

The Annual General Meeting of the Down to Earth Cooperative Society Ltd will be held at 7.30pm on Thursday 23rd November 2017 at CERES, 8 Lee St, Brunswick.

AGENDA

- Minutes of previous AGM
- Financial Reports
- Other Reports
- Opening of Director Positions
- Election of Directors
- Motions to be voted on
- Close

There are three (3) positions for Board of Directors.

Outgoing board members: David Cruise, Denise Banville, Troy Reid

Retained board members: Kate Shiparo, Mark Rasmussen, Don Royal, Martin Schwarz

Nominations for 2017 election:



David



Kathy



Coral



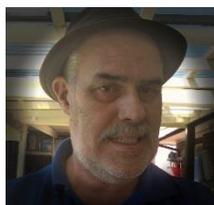
Craig



David



Peter



Scouse



Troy



Robin



Motion 1:

"That the Draft Policy 'Board of Directors Expenses', developed by Ian Hales, Malcolm Matthews and Don Royal be reviewed and adopted"

Moved by: Don Royal

Seconded by: David Cruise and Denise Banville

Rational

The SGM Thursday 22 June 2017 Approved \$35,000 for the board. This fund is being used for Directors expenses Average \$5000 per director per annum.

For more information

<http://www.dte.org.au/agm2017>



Coral Larke



What I have worked on in DTE

- Brought ConFest history into the foreground.
- Typed minutes, worked on receipts and attended working bees.
- Liaised with activist groups and environmentalists to invite them to ConFest and reinvigorate the social change platform that was once the basis of ConFest.
- Created the Recycle/Upcycle/Supercycle for Permaculture Village Children's Workshop space for the ConFest 40th anniversary.

What I would like to work on as a director

- Encourage a wider demographic to become involved in DTE.
- Support Art for Arts Sake within ConFest
- Focus less on constitutional procedures and have more attention placed on ConFest itself.
- Realise weaknesses and transform them into strengths.
- Create a respectful environment in email forums and meetings so that the volunteers' experience in DTE is a positive one.

ConFest has an element of magic, it has been there since the beginning. Becoming a director is a way for me to give back for all the richness that has been forwarded to me.

Craig Newcombe

The rules of Down To Earth Cooperative are frank: "The role of a director is a non-executive "wise elder" role and to fulfil its legal and ethical obligations. If you choose to elect me, I will indeed be non executive as I will not accept any formal role during a confest.

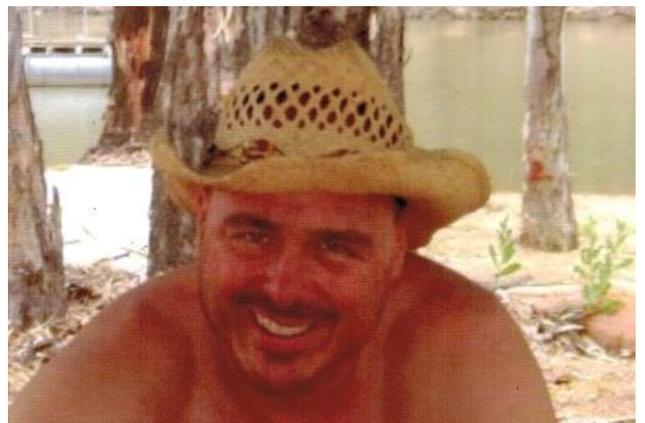
But, to the best of my ability, I will help, suggest and advise. I will show how things have been done and why then let people find their own way. I will gently suggest options when things aren't quite happening as they might. I will also gently advise when people are over tired and fraught.

I am greatly heartened by organisational progress DTE has made of the last few years. My focus will be to continue to develop the various committees by supporting and empowering those who make them work. Key to this is a greater diversity of both people and ways of doing things.

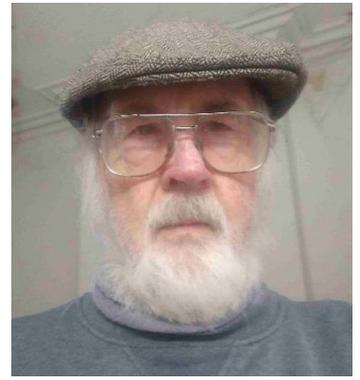
I also dig holes, wash dishes, clean up rubbish and be generally helpful.

Cheers,

Craig



David Cruise



I first became a DTE Director 16/11/1991 I have served a number of terms to the present. At that time DTE had circa \$60,000 in the bank and a rented scout hall in Walwa full of ConFest stuff. Today DTE has more than ten times that amount in the bank, two ConFest sites with water frontages,

and a lot of equipment and resources to facilitate ConFest. My concern is the growing bureaucratic processes infecting ConFest. We used to have co-ordinators, now we have managers and departments.

ConFest is in danger of losing the magic of chaos. The Magic will be managed out. My aim is to keep ConFest a free open space, to allow the unfolding of possibilities.

The Genie must stay out of the bottle!

