

Raspberries & Blackberries Australia AGM Minutes

Date:	25 October 2021		
Meeting Time:	12pm AEDST		
Location:	Zoom		
Attendees:	Peter McPherson, Angela Atkinson, Wendy Morris, Kate Sutherland, Mark Salter, Gavin Scurr, Richard McGruddy, Christy Poynton, Roberto Bajaras, Rowan Francis, Rachel Mackenzie, Suzette Argent, Andrew Terry, Jeff Matthews, Melinda Simpson		
Apologies:	Laurie Adams		
President:	Richard McGruddy	Minutes by:	Wendy Morris

1. WELCOME & APOLOGIES

President R McGruddy opened the meeting at 12.02pm and welcomed all attendees.

2. RESOLUTION TO ATTEND AGM AND VOTE VIA ZOOM

R McGruddy advised that due to Covid restrictions, the AGM would be held via Zoom and asked if there were any objections. All committee members were in favour of holding the AGM via Zoom.

3. REVIEW OF MINUTES

The minutes from the previous AGM were reviewed.

- K Sutherland moved/R Barajas seconded that the minutes be accepted.

4. BUSINESS ARISING FROM MINUTES

There was no business arising from the minutes.

5. ELECTION OF OFFICERS

R Mackenzie advised that R Francis and J Hundle were stepping down from the committee. R Mackenzie thanked both, particularly R Francis, who served as treasurer during challenging times.

The following nominations were received:

President – Richard McGruddy
Secretary – Kate Sutherland
Vice President – Roberto Bajaras
Treasurer – Gavin Scurr
Committee Member – Christy Poynton, Laurie Adams, Andrew Terry

All nominations were uncontested and the positions filled.

C Parsons continued his term as committee member without the need for renomination.

R McGruddy thanked R Francis for his work ethic and sense of humour during his tenure as treasurer.

6. FINANCIALS

R Francis provided his final financial report. He noted that the report provided by the accountant incorrectly lists a loss of \$50,365 on the third page, rather than the correct figure of \$40,884. He went on to explain that this was not a loss as such, rather a transference of the profits of the last BerryQuest conference to Berries Australia, where it will be used to pay deposits for BerryQuest 2022. The total amount of cash at hand is \$213k.

R Francis advised that over the past financial year, aged payables valued at over \$10k and relating to J Eccles had been cleared from the books.

R Francis thanked the RABA committee and BA staff for their support, and remarked that the committee is in a very strong, well-managed, position. He finished by formally handed over to G Scurr, the incoming treasurer.

- G Scurr moved/R Barajas seconded that the financial reports be accepted

Action: W Morris to contact accountant and arrange for amended financial report to be issued

Action: W Morris to liaise with appropriate contacts to get G Scurr access to bank accounts

7. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

J Matthew asked about the proposed changes to the Rubus levies. R Mackenzie advised that the proposed change is a 2c/kg R&D levy, 2c/kg PHA levy and 0c/kg marketing levy. These changes are a direct result of the Rubus levy funds reaching very high levels, which exceed what can be reasonably spent. R Mackenzie further advised that the Rubus industry owes the government approximately \$80 for an EPPRD response.

J Matthews asked why the marketing levy had been reduced to 0c/kg, and R Mackenzie advised that HIA isn't spending the monies collected. R Mackenzie flagged that a voluntary marketing levy may be introduced, and that this would allow RABA to control how and when the money was spent.

The new IDO, Mark Salter, and new committee member, Christy Poynton, were asked to introduced themselves.

Mark advised that he has had a long career in horticulture and is looking forward to giving back to the industry. He will be visiting growers in the next few weeks as a priority, having already opened up communications, and will be progressing IPM, and responsible disposal of plastic waste, as key priorities.

C Poynton advised that she works in the berry category at Perfection Fresh. Despite having a long career at Perfection Fresh, she is new to the berry category, where she will be overseeing all matters including breeding programs, trials and customers.

R McGruddy raised that L Adams, who was elected to the committee, will be joining his colleague K Sutherland, which will give Burlington Berries two representatives on the RABA board. R McGruddy requested that they share a vote, rather than holding a vote each, to ensure fairness. Everyone agreed with this proposal.

J Hundle thanked everyone for their support during his time on the committee, and told R Mackenzie that the move to reduce levies was a wonderful achievement. R Francis also said thank-you and good-bye.

8. MEETING CLOSE

The meeting was closed at 12.37pm AEDST

Richard McGruddy
RABA President
25 October 2021