

Minutes of General Meeting held on Thursday 3 December 2020 at the Belrose Uniting Church

Introduction

President and covid marshal Terry called the meeting to order and welcomed everyone back to the church. He explained that church covid rules required everyone to wear masks and that some members who had not registered for the meeting on time had to look into the meeting from outside. There will be no more book club as there was difficulty in disposing of surplus books. He explained that all long tours have been cancelled and thanked Russell Allsop for his work in processing the cancellations which have been brought about by covid.

Happy birthdays were read out and are in the December newsletter. 50th wedding anniversaries are not expected in December

Secretary report

Geoff Jones said that there was little to report to the meeting at that time although further explanations were later required, for details please read on.

Treasurer's Report

Chris Wood explained that club funds were currently \$13,955, the only income being less than \$1 for bank interest. He asked that any expenses requiring reimbursement be submitted soon as the books will soon be closed for the end of financial year on 31 December 2020 and the accounts are kept on the cash basis. Susan Allsop asked if \$25 for the hire of the hall had been included in the \$13,955.

Chris explained that the \$159 in this month's account related only to the hire of the Forestville Community Hall. We agreed to pay the Church a "retainer" of \$25 per month for the time that we were not meeting there and this would be taken up in this year's accounts.

Susan also asked why the full treasurers report was not included in the last general committee meeting minutes.

Note from Secretary.

Chris had submitted the full report and I decided not to include the full report but to include a summary of the essential points instead. The reason for this is that I have found in over 50 years as a chartered accountant that very few people are interested in detailed reports and that a summary communicates the essential information better to a group. If anyone wants the detailed report, please contact me.

Social Activities

Liz Pawsey reminded us of the Christmas lunch on 11 December and that because of C19 changes more of us can attend and so all members on the waiting list can now attend and pay for the privilege by EFT. When you get to the venue please collect your badge and go to your table and sit down. Wine at the table will be provided. Spirits can be ordered but must be paid for by card, no cash at the table

Welfare

Robyn Wood reported that Ross Kempshall is in rehab at Mona Vale and that there are several new knees in the membership. There are sadly some members and partners suffering from dementia and doing it tough. Robyn is looking into the possibility of obtaining a speaker from Dementia Australia.

Tours and Outings

John Robinson told us of the Life of Riley tour which is fully booked and that there is a waiting list. The Mona Vale picnic is on in January and at the Art Gallery of NSW the Arthur Streeton retrospective trip is scheduled for February. Tour details are in the December newsletter

Long tours

Russell sent the following email which outlines the situation

You saw from my private email, my submission in November to the Club Committee and I have now received advice that Committee have decided to no longer approve the 2021 Croatia Tour as a Club activity. This step is taken in the interests of travellers' well-being and to avoid possible forfeiture of any further deposits.

This email is released to assist you to decide your own preference and to now make known newly advised means of carrying forward your deposits in a few different ways.

The considerations for you are now:

1. Follow the Committee decision and withdraw from any 2021 and also anything in 2022. This will forfeit 100% of deposits paid by intended travellers in 2019 for the 2020 tour. This is very regrettable but we were all well aware of this possibility some time ago.
2. Follow the Committee decision and withdraw from the 2021 Club tour but migrate to one of the options now expressed in Beyond Travel email dated 1st December 2020 – attached in pdf form. There are qualifications in the pdf but you do have new and broader possibilities available where your \$700 can be used.

I invite you to now make a comment to me as to your general intention – i.e. 1. stop all interest or 2. that you might wish to explore an alternative noted by Rosemary. You do not need to commit to a precise alternative right now.

So that our original 2021 tour can be cancelled and reserved cabins put back on sale, I will convey a summarised position once I have your feedback.

From there on it will probably be a matter for couples or individuals to follow through directly with Beyond Travel over time.

Depending on how close you have stayed to this unfolding, I am happy to chat to you to explain any points if you wish to call. I will not be at the coming December general meeting or Christmas function.

My records: Just to make you aware, since I have collected 'personal information' to support your participation in the original 2020 tour, after this stage progresses during December, all such information in my files will be deleted.

Regards, Russell

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Guest speakers

Jan Staniland was unable to attend and President Terry gave her report:

14 January Ian Thompson retired scientist to talk on researching family history

11 February Greg de More psychiatrist to talk on Tom Wills and his involvement with the first aboriginal cricket team's successful visit to England in 1868

Membership

Tony Lovett said the membership numbers remained unchanged @ 127 with three new members to be inducted when Covid restrictions ease.

He reminded members to read the newsletter and check meeting registration requirements.

Scrapbooking

Liz Pawsey said that this is no longer an official Probus function. However she said that scrapbooking will restart in February at the folly and we should email her if we wish to attend and join Liz and her friends.

Entertainment

Warwick Brady gave his usual comprehensive and entertaining report which is in the newsletter and will be updated as necessary with broadcasts

Newsletter

Geoff Jones thanked members for their contributions, articles, jokes and cartoons and said that the deadline for the January 2021 newsletter is 27 December

General business

Susan Allsop said that details of capitation fees for 2021 should have been received. However there does not appear to be any sign of them. Our excellent treasurer is following this up.

President Terry said that the committee had decided to close the club's Post Office Box and share the PO Box of Belrose Rotary. The PO box rental is \$134 per year and is due for renewal early in 2021. It was noted there was only one item of correspondence received in November and this was a circular and that correspondence is now generally received via email. Susan said that she disagreed with this decision and that the club should keep control of the correspondence.

Comment from the Secretary

The correspondence would appear to be under control. There have been only 3 items of correspondence received in the mailbox since June

Minutes of the general meeting held on 13 November were circulated to the meeting. Susan Alsopp said that the minutes should have been posted on the club website for members to read.

Comment from the Secretary

This did not happen. The procedure is for general meeting minutes to be finalised by the committee at the following committee meeting. This was done. However, I was away and did not attend the meeting and the minutes were not posted to the website. Fortunately, Susan noticed this egregious secretarial omission which is being rectified. It is possible that as the minutes were circulated at the meeting many more members read them than would have logged onto the website to do so. At the next meeting I shall bring several copies of the minutes so that they can be circulated for reading by the members who did not look for them on the website where the minutes will be posted

Morning tea break – but no morning tea and no mingling

Guest speaker

President Terry gave a fascinating talk about Mark Foy (1860-1950), a colourful business identity, ladies' man, inventor and the founder of the Sydney Flying Squadron in 1890 where Terry is Vice Commodore and races the 18ft skiffs on the harbour and, where Barley is the safety officer who follows the race driving the safety boat and helping capsized boat crew and on occasions a capsized and wet Terry.

Next general Meeting

This is scheduled for Thursday 14 January 2021 at the church

President Terry wished everyone a happy Christmas and a happy and healthy New Year.

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Signed Terry Stewart - President

Date.....