

**University of Melbourne Student Union
Meeting of the Environment Committee**

Agenda

10:00am 14th May 2019

Meeting 7(19)

Location: Environment Office

1. Procedural Matters

- 1.1 Election of Chair
- 1.2 Acknowledgement of Indigenous Owners
- 1.3 Attendance
- 1.4 Apologies
- 1.5 Proxies
- 1.6 Membership
- 1.7 Adoption of Agenda

2. Confirmation of Previous Minutes

Confirmation of minutes from meeting 6(19) on the 30th April, 2019.

3. Matters Arising from the Minutes

4. Correspondence

No correspondence of note.

5. Office Bearer Report

Key Activities

Radical Education Week Debrief

We debriefed about Rad Ed Week at Collective last week and came to a number of recommendations to improve on this year's experience. See below for a sample!

How do we get more people along?

- More advertising, getting people to more events
- Collaborating with clubs to get ppl to come (MUARC, Vegan club)
- Face to face/active advertising
- Getting promotional materials out further, so everyone has a chance to talk to friends

Workshop problems:

- There were probably too many (ran from 10am-6pm **every day**)
- Saying no; need a guide/value system for selecting workshops
- Multiple workshops in multiple locations at one time
- Workshop-sensitive locations, a 'formal practice of protest'

Welcome to Country @ the Community Garden

In the evening of Wed 29th May (during Reconciliation Week) the Community Garden will be privileged with a Welcome to Country and Smoking Ceremony on the site of the Garden, as part of the Garden's ongoing commitment, as gardeners who have a close relationship with living soil, water and organic vegetation, to acknowledging the Traditional Custodians of the land on which the Garden stands - the Wurundjeri people of the Kulin Nation. With this event and into the future, the Garden is committed to unearthing and celebrating The First Peoples' inextricable spiritual and cultural connection to this sacred place.

The night will begin at 5:30pm with the Welcome to Country followed by the Smoking Ceremony, led by a Wurundjeri elder (TBA) from the Wurundjeri Tribe Council. The night will then go on to a musical performance, led by John Wayne Parsons of the Wilin Centre, before the ceremonial planting of a number indigenous plants in the Garden (to be led by Indigenous students). After this attendees will have an opportunity to chat, eat the wonderful food provided by Torres Strait Islander owned and run Mabu Mabu, and wander the site of the Garden. See you there!

Students of Sustainability

Students of Sustainability (SOS) conference is an annual gathering of environmentalists and activists hosted by the Australian Student Environment Network. Students and other activists from across the country come to learn skills and discuss contemporary issues in environmental and social justice.

SOS 2019 is going to be held on Gadigal, Wangul and Darug lands (sydney) in late July, with arrivals and departure happening around the 25th. The Environment Officer and a dozen or more of the environment collective members have expressed keen interest in coming along, and plans are in preparation for the rental of a minivan to take attendees in convoy to Sydney with other collectives members who have car access. Funding has now been approved for ticket reimbursals.

Progress on assigned actions from last report

Action Point 1: Create Rad Ed feedback sheet with Environment Collective + attendees on how to improve the week for next year.

Done. See above.

Action Point 2: Follow up on discussions and initiatives from the Student Forum, including possibility of more collective engagement in official Sus Campus positions.

Ongoing. Meeting with Sustainable Campus team next week to discuss.

Action Point 3: Work with collective + committee to create a plan for an ongoing series of 'Radical Workshops' run by Enviro for the rest of the year.

Done. Events are now being organised and planned with the Comms team, and future facilitators. Our first Rad Workshop 'Climate Grief and Activist Burnout' will be taking place early Semester 1 (Week 1 or 2). The following workshop will be on transecofeminism (stay tuned).

Action Points to be completed by next report

Action Point 1: Report back on the MUCG Welctome to Country Event

By date of next Students' council.

Action Point 2: Have confirmation for our first two Rad Workshops, including date and venue.

By date of next Students' council.

Action Point 3: Have concrete plans prepared for Winter Fest 2019, including an opening event for the Bike Collective (FKA Co-op) - to be confirmed

By date of next Students' council.

