

The Saint Andrew Society of Western Australia

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of the Society held at the Perth and Tattersalls Bowling Club 2 Plain Street, East Perth

On Friday 10th February 2017

Meeting commenced at 7.15 pm

PRESENT

As per the attendance register

1. Chieftains Welcome

Douglas welcomed everybody to the AGM for 2017. As we have a quorum the meeting can proceed.

2. Apologies

Apologies were received from Cameron and Joyce Dickson, Mary Viskovich, Rob Thompson, Philip Commander, Jan Carrick, Richard Sutherland.

3. Minutes of AGM held on Friday 5th February 2016

Minutes tabled with all members present and were approved and confirmed as an accurate record.

Moved Brian McMurdo
unanimously

Seconded Terry Spiro

Carried

4. Matters Arising from the Previous Meeting

Jan Gane moved a motion that a précis of Committee meetings be put onto the website for the information of all members. The motion was seconded by Anne Spiro and carried by a majority of members.

5. Treasurer's Report

Cheryl presented the Treasurer's Report.

The books had been returned from the accountant Lachlan Mills from Lachlan Douglas Mills CPA who had undertaken the audit function.

All at the meeting were provided with a copy of the financial statement.

2016 membership reached 91.

This year we also introduced a facility to accept credit card, this has been well utilised.

Our first event of the year was the Chieftain's Ceilidh held at the RAAF Bullcreek.

Attendance was down on previous years with only 85 people attending.

This year the committee decided to support "Soldier On" with proceeds from the raffle and the whisky toss. This resulted in \$423 being forwarded to them.

The ceilidh also made a profit of \$554.00

It was decided to not renew the term deposits when they came due as the Hyatt hotel requires prepayment for our two functions prior to tickets sales being finished as this usually \$10,000 for the ball and \$15,000 for the Burns Supper.

This has now resulted in cash at bank greater than in previous years.

Our first social night had 52 people attending. This resulted in profit of \$279.00

The reeling night had 32 people attending realising a profit of \$123.00

Weekend away at El Caballo. 32 people booked rooms to attend this function and 3 people came for meal only. Due to incorrect information being supplied to us by the resort and not being informed of this until one week prior to the event the society had to stand a loss of \$722.00

The society also made a sponsor donation of \$250 to Police Legacy.

The St Andrew Ball had attendance of 72 and resulted in a loss of \$115.68

The St Andrew Day Ceilidh was sold out 3 weeks prior to the event. Most members took advantage of this being totally subsidised. Raffle made \$173.05 The cost to the society \$773.71

Christmas social night made \$101.30

Burns Supper Burns Supper numbers were down from previous years but comparable to last year Profit was \$542.00

Raffle Profit was \$399.35

Dance classes for the Burns Supper profit \$109

Membership for 2017 70

Overall

Cash at bank	31/1/16	\$32232.68
Closing Balance	31/1/17	\$34633.34
Profit		\$2400.66

Acceptance of the Treasurer's report moved Richard Paxman Seconded
Jan Gane. Carried unanimously.

6. Chieftain's Report

Douglas commenced the Chieftain's Report with a very special note of thanks to the 2016 Executive: Diana Paxman, Vice Chieftain; Darian Ferguson, Secretary; Cheryl Hill, Treasurer; and Committee Members, Elizabeth Melville, Graeme Ward, Eion Kennedy, Richard Paxman, Publications and Website, Reggie McNeill, Master of the Dance and Immediate Past Chieftain, Brian Mc Murdo.

He acknowledged the contribution of a past Chieftain and Hon. Life Member, Mr Ken Suttie, for his efforts on the Saltire over many years. Furthermore, he acknowledged the efforts of Susan Branch for her work on our Facebook site. Throughout, her contribution has been greatly appreciated. He also thanked all our Members and Associate Members for supporting the activities of the SASWA.

The major activities of the past year have included: The SASWA Chieftain's Ceilidh, Club Night El Caballo, Saint Andrew Society Ball, Christmas Ceilidh, Dance Classes, changes in the format of the Website, use of Mail chimp and the new look and presentation of the Chieftain's Saltire and newsletter.

There are a number of matters which will require attention in the forthcoming year, particularly the timing and program of the SASWA Ball and Burns' Supper. The provision of additional events such as the function at El Caballo was most successful. The society needs to be mindful that events which attract families who have varying interests and experiences of Scottish culture should continue to be encouraged. To some extent activities need to be both educative, as well as pleasurable. Douglas was pleased to report that our membership has risen remarkably over the past twelve months from some 60 to near 100.

The Society has had some informal discussion with the 'Italian Club Fiumano E Giuliano, located at 135 Sheffield Road, Wattle Grove, to consider a number of options in an endeavour to secure a permanent home for the society while ensuring some form of continuity for the club, which has an elderly membership experiencing increasing difficulty in maintaining its viability.

