

BODHI AGM
20 May 2001
Campbell Town, Tasmania

Minutes

Meeting declared open. 3.20pm.

Present. Susan Woldenberg Butler, Jane Hudspeth, Simon Brown, Colin Butler, Denis Wright (online)

Apologies: Julian Green, Sen. Bob Brown, Patricia Earhart, Dr Brian Learoyd, Dr Simon Holliday, Helen Holliday, Dr Gerry McGushin, Sally McGushin, Graham Ranft, Angela Douglas.

Minutes from BODHI AGM 2001. Presented as read. Moved: Susan, seconded: Colin.

Business arising from minutes.

Denis's trip to Bangladesh: no concrete project proposal has emerged. Simon commented that further diversion of BODHI's limited energy (ie to projects Bangladesh) may be unwise at this stage.

Colin: discussion of on site medical trainer in Mundgod; Susan: this has been overlooked, but she may bring it up in a future phone conversation with Tenpa TK; however, as he has now been transferred to Byalakuppe the point is academic.

Colin: further discussion of minutes deferred to end of meeting, to avoid getting distracted at this stage.

President's Report

I. Projects

A. Revolving Sheep Bank. As predicted, the RSB has dominated BODHI's activities of the past twelve months.

1. Update

Year 02 is underway. We sent US\$3100 to Prof. Goldstein in February, because Paljor, his PhD student, was going to Tibet at that time. The funds will be distributed at a nomad fair in August.

Instead of 5 nomad households receiving 50 ewes/nannies, each will receive 40. This decision was made by Prof. Goldstein. I don't know why.

Year 03 requires more funds. There'd been some residual funds left from Year 01, which kept the cost down in Year 02. I'm not sure what the cost will be for Years 04 and 05.

2. Fundraising

a. Corporate

- i. Julian Green has come aboard. He's written to a business contact at Glaxo for a donation to the RSB. No answer yet.
- ii. Ken Fuji, Japanese industrialist and Tasmanian grazier, has knocked us back.
- iii. No positive corporate response yet. Hopefully this will change with new approaches to TDS.

b. Individual

- i. Good individual response, in Australia (eg the hat lady in Terrigal) and overseas (eg, Donna Meister in the US).

c. Slide Shows

Sen. Bob Brown gave two slide shows for BODHI and the RSB, in Devonport and Campbell Town. They helped to raise our profile and reach new audiences, but did not bring in much money.

d. Other

- i. Have approached for funding advice: Danish government contact.

ii. Australian Ethical Investments was approached but did not respond.

iii. The Australian Tibetan Society was, according to Pat Earhart at the last AGM, intending to donate funds to the RSB. We've not seen these funds.

iv. Ongoing discussions with Phil Baker, fundraiser for Clifford Craig Memorial Trust.

7 3. Publicity

a. Video: Richard Patterson, a US volunteer, is going to send a copy of a TV program featuring the pre-RSB work of Professor Goldstein and Dr Beall in Tibet to my uncle in Southern California, who will get a copy run off in our format and send it to me.

b. Print: Positive articles have appeared in the local, domestic and international press: *The Guardian*, *The Australian*, *The Examiner*, *The Sunday Tasmanian* and *Tibetan Review*.

Also, I've written short pieces for the newsletter of the Canada-Tibet Committee's newsletter and *Mandala* magazine.

c. Radio: BODHI has been interviewed by the BBC World Service and ABC Radio.

4. Interesting correspondence generated

a. Includes a Danish government agency and Dr Eric Edmunds, an assistant economics professor at Dartmouth, an Ivy League university in the US. Dr Edmunds wants to use the RSB as a model for his students.

b. Heifer International contacted us via email. It's an international NGO based in Arkansas that works in Tibet (among other places)

and possibly has an evangelical Christian agenda.

B. Adult Literacy in Sohbar, NE India

We've wired A\$2500 to Dr Hallelolhim Ghonglah, an Indian medical doctor we met at an MAPW (Medical Association for the Prevention of War) conference in Sydney in 1995. See newsletter for details.

C. Mundgod/Bylakuppe

1. Healthy Baby, village sanitation. Our support of these projects has continued since 1993. However, now that Tenpa TK, our India Field Representative, has been transferred to Bylakuppe, another Tibetan settlement in South India, our allegiance to projects in Mundgod is fading. Mundgod has Western funding; Bylakuppe is poorer. That and Tenpa's presence have led to a decision to support projects in Bylakuppe, which Tenpa will present to us in due course.

