



Annual General Meeting 2021

Minutes

Date: 6 December 2021

Time: 6.00pm

Venue: Zoom

The President, Ray Edmondson, opened the meeting at 6.04pm, and welcomed members to the meeting. He reminded attendees that they reports presented to the meeting are for the 2020-21 financial year

Apologies: Alex Gosman, Chris Harrison, Lindy Ross, Jo Wellington (later)

Attendees (Members): Tony Briscoe, Steven Cateris, Gwenda Davey, Anne Davis, Leonie Davies, Melanie Drake, Ray and Sue Edmondson, Chris Emery, David Kilby, Antonia Lehn, Jill Matthews, John Stephens, Sue Terry, Len Whyte and Renn Wortley.

Minutes of 2020AGM

The previously-emailed minutes of the 2020 AGM were presented.

Sue Terry moved that the minutes be accepted, seconded by Anne Davis. The minutes were accepted by the members present.

Report from the Executive committee

Ray presented his previously-emailed report for the financial year 2020-2021, but deferred discussion of it to Other Business.

Sue Terry moved that the President's report be accepted, seconded by Tony Briscoe. The report was accepted by the members present.

Treasurer's report

Treasurer Chris Emery spoke briefly to his previously-emailed report, noting that he was unable to present an audited report as there is a small discrepancy of \$70. He believes this is due to the change from two bank accounts to one. He noted that we had made a small profit over the year of \$278.70, and that our major expenditures had been \$1000 to NFSA Restores. He also noted that there had been pleasing donations received through our free webinar events, and members are increasing including donations in their joining applications or renewals. Our balance at the end of the financial year was a healthy \$5253.70.

Chris Emery moved that his report be accepted, seconded by Sue Terry. The Treasurer's Report was accepted by the members present, understanding that a small discrepancy still needs to be resolved.

Election of Committee

Ray declared all seven positions vacant, and passed the meeting over to Sue Terry, the Secretary and Public Officer. She advised that seven nominations had been received for the seven positions by the required deadline.

Those nominations were declared elected. Ray advised that the four executive positions would be elected by the Committee at its next meeting.

Candidate	Nominator	Secunder
Ray Edmondson	Sue Terry	Len Whyte
Jill Matthews	Sue Terry	Len Whyte

Chris Emery	Len Whyte	Sue Terry
Sue Terry	Chris Emery	Len Whyte
Lindy Ross	Sue Terry	Len Whyte
David Kilby	Ray Edmondson	Sue Terry
Tony Briscoe	Ray Edmondson	Sue Terry

Appointment of Public Officer

Sue Terry was confirmed as Public Officer for the Friends.

Other business

- Ray spoke briefly about the year noting that it had been an unusual one, dominated by the impact of COVID-19. We have had few in-person events but have offered a successful webinar program which will last, in recorded form, as substantial historical documents. He noted that the Friends, in its advocacy role, had developed and maintained contact with a wide range of relevant politicians and had lodged a submission to the relevant Parliamentary committee on the controversial building extension planned for the Australian War Memorial.
- Speaking about the current financial year, Ray also said that
 - the Friends had worked well with past CEO Jan Müller, and looks forward to a similarly positive relationship with the new CEO, Patrick McIntyre.
 - there had been a funds announcement of \$41.9m for the NFSA but no dates regarding when this money would be provided were given
 - we had been advised of the recent death of long-standing NFSA staff member, Helen Tully, who started her career in the National Library and ended it in the NFSA's Melbourne Office
 - Andrew Pike had donated 18 copies of his *Australian Films* book for use as a prize or other way as we see fit. Andrew had also donated a significant number of copies to be provided to NFSA staff for their personal use and education.
 - a new, separate group, the NFSA Alumni was being set up by Jeff Brownrigg, Ron Brent and Marilyn Dooley. It comprises former staff members and its aim is to help restore lost memory, which is a global issue.
- Gwenda Davey spoke briefly on the Melbourne Chapter, noting that its composition is different from the Executive Committee, because most of its committee are still working. She noted that they can't sustain the level of events that they had originally envisaged. It was agreed that this was not necessary, and that two-monthly or quarterly events would be a perfectly reasonable goal. Their end-of-year Sentimental Bloke event had drawn smaller numbers, 20, than they'd hope but it had been convivial and, in that sense, successful. She advised that Gus Berger, of Thornbury Picture House, will leave their committee but will stay involved. She also noted that the webinar program had made it a successful year.
- Member Anne Davis, who is part of the scanning volunteer team provided to the NFSA by the Friends, advised that the NFSA's Mona Soleymani had contacted the volunteers to say that they hoped to resume the program at the end of January 2022.
- There was also discussion about closer badging of NFSA events with the Friends to improve the Friends' visibility. We are hoping to achieve more of this through Friends-NFSA Restores screenings and more Friends events associated with the exhibition program.

Ray closed the meeting, thanking all for attending, and wishing everyone the best of the season.

Meeting closed: 6.50pm