Budget Expenditure

\$500 spent on marquee weights for radical week.

\$600 spent on Sorghum Sisters catering from the Student Forum event.

\$160 spent on banner-painting and workshop materials through Radical Education Week.

\$150 spent on new books for the Enviro library

6. **Motions on Notice**

Motion: To pass a statement of support for the Djab Wurrung Heritage Protection Embassy, condemning the arrest and unfair treatment of DT Zellanach on charges unrelated to the protest camp.

Motion Text:

Over the past months, the Environment Collective has been deeply concerned by what is happening on Djab Wurrung country. We have seen the claims and concerns of the Djab Wurrung people and their supporters consistently ignored in the attempted expansion of the Western Highway, that would cut through more than 260 sacred trees, songlines, and important sites on sacred women's country.

The Djab Wurrung people have labelled the Western Highway Expansion project "an act of cultural terrorism". It is set to destroy 800 year old trees of immense cultural significance to Djab Wurrung people, including birthing trees estimated to have birthed more than 10,000 Djab Wurrung children.

We were outraged to see Victorian police, accompanied by VicRoads bulldozers, attempting to break up campsites and arrest protectors earlier this year. We have seen nothing but disrespect for Law and Lore from the VicRoads, Victorian Police, and the Andrews government.

We have been equally outraged to see the arrest of camp member DT Zellanach last week for offences unrelated to the blockade. As of this week, Zellanach has spent more than 150 hours in prison, for verbally insulting a police officer and driving on an expired license. Support for Zellanach is high, with supporters keeping up a continuous presence at MAP (Melbourne Assessment Prison) over the past week.

The Environment Department unequivocally condemns the treatment of DT Zellanach and the behaviour of VicRoads and Victorian Police. We call on our collective members, and all students, to support the Djab Wurrung Embassy by maintaining a presence at Melbourne Assessment Prison, heading up to camp, and donating money at the link provided below. We stand with the Djab Wurrung Embassy in their demand: NO TREES NO TREATY.

Donate: <https://www.gofundme.com/support-towards-djab-wurrung-embassy>

Motion:

To pass the above statement of support for the Djab Wurrung Heritage Protection Embassy, condemning the arrest and unfair treatment of DT Zellanach last week.

Motion: To pass a statement of support for the staff speak-out against the University of Melbourne’s treatment of casual workers last Wednesday.

Motion Text

The UMSU Environment Department condemns the University of Melbourne for their treatment of casual and sessional contract workers. We note that the University have refused to reimburse all casuals for the compulsory Working with Children Check, are cutting off casual email access between contracts and will not provide casual staff with adequate desk space and student consultation rooms. Casual tutors and lecturers are routinely underpaid for marking and student consultations. Casuals have had enough and we are speaking out for their rights.

We, the Environment Department, join in the demands of the Wednesday 8th May Sit- & Speak Out to demand that:

- All casuals must be reimbursed for the Working With Children Check
- Stop the casual email cut off, casual email access must continue between contracts
- Consultation space and desks for casual staff and PhD students.

Motion:

To pass the above statement of support for the staff speak-out last Wednesday and condemnation of the University of Melbourne’s treatment of casual teaching staff.

Motion: Approving funding for the payment of two University of Melbourne students for the planting of the prickly currant bush at the upcoming Community Garden Welcome to Country event.

Preamble

Details are now being finalised for the MUCG Welcome to Country taking place on Wednesday 29th May, 5.30pm. We now have the following running order proposed:

1. Acknowledgement and Introduction to Elder
2. The Welcome to Country and Smoking
3. John Wayne Parsons from Wilin Centre singing
4. Planting of the Prickly Currant Bush with indigenous student/s
5. Refreshment

We have consulted with Wurundjeri Tribe Council and have selected a Prickly Currant Bush that we can plant in the garden during this event. We are hoping to employ two indigenous University of Melbourne students who are passionate about plants for 1 hour (from 5.30 to 6.30 pm) to help plant out the small shrub together with the Elder. The planting will occur at approximately 6pm after John Wayne Parsons of Wilin sings.