2. Windmill. He has requested funding for such projects as whitewashing hospital buildings, which we have rejected. Our determination not to fund capital projects was reinforced by the news from the independent evaluation that the windmill has been problematic. The infrastructure has not been in place to keep it running continuously. Recent telephone conversation with Tenpa have revealed that it is working now, however, and has been for some time.

3. CHW education. We will support continuing education for community health workers. This is congruent not only with BODHI's basic philosophy but also with the independent evaluations of Drs Rikleen and Lobo, which stressed the importance of education for Tibetan health workers.

4. We will try to ring Tenpa in India every couple of months, so that he feels less isolated and to keep abreast of projects. This may change over time, as Tenpa becomes more proficient and confident with email.

II. Volunteers

A. We have had a few inquiries in the past year to our website, but nothing that is usable.

B. We've decided to soft-pedal the volunteer program, unless volunteers are precisely what the Tibetan community in India needs, for example, eye specialists (not surgeons) who might be able to travel from settlement to settlement teaching (per Tenpa).

C. With future volunteers, we'll try to be more structured, for instance by letting them know in writing what is required of them.

III. Tax Deductibility Status (TDS)

I'll leave this to the Treasurer.

IV. Other

A. We have not yet acted upon the advice of Dick Adams's offside, Dee Alty, to approach the Melbourne community for funding. We've filed this information and will use it in due course.

B. Met with Hilary Smith in Melbourne, at Australian Volunteers Abroad.

C. Have been studying graphic design for BODHI's benefit.

D. Had a drop in activities for BODHI due to personal illness and study commitments (finishing off my BA), but the lull is over and I'm back!

E. Feel renewed energy now that there is new help: Julian Green and the independent evaluation of five projects from Mundgod, which will facilitate TDS.

Discussion of President Report.

Heifer Project International (an NGO which originally started in the 1930s by sending heifers to poor families) expressed some interest; after visiting their website Colin suggested we should follow up any offer to help. For example, could HPI have a page on their website which advertises the Sheep Bank and gives a

link to the BODHI website. Susan suggested that a HPI representative (already in Tibet) may be able to liaise with Prof. Melvyn Goldstein to provide independent verification of the sheep bank.

Discussion re two meetings with Choepaljar Tsering (in Hobart and Canberra): 1. Advised re the perception of Goldstein by the Tibetan community (was negative, now less negative); 2. Recommended that Susan and Colin visit Tibet and personally observe workings of Sheep Bank, despite language difficulties. We feel this would be a good idea but at present we can't justify the expense or time. 3. The Sheep Bank has generated considerable worldwide publicity (including through Reuters) and raised BODHI's profile among Tibetan supporters.

Volunteers: we should be more selective, and involve more participation from the Tibetans.

Dee Alty: advice to contact the Melbourne community has not yet been followed; in part because the Dalai Lama's Australian tour, including to Melbourne, has been postponed to 2002

President's Report be accepted: moved Simon seconded Colin.

Report, Director of Electronic Communications.

For the BODHI Board, electronic communications are an essential mode of communication, and many members also use it regularly to communicate regarding BODHI matters. The website continues to generate enquiries and comments, and has proved to be a valuable tool in getting information to interested people around the world. It comes up well when queried in the major search engines, which means that we have had exposure on a number of issues, such as the Sheep Bank, to people who would not otherwise have been able to access information on what is being achieved.

As usual, the great challenge is to keep it up to date, and the site needs constant attention in this regard. Regrettably, the time is not always available to do it as well as it should be. In the second half of 2001, I will have more time to devote to a reorganisation of the site, and suggestions are welcome as to what should be there and how it is to be presented.

Denis: Invite commentary from me during the meeting only where it is needed on an issue that there is significant division of opinion over.

Director of Electronic Communications's report be accepted: moved Simon, seconded Colin.

