

Monday 11th September 2017

The Laird had advised VicBears prior to and following the recent AGM, that due to the deterioration of our working relationship with leadership of the committee, changes had to be made.

The Laird offered independent mediation for our first post-AGM meeting, which was subsequently declined by VicBears.

Three options were put forward at the meeting:

1. Make no changes to the current working relationship.
2. Cease the VicBears / Laird relationship altogether.
3. Cease VicBears Den Nights at The Laird for the foreseeable future but continue to work on key annual events, particularly those with community significance, such as Boxing Day Bears, BearFest and SH18.

Both parties agreed upon the third option, to best work on and reassess the working relationship over time.

At this time, The Laird advised that the 4th Saturday of the month would continue as a "Bears night", acknowledging that VicBears would and have every right to hold Den Nights at another venue.

At this point The Laird already felt more positive for the future of VicBears and The Laird.

The publication of both the President's Report (VicBears Newsletter, 6th Sep) and subsequent VicBears Inc. Facebook statement (10th Sep) are ambiguous and misleading and work directly against our hopes for such a positive future.

While the Facebook statement acknowledged it was a mistake to issue the President's Report, it also included many contradictory, false or misleading claims.

Neither the President's Report or Facebook statement acknowledges that under the initial agreement, both parties would be working together 'behind the scenes'.

This dysfunction is clearly far less than the community as a whole deserves. As a result of these issues, we will now consider the working relationship with the current VicBears committee terminated.

The Laird cannot engage with VicBears while the current committee remains. Until then we will continue holding a bear night on the fourth Saturday, as well as creating other events both new and similar to those previously held at The Laird for the bear community.

Regards, Brett Lasham and Mark Carney

The Laird

contact@lairdhotel.com