

**WorkLife Alliance**  
**Minutes of General Meeting**  
**Wednesday, 17 January 2007**



Meeting was held at the Queensland Council of Unions  
Meeting started at 6:30pm

**Chairperson:** PAUL GROENING

**Present:**

Paul Groening; Laura Velm; Emma Tovell; Mearon O'Brien, Ross Gwyther; Jim Sharp; Adrian Pollock

**Apologies:**

Maggie May

**Minutes of Last Meeting:**

The Minutes were taken as read and were accepted.

**Correspondence:** Nil

**Reports:**

*Community Actions* – the pre-christmas demo in Queens Plaza was a success. Activists got dressed up like Christmas elves and handed out leaflets to shoppers and store workers. The response was very positive, even from the store security guards.

The pre-christmas film night was successful.

The northside community meeting was also successful. One of the groups involved, the Piccabeen Community Centre, expressed an interest in doing further work with us.

A Brisbane support action for sacked Phonetech workers in Melbourne was not required because local actions in Melbourne lead to a resolution of the dispute in the workers' favour. A conclusion to be drawn from this dispute is that there is scope for community actions in situations where unions cannot or will not get involved directly.

**Action:** Ross Gwyther is to put WorkLife's details on the Volunteering Australia web site.

*WorkLife website* – the web site developed by Stephanie Hudry is now complete and on-line at [www.worklife.org.au](http://www.worklife.org.au). The domain name is registered for two years. Feedback from those who have seen the site is that it is very good.

**Motion** – The meeting recorded its thanks to Stephanie for the work she has done in developing the web site.

**Action: All** - contributions are needed to ensure the web site is current and vibrant. Contributions can be articles, photos, links to other interesting sites, etc, and are to be emailed to Ross at:

[rgwyther@optusnet.com.au](mailto:rgwyther@optusnet.com.au)

*Financial* – The current balance is \$273 (exclusive of tonight's donations). Payments of \$13.50 and \$99.00 were approved for Ross and Laura for food/drinks for the Christmas event and for the web site registration respectively.

**Motion** – the meeting endorsed a change to make it that two signatories are required for each payment by cheque.

## **General Business:**

*Emergency actions* – there was much discussion about how WorkLife should deal with the need for ‘emergency actions’ to be taken by the group. These actions are ones where there is no time to properly discuss and decide on in a formal way (say, less than a few days notice). It was agreed that there should be a way of proceeding with emergency actions, but the following parameters should apply wherever possible:

- We need to be sure of the facts (we need to be credible)
- We need to have material readily available (leaflets, placards, etc)
- Preferably we should try to meet to discuss and confirm any action
- Requests for action should be channeled through Ross or Maggie via the Yahoo Groups email

*Communicating to WorkLife members* – WorkLife has a number of members/subscribers who are not contactable by email. They need to be kept informed of events.

**Action:** - **Laura Velm** is to undertake to contact these people.

*Activities for 2007* – there was some discussion on what actions and activities WorkLife should undertake this year. Mearon O’Brien of the Young Christian Workers reported that:

- They will be having a forum for high school students to talk about casual work under Work Choices. (confirmed event)
- A teaching kit on rights/obligations at work has been sent out to schools. (confirmed event)
- A Just & Meaningful Work campaign is planned.

It was agreed that the next WorkLife meeting would be dedicated to discussing and agreeing on an action plan for 2007.

**Action:** - **Ross Gwyther** is to send out a notice asking people to send in their proposals for actions prior to the meeting so they can be put on the agenda for the meeting.

*Meetings for 2007* – it was agreed that meetings for 2007 will continue to be held on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday of each month, starting at 6:00pm at the trades hall.

**Action:** - **Ross Gwyther** to book the rooms for the year.

## **Next Meeting:**

The next meeting of the full group will be:

Date: Wednesday, 21 February 2006

Time 6.00pm start

Place QCU Building

Meeting closed at 8.30pm

*Minute Taker:* Adrian Pollock