

## **Minutes Membership Committee Meeting 30 September 2025, Camp Kitchen 5.30pm**

Membership Committee: Mark G, Elizabeth, Julica (minutes), Marty, Anna (Director M Portfolio)

Visitors: Trinh, Nick, Fern

### **Prospective Members, status update**

Terese Hope (Guides: Marty, Aaron)

no further progress (nfp), guides Marty and Aaron, is spending some time at G, looking after Baby Archer, interested in finding a temporary home in G

Narelle Allison (Guides: Julica, Mark G)

fast progress - done: ID check, referees, police check, 45 members met, socials, working bee) - pending: court check, progress meeting to be scheduled after next GM

Laura Manerowski (Guides: Marty/Aaron)

decided to cease her membership application (started 11/23) and instead apply to become a Guest of a Member (Tarrik)

Guides tried to encourage her to follow through, but her decision was firm. Thanks to Marty and Aaron for love, time & energy they invested.

Amy Riddle (Guide: Julica)

life plans changed, will not continue membership process

Helen Groombridge (Guides: Elizabeth, Jac)

well attended progress meeting on Sunday 28th Sep, all went well, good discussion, all boxes ticked. Her daughter Mia is slowing down with her own application, will continue her process later. There will be a community review meeting of Helen's application at the October GM

Alvaro Gomez & Saray Barba (Guide: Marty)

just had a baby boy, still at Clint and Noemi's, NFP,

Saray asked for support with meeting her 45 people. They are interested in finding a temporary home in G

**Action:** resident members, please be more active in making efforts to meet prospective members

Morgan Brown (Guides: Marty, Jac)

nfp

Helen Lawson (Guides: Marty, Anna)

nfp

**Interested in starting the membership process:**

Jay Fluhrer, who started the membership process in 2024, decided to end it in *Feb 2025*. Jay has decided she'd like to restart her application. Her partner Emma would follow, if Jay is successful.

Jay's application was deleted from the website after she ceased, and according to Ish (her former guide), no paperwork was held or kept.

Discussion: Should Jay start over again, or can she continue with acknowledging that a few steps (social, working bee, GM) have been completed, since no application remains, she has to start again.

**Action:** Assign guides: Julica, and one other guide.

**Andrea and Sorna** (EOI) from Port Mq attended community lunch in Sep, will attend more social functions (Market) to get to know place better before they decide if they want to pursue membership.

Several inquiries came via the EcoRealestate ad for Ralph E's site, mainly tire kickers

**Eligible for membership**

Ginny R, Ali & Sam, Tor & Clare, Michelle & Logan, Jay & Anadean

**Sites for sale**

Isaac Ryan \$225.000, Sattwa/Nityama \$380.000, Saintina \$120.000, Ralph E. \$150.000, Oscar/Dave VanMeghelen \$250.000, Michael Moey \$80.000, Nikola/Bruce (\$ unknown)

---

**Guest of Member Status - Do we need to rethink?**

Discussion: The Guest of Member category was created for temporary visitors who wanted to stay extended periods of time. Now several partners of members are opting to become Guest of a Member rather than pursue joint membership. Many are choosing this even though Goolawah is their principal place of residence.

Are we creating a two class bubble? Could this become a problem, when prospective members just go for 1 application instead of joint to avoid the risk of not being voted in?

Action: MC will observe the situation but sees no need to change at this stage. So far, there are only 3 guests on the Coop, who are choosing this status for a variety of reasons.

**Visitors on Phone Tree**

Should Guests and longer term visitors be invited to join PT?

Action: discuss at GM

---

## **Feedback on Membership process**

Tor and Clare gave feedback on the membership process

Key points:

- thorough process, gives a good overview about Goolawah
  - helpful in showing what it's like living in a coop, see all colours and aspects
  - meeting 45 members was a challenge with their baby
  - experienced a valuable and in-depth process
  - having a guide was very helpful, good process to see if the place suits you
  - last 2 meetings could be reduced to one
- 

## **James' discussion paper re sale of shares and active membership**

James shared a document with ideas on whether and how the community could play a more active role in the sale of shares.

Short excerpt:

*Despite our idea to provide low cost residential housing, the cost of buying into Goolawah is increasing to the point it's becoming cost prohibitive to people who don't already own property in the outside world and/or cannot get a bank/private loan to buy in with.*

*Uninhabited sites including those highly priced and not selling are an opportunity lost for the community to have additional people contributing to the vibrancy of the place, eg. Participating in committees and meetings, sharing the load of maintaining the property, added social energy, new ideas and enthusiasm.*

Some of the ideas/possible solutions he mentions were discussed, including

- *place a limit on the sale price of blank shares, eg. \$40k less co-op joining fees.*
- *create an absentee shareholder levy (or similar financial disincentive).*
- *create a fee/annual fine for shareholders in breach of the co-op DA, by not using Goolawah as their principal place of residence*
- *increase the requirements for active membership. e.g., as well as remaining financially viable, shareholders need to attend at least one working bee and one meeting every 6 months...*
- *record asking price publicly & record in a database for all prospective members to see.*

Discussion: Some ideas had been tried before; some solutions might be too difficult to implement; in Bundagen a committee evaluates the sale price for homes; many don't appreciate when members who want to leave sit back in the hope the price for their lot might go up, activity solely based on levy payments seems unfair to all who put energy in the place.

Further discussion may happen at GM, complete ideas paper will be made available beforehand to all members via website.

**Improvement of membership policy draft docs**

deferred to next MC meeting, further discussion about 2 weeks after October GM

Meeting closed: 7.10pm