Down To Earth must not become a commercial business, yet remain fiscally responsible, and care for the wellbeing of all involved. ConFest must remain ConFest for the future!

David Ramin McDonald



I'm no angel and must admit I have fallen into certain conflicts. And that's also part of my motivation to become a director. More so, I have acted as a mediator. I believe in and love DTE as a family. Frankly, it's as much a family as I have. I will strive to form consensus and work against unnecessary conflict, particularly within our Directorship. I have a bunch of creative ideas, solutions for things as diverse as helping to get another ConFest up and running, solutions to end conflict between Vegetarians/Vegans and Omnivores in the hub etc.

ConFest may very well be the most remarkable festival in human history – let's not lose that focus. I stand for our festival maintaining and deepening its "switched off" back to basics, inclusive, humane, unifying and progressive values. I'm a nudist – part of my entire character that cares for what is essential and simple.

I have one of the best track records with finance – catering over six months of weekly meetings for about \$500 total.

Honestly, I didn't want to be a Director, until I felt an absolute need – my input would treat the Directorship as a position of service – I turn my back on hierarchies, power structures, cliques and negatively driven alliances; and right now we desperately need a Director with such compromise. Thank you.

Kathy Ernst

I love ConFest. I want ConFest to continue for ever.

As a director I will take seriously my obligation to ensure the DTE complies with Government regulations and meets high standards of financial accountability and community expectations for safety and wellbeing.

I am also determined to maintain the self-organising, bottom up structure of DTE where everyone can participate and be heard.

ConFest must remain as a genuinely non-commercial grass roots event where community, inclusiveness, diversity and participation are more important than slick facilities, attendance numbers and so on.



Peter Tippett



I was a teenager when I first went to ConFest and now I am in my forties. I do not have a village or department that I am focused on. I do not have an agenda other than to see ConFest continue as ConFest and not destroyed or stolen by others. I would like to see DTE become a safer environment for volunteers to contribute and I believe I can help in this area. I believe I still have a lot to learn in regards to how ConFest happens and this is possibly one of the greatest advantages I feel I may have to offer. I do not have all the answers. I do not want to fix ConFest. I do not want to see ConFest broken. All I want is to see ConFest continue well into the future. Oh, I would also love to see a return of a Summer ConFest!

Robin McPherson

For a long time now I have been involved in the Alternative Lifestyle Movement in Australia and made my life the pursuit of the Urban Intentional Community, To see what works and what doesn't. Considering questions such as how do we live in a post consumerist society?. How do people learn to live with less while developing a better quality of life?

As a result of this line of query Michael Smith and I started in 2010 Self Organising Systems, a company that studies the pursuit of minimal frameworks with little hierarchy. I believe in freedom of expression and how a community such as DTE can enable differences to co-exist with equality and respect.

The world in 2018 is in trouble, environmentally, militarily and spiritually. I want to honour the work of Jim Cairns and Juni Morosi who would have said exactly the same in 1975 and I often ask myself, If they were here, what would Confest be like? What position would they be adopting?

I passionately believe through embracing diversity and in accepting new ideas as keys to change, we have a chance of turning this situation around and working towards a better community even hopefully a better, healthier planet.



Steven Gregory aka Scouse



Experience;

- Director 8 years
- Market co-ordinator 15 years
- Membership data base maintenance 15 years
- Set up 18 ConFests in conjunction with Brian Hall, works included;
 - Electrical works
 - Joiner and carpenter
 - Mechanic
 - Assembling and disassembling Toilets & loading everything into Pantec.

I have served DTE to the best of my ability over 16 years. I would be privileged to serve as a Director to implement ideas, such as building an Earthship or Tiny House Village at Bylands, in which people could live in all year round. That is my hope for the future.

I would also like to bring back the flavour of friendships like we used to have at DTE, we used to be like a big family, friendly and had barbecues together and spent weekends putting mailing stickers onto Newsletters for our 5000 readers, but that has somehow gone by the wayside and I would love to see it return.

I would work to ensure better privacy on our registers and online documents.

I hope I have the honour of serving you.

Troy Reid

For me, DTE has a mission well beyond hosting annual gatherings. It can play an important role in helping to shape society by nourishing our communities, facilitating knowledge and skill sharing, reconnecting our generations both young and young at heart, and literally grounding us through a shared connection to the land where we gather, learn, love, eat and play.



Membership of this cooperative is definitely a privilege, however with it comes custodial responsibilities to leave the organisation and its various properties, in better shape than when we found them and that is certainly my intention.

With the help of our wise elders I want to gently build this organisation in size and scope. Critical to this, we need to focus on creating sustainable quality volunteer experiences. Often it seems people forget this is supposed to be fun and enriching. Together let's create opportunities for meaningful engagement with the organisation and with each other.

Together, let's create more effective internal processes so that we can build upon the work of those who came before us, and create a stable platform for those who will follow.

I believe I have the experience, energy and commitment to contribute to this endeavour.