

THE GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY OF VICTORIA INC.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING MINUTES

Held Saturday 5th October 2019, 2pm
in the meeting room at Level 6, 85 Queen Street Melbourne.

1. Welcome and Apologies:

Opening: The President Jenny Redman opened the meeting at 2pm and welcomed those present.

Attendance: Jenny Redman, Peter Johnston, Vicki Montgomery, Stephen Hawke, David Down Robert Gribben, Leonie Loveday, John Blackwood, Linley Hooper, Meg Bate, Jan Bayley, Barbara Beaumont, Owen Easterbrook, Alan Fincher, Peter Gill, Judith Gulliver, Keith Gulliver, Tina Hocking, Claire Johnson, Clive Luckman, Jenny Murray, Tom O'Dea, Ruth O'Dea, Martyin Playne, Eleanor Pugsley, Ann-Maree Richardson, John Stanford, Margaret Vines

Apologies: Penny Wolf, Janne Bonnett, Erna Cameron, Jill-Louise Dawson, Lorna Elms, Margaret McLaren, Michael Rumpff, Barbara Beaumont, Linda Farrow, Mark Harry, Eric Smith, Margaret Smith, Marge Waight, Yvonne Izatt, Wilbur Vigus.

2. Minutes of the Previous AGM

2.1 **Accuracy:** Corrections to It was moved by Vicki Montgomery and seconded by Judith Gulliver that the minutes of the previous AGM held 6 October 2018, be confirmed. **Carried**

2.2 **Matters arising** from the minutes: Nil

3. Council Report

The annual council report has been posted on the members' area of the GSV website and in addition, hard copies have been made available at this meeting. Jenny Redman reiterated key aspects:

- Main focus following the strategic plan signed off by council focussing on our long term viability, training courses etc
- The membership rate has declined but it's clear that the majority are between 60 and 70 and perhaps we need to focus on the group before they retire. 43% of members are women. Trialled opening Tuesday nights which hasn't been a great success.
- Volunteers have increased and we couldn't do without them. More volunteer training is being undertaken
- New computer facilities and wireless access
- Social Media – blog doing well and the new members' forum will start soon. Members have asked for this
- Catalogue update via Presto
- New Victoria Discussion Circle – thanks to convenors and the members who contribute to them being a success story for the GSV. Always keen for more people to participate

On behalf of the society Jenny thanked the staff, volunteers and Council for their work over the past year. Jenny invited questions and comments about the report.

It was moved by Jenny Redman and seconded by Martin Playne that the Annual Report be adopted. **Carried**

4. Financial Report

The Treasurer Stephen Hawke began by thanking Jenny for her assistance. He then presented the audited financial statements for the year ended 30 June 2019 which are available on the members' area of the GSV website and demonstrated the accounts on the screen. Stephen highlighted

- The overall result was turned around from the \$4,360 loss from Operating Activities (\$52,457 surplus last year) to a Comprehensive Profit of \$31,185 thanks to the generous bequest from the estate of Roger Heslop.
- Membership revenue was good although research suffered (more large jobs last year).
- Depreciation is a large new expense due to the new computers being written off over 4 years

- Donations down from 25 to 18k. No fund raiser this year.
- We suffered with accommodation costs of \$113,000 (\$88,000 last year) since we had previously benefited from a rent holiday. This year was the first full year's rent.
- Administration costs increased from 21k to 28k due to external IT support.
- Library costs also increased from 4 to 7k for library software (Presto) which will continue into next year.
- Overall there was a small loss ignoring the Heslop bequest.
- The 85k share portfolio from Roger Heslop was realised and \$50,000 reinvested in the Australian Communities Foundation fund named "*The GSV Family History Research and Education Fund*".
- We are still facing difficulties with the membership diminishing.
- We have a one year lease option which will hopefully be taken up and perhaps extended depending on the terms at the time.

Question from Clive Luckman: Worst case scenario if we have to move, which takes time, how much time do we have? Stephen explained that we have this one year of the option term to find new premises. Clive also mentioned the ups and downs of the finances although the underlying revenue is membership which is still falling. David wishes for a positive result and Stephen would like to see younger members.

It was moved by Stephen Hawke and seconded by Peter Johnston that the Audited Financial Report for 2018-19 be adopted. **Carried**

5. Appointment of Auditor

It was moved by Stephen Hawke and seconded by Claire Johnson that Asparq be appointed as auditors for the financial year ended 30 June 2020. **Carried**

6. Election of Office Bearers and Councillors

John Blackwood, the appointed Returning Officer advised that in accordance with the Rules, at least half of the 16 Council positions were now vacant. There are 9 positions currently available to be filled. John read out the names of the continuing Councillors. There were 5 nominations received for the positions listed in the AGM Notice and Agenda, he read out the nominations received and as the number of vacancies exceeds the number of nominations received, he declared them duly elected. Applause. John spoke about the role of Council. He then called for further nominations from the floor for the remaining 4 positions, each for a term of 2 years. There was a further nomination from the floor: Stephen Hawke nominated Janice Bayley seconded by Jenny Redman. **Carried**

The newly elected Councillors are as follows: Peter Johnston (Vice President), Vicki Montgomery (Secretary), and Councillors: Michael Rumpff, Margaret McLaren, Leonie Loveday (1 year term) and Jan Bayley (1 year term).

Jenny Redman thanked John for presiding over the election.

7. Society Honours

7.1 Fellowship. Jenny Redman announced the nomination for the award of a Fellowship to Claire Johnson. Jenny read out Claire's citation. Jenny proposed that Claire Johnson be made a Fellow of the GSV. Seconded by David Down. **Carried**

7.2 Certificates of Appreciation

Jenny announced that the following people were awarded a Certificate of Appreciation for their major contribution to the society: Kathleen Baker, Peter Collins, Mark Harry and John Stanford. The recipient in attendance, John Stanford, was presented with his certificate to the acclaim of all present. The others will be presented at the end of year Volunteers' function.

7.3 GSV Writing Prize

A prize of a 6 month subscription to ancestry.com donated by Ancestry was awarded by Martin Playne to Victoria Spicer as runner-up for her story *Finding Johanna*. Martin announced the winner was Louise Wilson for her article on *Masters of the road* about the Royal Mail in the 1790s. The winner's prize is a 12 month subscription to ancestry.com plus a DNA Kit also donated by Ancestry.com. Louise's article will be published in the December issue of *Ancestor*. The judges were impressed by the standard of entries. This year's was opened up to members of our Member Societies. Jenny mentioned that the circle provides professional coaching.

8. General Business: None

9. Next AGM: to be held on Saturday 3rd October 2020 at 2pm.

10. Close: Jenny Redman thanked all for their attendance and invited them to stay for refreshments. She closed the meeting at 2pm