The following options have been identified:

1. Merge with the SASWA, taking responsibility for the management and operations of the club. Issues would include: building maintenance, property enhancement and budgeting;
2. A complete takeover by the SASWA. Issues would include the social impact of displacing existing club members;
3. The club transfers its control of the complex to the City of Canning. Should the club activate this option, the SASWA could rent the property at a "Pepper Coin" rental and as its primary user while the City of Canning takes

Nominated	Ron Cooper	Accepted	
Proposed	Reggie McNeill	Seconded	Alice McMurdo
Nominated	Darian Ferguson	Accepted	
Proposed	Cheryl Hill	Seconded	Sandy Milligan
Nominated	Graeme Ward	Accepted	
Proposed	Elizabeth Melville	Seconded	Dave Gane
Nominated	Robert Bannister	Accepted	
Proposed	Susan Branch	Seconded	Margaret Davies-Slate

8. Comments from the Incoming Chieftain

Richard thanked the members. He also thanked Douglas for all of the work he had done while Chieftain and said that there is a lot more work to be done particularly in relation to the Fuimani Club. Richard mentioned that he is a slightly reluctant Chieftain for two reasons. Firstly, he doesn't have a Scottish accent however, he has significant Scottish heritage. Secondly he said he is terrible at remembering names - an import attribute for a Chieftain!

Richard then went on to discuss his thoughts on the Society and its future. Richard said he thinks the Society is valuable and is worth putting effort into to ensure it survives. Many friendships have formed within the group and we are good at welcoming new faces.

However, he also has some concerns. He mentioned the Fuimano Club where the survival of the club is in doubt due to their failure to engage younger members. If we are not careful, and don't take some action, the same will happen to us, because we too, have an aging membership and are not attracting enough young members.

He stated that this will be his focus area this year and that he believes we need to concentrate on two things to encourage younger members. Firstly we need to offer Reeling, a style of Scottish Country Dancing that has become hugely popular with younger folk in Britain and elsewhere. Secondly, we need to seek some sponsorship, to try to reduce the cost of our events.

Richard emphasised that his proposed extra dancing (reeling), would **not** be at the expense of any of the activities we currently undertake, it would be in addition!

9. Notice of Special Resolution

Darian explained the Special Resolution to the members.

We have drafted a Notice of Special Resolution to change the rules of the Society for consideration by members at this Annual General Meeting. You might recall at the last AGM we sought to amend Rule 7 to provide some

clarity in relation to the membership year. Following the application to the Department of Commerce to register the change we were provided with further advice that our rules were inconsistent with the *Associations Incorporation Act 1987* and needed to be amended. Accordingly, the amendment to the rules seeks to bring them into line with the requirements of the *Act*. In summary the changes sought relate to:

- Provide for the filling of casual vacancies on the Committee.
- The time within which, and manner in which notices of general meetings and notices of motion are to be given, published or circulated.
- The manner in which the funds of the Society are to be controlled.
- The custody of the records, books, documents and securities of the Society.
- The inspection by members of the records of the Society.
- Require a 75% majority of members to pass a special resolution.
- Distribution of surplus funds and property.
- Identification of the financial year of the Society.

Wherever possible, the changes that are proposed have been taken from the model set of rules provided by the Department of Commerce.

Changes

1. Rule 2 – Definitions

Inclusion of a definition of special resolution, the commissioner, the Act, Financial year and the Association.

These are terms that are used in the amendments and it provides clarity

2. Rule 6

Existing rule 6 has been deleted and in its place a provision relating to the inspection by members the records and documents of the association. This is required in accordance with Schedule 1(14) of the Act.

The existing rule 6 relating to the Secretary maintaining a register of members has been included in the responsibilities of the secretary in the proposed change to rule 9.

3. Rule 9 Committee of Management

Rule 9 has been amended to include the duties and responsibilities of the office holders of the Committee namely the Chieftain, Vice Chieftain, Secretary and Treasurer.

Schedule 1(9) and Schedule 1(13) of the Act require the rules to provide for the manner in which the funds of the association are to be controlled and the custody of records, books, documents and securities of the association. The model rules provided an example of the duties and responsibilities of the

secretary and treasurer which have been replicated as part of the amendment to this rule. For completeness the roles of the Chieftain and Vice Chieftain have also been added.

4. Rule 10 Casual vacancies

Rule 10 has been amended to provide for the filling of casual vacancies as required by Schedule 1(6) of the Act. The proposed change has been taken from the model rules.

5. Rule 12 Annual general meeting

Rule 12 is amended to prescribe how the secretary must give notice to members of an annual general meeting as required by Schedule 1(8).

6. Rule 13 Special General Meeting

Rule 13 is amended to ensure the notification of the meeting is the same as for the Annual General meeting.

7. Rule 16 Dissolution

The existing clause is inconsistent with section 33(2) of the Act which restricts the distribution of surplus funds and property to either an association incorporated under the act or for charitable purposes. Sub-rule b and c have been deleted and new wording is proposed that is consistent with the model rules.