Treasurer's Report. Financial Report BODHI Australia 2000

Summary

1. See graphs and report below. Average individual donations increased in 2000 from \$61 to \$109 but there were no corporate donors. The number of individual donations fell slightly though not as much as seems apparent, because of some double counting before 1999.
2. Despite our intentions we didn't keep a complete record of Susan's and my in kind donations, but they conservatively exceeded \$600, not counting time (eg for small sums for postage, for travel, for email, telephone, software and office expenses.) Unlike 1999 we did not deposit and withdraw this amount.
3. Postage and newsletter printing costs were further reduced; including by being able to do the bulk of the international posting through the ANU for about 20c per item. However we spent \$766 on printing sheepbank brochures. This does make fundraising easier for the sheepbank, and may also lead to a corporate donation.
4. BODHI's accounts have again been prepared by our honorary accountant, Beth Donoghue. All cash donations have been deposited, rather than kept as petty cash.
5. Following the decision at last year's AGM we opened a credit card account with Bendigo Bank. Though we shopped around it is still expensive; in fact far dearer than initially thought. Bank charges are therefore much higher than previously. We recently again approached Phil Triffitt, manager of the National Bank in Launceston, for a discounted banking facility. A follow up conversation was encouraging, but we haven't since heard from him.
6. No funds have been formally exchanged with the BODHI US account, which provided the funds for year 2 of the sheepbank project (US\$3600). BODHI Australia should really get some credit for this, if this will help with TDS, but the drawback as before are the transaction costs of bank charges. Now that we have the report from India we may have to bear this.
7. In 2001 we have so far spent \$2514 on the adult literacy project and \$400 on Tenpa's salary and for the tidy villages project.
8. At the request of a potential major donor we prepared an estimate of the total amount raised by BODHI Aust and BODHI US, as cash, in kind, and from volunteers, since 1989. It conservatively exceeded A\$500,000.

Colin Butler Treasurer Campbell Town, Tas May 20, 2001

Opening balance (1.1.00)

Island State	2839.89	Bendigo Bank	0.00

	2839.89		

Closing balance (31.12.00)

Island State	5148.55		2036.04

Assets	7184.59		
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Difference	4344.70		
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Owing (BODHI US) 1999	1041.88		
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Owing (BODHI US) 2000	1000.00 (estimated)		
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INCOME

1998

1999

2000

Donations	3770.00	4407.40	6651
Posters		80.00	30
Fundraising (other)			231
In kind donations (S&C)		513.10	
ATS	4700.00	500.00	
Bank Interest	4.88	6.39	16
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Sub total	8474.88	5506.89	6929

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EXPENSES

1998

1999

2000

Projects	4996.59	2150.00	275
Printing (total)	956.66	794.00	1440
Postage	1201.90	664.00	495*
Bank charges & taxes	62.67	10.18	228
international drafts		60.00	
Fundraising			45

Travel			*
Licenses	40.00	40.00	51
Conference			
Staff (Tenpa TK)		176.20	
Susan	563.00		
Power/rent/copier/office etc	181.10		
Software (part payment Photo Shop)		100.00	
Car/petrol	150.00		*
Tel/fax/email	250.00		*
email		45.00	50
Tel/fax		77.24	*
Transfer Indian a/c		25.01	
In kind expenses claimed		443.46	
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	8402.74	4585.09	2584

Total donations - expenses: 6929 – 2584 = 4345

* additional expenses were paid by direct donation (Susan and Colin) these were partly recorded, but did not involve the BODHI accounts. Therefore they do not appear in the formal financial statement for 2000.

Project details	1998	1999	2000
Village Sanitation (Mundgod)	150.00	150.00	
CHW Training (Mundgod)	450.00	600.00	
DTR hospital windmill	4080.00		
DTR hospital nurses training		1400.00	
TCV School			275.00
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	4996.59	2150.00	275.00
Printing (n/letters etc)			765.58
Printing (brochures)			673.96
Post (domestic)			208.00
Post (international)			287.90
Email			50.00

Tax Deductible Status report

1. Our approach to Senator Newman fizzled out
2. The independent report has recently arrived from Dr Dan Rikleem and his partner Dr Kristin Lobo; we hope this will help with AusAid; perhaps with Julian Green's assistance we can muster the enthusiasm to again approach AusAid.
3. Our quorum for AGMs remains 5.

End Treasurer's Report.

Discussion of Treasurer's Report. Colin presented graphs of donations and summary of auditor's report. Discussion of donation to Tibetan Children's Village from Peter Jones and the Friends' School in Hobart, using BODHI as an intermediary.

In-kind donations of Colin and Susan. Hasn't been done, although it might help TDS.

Total donations up.

We've contacted Phil Triffitt at the National Bank re a concession on credit card account charges. We haven't heard back yet and need to follow up.

TDS to be discussed in General Business.

Sheep Bank brochures were the single most expensive. item.

Jane moved that the Treasurer's Report be accepted. Susan seconded.

