

**MINUTES OF THE 47<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING  
QUEEN STREET & WEST WOOLLAHRA ASSOCIATION  
Tuesday 8th June, 2021  
Woollahra Hotel, Woollahra**

**Meeting Opened:** 6.00pm

**Present:** Committee members Giles Edmonds, Alan Smith, Richard Banks, Susie Willmott, John Knott, Phillip Mitchelhill, Christine Whiston, Richard Haigh and 90 local resident & business members.

**Apologies:** Mayor Susan Wynne and State MP Gabrielle Upton and other QSWWA members.

**Welcome and President's Report:**

GE opened the meeting mentioning that this is the first AGM for 2 years due to the Covid pandemic. Welcomed guests Craig Swift-McNair, WMC general manager. Joining later in the evening Federal Member Dave Sharma and Crs Anthony Murano and Luise Elsing.

There are three special resolutions proposed, for minor changes to constitution, which will be considered later in the meeting.

After the formal part of the meeting concludes, it is intended to be a social occasion and opportunity for members to reconnect after Covid restrictions.

As of today, are approx. 155 voting members, both business & resident. Thanks to Alister Campbell and Woollahra Hotel for hosting, for their support over the past couple of years, and for providing a complimentary drink for attendees tonight.

Due to the pandemic, there was no AGM for 2020, so GE summarised events from 2019 first, noting that the past two years were of mixed fortune for the association. The low point was the unexpected passing of association President, Ken Gresham in October 2019. Ken joined the committee in 1991 and was president for many years, a passionate member and larger than life personality. GE acknowledged the attendance of Sara, Ken's widow, and thanked her for attending.

2019 annual dinner in July and Christmas carols were successful events for that year. Also successful was the Paint Queen Street competition, with over 100 artworks submitted. Many thanks to Woollahra Council for supporting with a placemaker grant, Woollahra Hotel for hosting, and committee member John Knott for organizing and driving the event forward.

Due to covid restrictions, there was no AGM, annual dinner or Christmas carols event for 2020. Instead, it was decided to hold a Covid-friendly Christmas window display competition for local businesses. Over 70 businesses entered, which helped to lift spirits and hopefully increase business after a tough year. There was much positive feedback. GE thanked WMC for assisting with Christmas lights and the participating businesses. Also, Martin Cohen of Woollahra Philharmonic Orchestra and Jane Greg for organising musicians and carol singers. WMC is considering installing permanent festive lighting.

The pandemic has caused significant financial impact on the association, resulting in a loss of \$11,000 in 2020. This was due to a decrease in revenue from Carols event, a drop in advertising revenue from the

Village Voice and costs associated with the Christmas window display competition. The association hopes to break even this coming financial year.

The association is planning this year to hold another window display competition. The annual dinner to be held in September and Carols as usual in December.

The Village Voice has been updated to look more contemporary, be easier to read and therefore more attractive to advertisers. VV is a powerful connection to the community with a print run of 5000 per edition. Also upgrading online presence, with a new website to be launched in next few weeks. Ability to book events and pay for membership on line, view past issues of VV and photographs of past events. Also plan to raise Instagram profile, and a new committee member Steph Macindoe will help with this. Planning underway for 2022, being the fiftieth anniversary of the association, with more special events.

Finally, GE thanked Mayor Susan Wynne for her support, and also Crs Murano, Elsing & McEwen, and WMC general manager Craig Swift-McNair. Also thanked new VV editor Christine Whiston & her team for professionally updating VV. Thanks to Eric Scott for being production manager and photographer of VV for past 7 years. Thanked VV advertisers, and finally the committee including members who have resigned or who are not standing again.

GE mentioned copies of the history of Woollahra book are available for purchase, and that author Luise Elsing is in attendance and able to sign copies.

#### **Minutes of Previous AGM (2019):**

Copies of these were distributed. Proposed as a correct record by AS, seconded by Johnathan Ind.

#### **Financial Report and Appointment of Auditor:**

Treasurer Alan Smith introduced himself, welcomed special guests and acknowledged ongoing support of Woollahra Council. Thanked Gary Williams of Rosenfeld, Kant & Company for auditing the accounts. Audited financial details were circulated. Majority of funding is from residential & business membership. Thanked Peter Gibson for managing the website, especially for business members and for Christine Whiston as editor of VV, improving its size and content. A number of events had to be cancelled due to the pandemic, resulting in a loss of \$11,073 this financial year, as mentioned in the president's report. Full details are in the circulated financial records.

AS proposed that the audited financial report be accepted, and that Rosenfelt, Kant & Company be appointed auditors again. This was accepted.

Thanked Mary Read for her support of the association and keeping the community informed through posts on Woollahra Facebook page. Thanked outgoing directors Ian Mansell & Phillip Mitchelhill. Welcomed 3 new directors, Richard Haigh, Christine Whiston and Steph McIndoe.

#### **Special resolutions:**

Three proposed resolutions have been previously sent to members and copies made available at the meeting. Briefly the changes are that:

- 1: One does not have to reside in QSWWA geographic area to be a committee member.
- 2: One needs to be a member of QSWWA to be a committee member.
- 3: Should an office bearer's position become vacant during the term, the committee has the power to appoint a current committee member to that position.

All resolutions passed unanimously.

#### **Election of Office Bearers and Directors:**

There were eight nominations: Giles Edmonds, president; Alan Smith, treasurer; Richard Banks, secretary. The other committee members being Susie Willmott, John Knott, Christine Whiston, Steph Mcindoe, Richard Haigh. All were declared elected, as the number of nominees did not exceed the maximum number of positions available.

#### **Open Forum & General Business:**

Mary Read spoke from the floor. She mentioned that it was great to finally have a Woollahra Council general manager that is engaging with the local Woollahra community. Especially so, as QSWWA has been supported by Council, but not formally recognised.

A new Woollahra resident mentioned that on page 95 of the history of Queen Street book it states that Queen Street is amongst the five best streets in the world, and wonders if this is still the case. GE suggested he discuss with the author Luise Elsing after the meeting concludes.

**Meeting closed:** 6.35pm