8. Rule 17 Amendment of constitution

The existing rule 17 is inconsistent with Section 24 of the Act in so far as a 75% majority of members present and entitled to vote at a general meeting are required to approve a special resolution to alter the rules. In addition the Department has suggested we insert the word special resolution. To overcome the issue I have proposed the existing rule is deleted in its entirety and replaced with the wording in the model rules.

There was some discussion on the amendment to allow members to view the membership information. Jan Gane proposed a motion that the proposed wording be changed to include reference to members not being able to remove the record. This was seconded by Ron Cooper and agreed unanimously by members. The motion to change the rules with the amendment was put to members by Darian, seconded by Robert Bannister and carried unanimously by members.

10. Saint Andrew's Day Ball

Richard raised the Saint Andrews Day Ball. In 2016 the date of the Ball was brought forward to provide greater separation from Christmas and the Burns Supper. The Committee wanted to get feedback from members on the day and whether they wanted a Ball to continue.

Ron Cooper asked if we should change the name from Ball to dinner dance. A number of members mentioned that they did not think the term Ball was an issue and it was a term young people in particular are familiar with as they all have school balls these days. Richard mentioned that we are trying to deliver quality for these events as we are the premier Scottish association.

Anne McClung said she thought the ball should be on or near St Andrew's Day.

Cheryl mentioned the problem we are having is that we have declining numbers and can't support the bigger venues. While we need to look for smaller venues we have to consider the size of the dance floor which often can't be accommodated.

Douglas reminded the meeting that the decision ultimately rests with the Committee and this is an information exercise.

Robert McClung mentioned that if we enter into an arrangement with the Fuimano Club the problem will be solved.

Jan Gane suggested that the committee could survey members.

Diana told the meeting of the logistics required to organise the Ball with the big hotels which is significant.

Maggie Milligan mentioned the age of the members and asked who brings along family members?

The South of Perth Yacht club was mentioned as a possible venue to consider along with the University Club.

Terry Spiro suggested we remove the word Day from the Ball so we can have flexibility.

The members were asked by show of hands whether they supported the Ball and the vast majority do and they also support it being moved back to on or near St Andrew's Day.

11. Saint Andrew's Day Club House

Douglas explained the opportunity that has been presented to the club. He re-spoke about the options we have that he said in his address earlier in the meeting and said he was simply seeking the authority of the membership to go forward with investigating the options. There will be no decision about adopting any of the options without it coming back to a special meeting off the Society. There were various issues raised by members which will all be answered following investigation of the options.

Terry Spiro said there was a commonwealth program called the stronger communities program which provides for grants of up to \$1m for projects that bring the community together. Ron said we need to be careful if we think the City of Canning are going to be of much assistance. Jan Gane supports a club house but said it will need to have a manager. She has a number of issues based on her experience and will send them through to Douglas.

Brian McMurdo moved that approval be given to Douglas to investigate the options. That was seconded by Anne McClung and approved by a majority of members.

12. Any Other Business

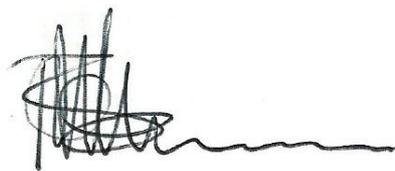
Richard raised the Mailchimp campaign and said only 50% of emails sent are opened. Urged members to open and check to see if their systems were sending the emails to the junk folder.

Tom Weir asked about the dance classes cost. Reggie explained the costs associated with hire of the hall, mentioned we would once again be holding refresher classes on a Friday and the booking will be made as soon as the dates are finalised at the first meeting in March.

13. Meeting Closed

There being no further business the meeting was closed at 9:40pm

Confirmed and signed as a true record.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Richard Paxman', with a stylized flourish extending to the right.

Richard Paxman (Chieftain)

Date: 22 March 2017

Attendance Register

Kennedy Eoin	McClung Anne
Bannister Robert	McClung Robert
Cooper Norma	McMurdo Alice
Cooper Ron	McMurdo Brian
Cromb Dawn	McNeill Esther
Davies-Slate Margaret	McNeill Reggie
Dunstan Alan	Melville Brigitte
Dunstan Pat	Melville Doug
Ferguson Darian	Melville Elizabeth
Ferguson Susan	Milligan Maggie
Fuller Janet	Milligan Sandy
Gane Dave	Miraglia Celia
Gane Jan	Paxman Diana
Haines Michael	Paxman Richard
Hale Barbara	Ramsay James
Heaven Anne	Spiro Ann
Hill Cheryl	Spiro Terry
Kiff Michael	Ward Graeme
MacPherson Dave	Weir Thomas
MacPherson Judy	Weir Margaret
Martin Moira	Wilson Arthur
McAlister Tom	Wilson Carol
McBride Mary	Wimshurst Gerald
McBride Mary	