Medical Director's Report

BODHI Australia Inc for 2000

Campbell Town, Tas May 20, 2001

1. Drs Dan Rikleem and Kristin Lobo have remained working intermittently on a voluntary basis at Mundgod; though communication has been sporadic, a telephone conversation with Tenpa TK reassured us that they have been a net asset for the Tibetan community.

2. I had two meetings with Dr Greg Schwarz, a GP in Hobart, who, with his partner (non-medical) has expressed some interest in volunteering, ideally in Bhutan.
3. Further correspondence with Dr Rachel Kohn from the ABC Spirit of Things – this may eventually lead to a radio programme re BODHI and “engaged Buddhism.”
4. I wrote an article for the journal Global Change and Human Health, which will soon have free of charge on line access via <http://www.baltzer.nl/gchh/contents/2000/1-1.asp>. This article contains a short description of BODHI, gives BODHI’s www address and may generate some interest.
5. Tenpa TK’s transfer from Mundgod to Byalakuppe is problematic – continuing with most of the Mundgod projects seems unwise without a reliable overseer in Mundgod; though the smaller projects with the Ganden monastery at Mundgod remain possible, as Tenzin Wangchuk is still there.

We are now having regular phone conversations with Tenpa and some small projects will probably develop in Byalakuppe. However, we did not feel Tenpa’s request for a computer was a good use of our limited funds – Tenpa already has access to a computer at work, and I don’t think the limited typing he may do for BODHI warrants this expense. To the extent that BODHI’s projects assist the hospital staff, or the refugees at Byalakuppe I feel that Tenpa should validly be able to use the hospital computer for BODHI projects. Though Tenpa is theoretically BODHI’s representative in India it is not feasible, for example, to involve Tenpa in the project in Meghalaya.

6. Several meetings with Professor David Rapport led to the invitation and his acceptance as another academic adviser for BODHI. Professor Rapport is Canadian, founding president of the International Society for Ecosystem Health, and editor of the journal Ecosystem Health.

Tax Deductible Status report

4. Our approach to Senator Newman fizzled out – Damien Mantach, after about a year of follow up, wrote a letter which basically revealed no insight into the process
5. The long awaited independent evaluation report of the projects in Mundgod finally arrived from Dr Dan Rikleem and his partner Dr Kristin Lobo; we hope this will help with AusAid; perhaps with Julian Green’s assistance we can muster the enthusiasm to again them.
6. Our quorum for AGMs remains 5.

End Medical Director’s Report.

Medical Director's Report accepted, moved by Jane, seconded by Simon.

Colin: The following is for your comment, Denis. We're close to closing the meeting, but will wait to hear from you.

General business.

Tax-Deductible Status

We've now got something: the independent evaluations of the projects in Mundgod. The big question is whether or not it will be enough for AusAID. Hopefully Colin won't have to go to India himself to do any evaluations.

Bob Brown and others have recommended that we need a political champion. Sen. Newman's offisder, Damien Mantach, ultimately ended up writing a letter that proved to be useless. He did suggest that we increase the quorum to five and that we change our name to BODHI Australia to distinguish us as a separate entity.

Kate Lundy may be useful.

Sen. Watson may also be good to contact, but he appears in danger of losing his position on the Tasmanian Senate team. However, we will contact him in any case, as he is local.

Now we need to go back to AusAID with the report. Julian Green offered to go to AusAID for us. We should take him up on this.

Practical steps: Go back to Mr S Sinnappurajar at AusAID (with copies to TDS committee). Ask for Julian's input to TDS letter. Send him the evaluation report, ask him what he thinks, and tell him that we plan a physical meeting later this year, either CB alone, or with Julian.)

SB to contact Julian Green re this.

Committee.

1. TDS committee (Jenny Porteous, Jane Bell, Phil Brown, Luiz Ribiero, Jane Hudspeth, and Colin Butler) be re-appointed (nominated Susan, seconded Simon) and Susan Woldenberg Butler added (nominated Colin, seconded Simon); Jane will investigate rules governing appointment of sub-committee members.

TDS committee (Jenny Porteous, Jane Bell, Phil Brown, Luiz Ribiero, Jane Hudspeth, and Colin Butler) be re-appointed (nominated Susan, seconded Simon) and Susan Woldenberg Butler added (nominated Colin, seconded Simon); Jane will investigate rules governing appointment of sub-committee members.

Election of Office Bearers. Jane moved that in the absence of further nominations the present office bearers be re-appointed. Colin seconded.

Date and place of next meeting: to be determined.

Meeting closed. 6.25pm.