Importantly, these students will be paid for their work during the planting at our standard rate of \$90/hour for undergraduate students. This especially because the MUCG event is aimed at reconciliation and paying the rent. Thus we will be paying up to \$180 (\$200 if the planting runs over an hour) for the employment of Indigenous students for the planting of the Prickly Currant Bush.

Motion:

To approve up to \$200 funding for the payment of Indigenous student/s for an hour of employment during the planting of the Prickly Currant Bush at the Welcome to Country event. This will be taken from the special projects budget line.

Motion: Bringing a some plant-life to the Enviro Office.

Preamble

The Environment office, with its lack of natural light, can be a dreary workplace, especially given its separation from the other offices of UMSU. Despite the best efforts of Environment officers over the years, the office could still be improved to have a brighter, more welcoming atmosphere. One way that this could be done is by the purchase of a number of low-light office plants.

Indeed, it seems bizarre that the Environment Office, so often the location of important sustainability/environment-concerned meetings, does not have a single office plant. We propose that the purchase of 1-2 plants could do a lot to brighten this little place, and make it a more appealing location for meetings.

Motion:

To approve the spending of up to \$50 from the Stationery and Office Supplies budget line for the purchase of low-light plant(s) for the Enviro Office.

Motion: Approving funding for the ‘Radical Workshops’ series next semester.

Preamble

As discussed last week, the Enviro Dept will be holding a series of workshops next semester, under the title ‘Rad(ical) Workshops’.

This will comprise three to four different sessions, held roughly monthly throughout the second semester, on a range of radical topics (ie. workshops comprising against-the-grain, collectivist, critical, or non-mainstream environmentalist ideas). It is our hope that these workshops will kick off an ongoing tradition in Enviro for many years to come, extending radical learning beyond Rad Ed Week.

The first two workshops have already been confirmed as Climate Grief & Burnout and Transecofeminism in Theory & Practice. The Enviro Dept is committed to fairly reimbursing facilitators for their time, skills and knowledge. Thus we will be paying workshop facilitators according to the Environment Department Standard Pay Rates (currently being confirmed). It is expected that the cost of reimbursing facilitators will come to around \$200-\$300 per workshop, depending on length. As well as this, funding for light catering and venue booking to the sum of \$100 will be allocated for each workshop.

Motion:

To approve up to \$1500 for the funding of the Radical Workshops series for the rest of 2019, to cover payment of workshop facilitators, light catering, and occasional venue hire. This will be taken from the special projects budget line.

Motion: Approving a further \$150 funding for plants and materials purchases for upcoming workshops in the Community Garden.

Preamble

Mimm and Clare have contacted us to request another \$150 of funding from the Community Garden budget line be released for spending on new plants, materials, and supplies for upcoming workshops.

This will cover the rest of semester and the beginning of the next, leaving almost exactly half of the MUCG budget remaining for the second half of the year.

Motion:

To approve \$150 funding for the MU Community Garden, to be spent on plants and materials for upcoming workshops. Taken from the Community Garden budget line.

7. Motions Without Notice

8. Other Business

Branded thank you cards from the Environment Department? Thoughts?

As a thank you gift for contributors - suggested by another office bearer. Keen to hear thoughts and ideas.

Students of Sustainability - Ticket Subsidy Motion to Student Council

We're also looking to have a convoy for the upcoming SoS conference. This could involve Enviro renting a van to take multiple people up, while other collective members take their own transport. What do we think? Could be costly.

Final Committee Meeting for Semester - Three Weeks From Now (4th June)

Note that our final Enviro Committee meeting will not be held in a fortnight (as this would coincide with the week of SWOTVAC) but instead in the week following, on Tuesday 4th June. If this date is unsuitable to the committee, it can be changed - we just need to ensure we have one monthly meeting in both June and July, as they fall outside of semester.

9. Next Meeting

The next Committee meeting will be on Tuesday 4th June at 10:00am. Enviro Office.

10. Close