder is about to start works on that kindy. AM wanted someone to be accountable for the upkeep. Still, it appears the building is the responsibility of the local community, and the chair of that committee was present at our visit.
- Question on relief teachers – no kids stay home.
- A Simone - classrooms were a disgrace, their training needs some improvement for values etc.
- Judy Steele reported on the second kindy teacher's attitude regarding taking a call for the whole time we were there and the opportunity she missed.
- AN talked about the request by the teacher for a smart TV, but the meeting felt this was not required for many reasons.

The meeting closed at 11.24 am.