



Minutes

The Annual General Meeting of Marriage Celebrants Australia (Inc)

19th July 2020

Members attending

Present: Sally Allomes, Dawn Besley, Julie Carlton, William Chi, Oriel Clarke, Fay Davidson, Jody De Graaf, Joe Delle Donne, John Dendy, Jennifer Devine, Pauline Ferreri, Stanley Gibbs, Ellis Godwin, Dorothy Harrison, Lynette Jacobs, Camille Le Geois, Jackie Mc Burney, David Nelson, Kathy Newport, Janet Parsons-Smith, Pauline Salmon, Balbir Singh Chris Stott, Anne Tijou, Colleen Warrener, Sharon Young, Binni Manchanda, Heather Wilson

Apologies: Elaine Riley, Robert Gesmundo, Maureen Meredith, Jenny Lynch, Ricky Watkins, Traian Troaca

Meeting was declared open by the President at 09:15

The Annual General Meeting (AGM) was delayed and special permission had been granted under the rules of the act governing Associations, to grant an extension due to the Covid 19 lock down and isolation

1. Minutes of the 2019 Annual General Meeting confirmed as an accurate and true record as attached

Moved: Dorothy Harrison

Seconded: William Chi

Carried: All

2. Business arising from minutes

No business arising

3. President's report

President report read for the year 2019-2020. A full report is attached to these minutes.

The President reported this year (2020) was considerably more difficult than last year

The new Treasurer, Janette Parsons-Smith initially started her post whilst living in Karratha but has managed to take over and update the system and opened new bank accounts to ensure the smooth running of the accounts.

- The President thanked the Executive Officer and Treasurer for the time and energy they had put into the smooth running of this transitional period.
- We have had very few functions this year because of Covid 19 but what functions we have had have been particularly useful for those members who had attended.
- The President asked that members pay their fees on time, 1st April, April Fool's Day, as President was still chasing people to pay their fees the day before the AGM.
- Paying into our account directly was the best and most efficient way of paying subs.
- Due to the lack of weddings performed because of social distancing regulations and numbers of participants at weddings, we have managed to maintain contact through Facebook, Slack Forum, (set up by the Executive Officer) and a new Website. It was reported that it had taken time for members to sign up to and engage in these new communication tools but slowly but surely this was happening.

President encouraging us to stay current and engage using these tools! Those members unable to attend the AGM, had the opportunity to join us via Zoom and had the opportunity to use proxy voting rights.

- One New change to the constitution, Classes of Membership, Clause 2 **A**, was to allow and invite **State Registered Celebrants** to belong to the association. These are religious celebrants that find it particularly useful to attend OPD's and Forums as they do not have resources to draw upon and stay current with celebrant issues.

There being no questions, the President's 2018-2019 report was accepted.

Moved: Dorothy Harrison

Seconded: Joe Della Donne

Carried All

4. Treasurer's Report

The Treasurer Janette Parsons-Smith presented the financial reports which were awaiting a final signature by the auditor. A copy of the report is attached to these minutes.

- Reported MCA Bank accounts looking healthy considering the financial climate that we presently live under with Covid 19. A new MYOB accounting system had been installed.
- Treasurer encouraged members to attend functions put on by the association
- This past year we have seen 11 members resign; 25 members remain unpaid even though we do offer payment plans
- Auditor Margaret Thomas will sign off on our documents next week, as the Treasurer and Auditor had to meet after work and do things the old-fashioned way, as Margaret had not got an updated MYOB system.
- The Treasurer further reiterated that cheques would not be accepted by mail, but if individuals wanted to still use cheques then the best option was for them to go to a Westpac Bank and deposit the cheque themselves with appropriate Identification, Surname or invoice number so the monies can be correctly entered into the association books. If you are still getting reminders it is because your monies have not been identified!

Moved: Janette Parson-Smith

Seconded: Lynette Jacobs

Carried: All

5. COCA Report

Dorothy Harrison, National Representative a succinct report on the association dealings with the Coalition of Celebrant Associations (COCA). Whilst travel was restricted meetings still took place via the "Zoom" media.

- There is to be a review of the Marriage Act 1961, in particular, the language used, within the Act. There were indications that number of children indicated on the NOIM, and "talk" of Parents names being removed from the Notice of Intended Marriage. The feeling amongst COCA representatives and heavily supported by the public, was that this was an unwise move because of the loss of historical Genealogical information.
- The electronic sending/receiving of Nomination of Intended Marriage forms (NOIMS) and signatures via this medium is under review.
- Dorothy highlighted the benefits of being associated with COCA and the yearly cost involved (\$150) and for that, it was worthy being kept up to date with the Marriage Law and Celebrant's Section and new rules and changes that affected us as celebrants

- Dorothy indicated that COCA met twice a year and all representatives of associations and networks could attend. The benefit of this is, that COCA members have pre-discussed issues that can be raised, and therefore present a united front.

Moved: Dorothy Harrison

Seconded: Carolina Allen

Carried: All

6. Election of Officers

The Executive Officer, acting as the returning officer, read out the positions that had become vacant at the end of the 2019-2020 YEAR.

There were 5 position available. The nominations were sent to 141 members three times, plus two were mailed out. As of the 12th of July, 2020, five (5) nominations had been received to fill those positions that had become vacant.

President: Dorothy Harrison was nominated as President for a further term, seconded by Sally Allomes. The nomination being accepted by the Committee and there being no other nominees Dorothy Harrison was declared elected President of the Association.

Treasurer: Janette Parson-Smith was nominated as Treasurer for a further term seconded by Dawn Besley. The nomination being accepted by the Committee and there being no other nominees, Janette was declared Treasurer of the Association.

National Representative: Dorothy Harrison was nominated for the position of **National Representative** for a term, seconded by Kathy Newport. The nomination being accepted by the Committee and there being no other nominees Dorothy Harrison was declared **National Representative** of the Association.

Minute Secretary: John Dendy, was nominated for the position of Minute Secretary for a further term seconded by William Chi. The nomination being accepted by the Committee and there being no other nominees John Dendy was declared Minute Secretary of the Association.

Support officer: Jodie De Graaf, was nominated for the position of Support Officer by Dorothy Harrison, seconded by Fay Davidson. The nomination being accepted by the Committee and there being no other nominees Jodie De Graaf was declared a Support Officer of the Association.

7. Executive Officer report:

Fay Davidson gave a succinct report. A copy of her report is attached to these minutes

- Fay had tried to make a tally of the communication that had occurred between herself and members and when she had reached 2.5 thousand, she believed this was a good indicator that we communicated well.
- Executive Officer reiterated that it had been a difficult year and even to get badges made up because of business shutdowns, getting things done has been difficult and slow.
- A "Slack" App group forum had been created to replace the defunct "yahoo forum" following the advice of the technical people associated with us. This is a secure way of communicating
- We also have the Face Book page just as a discussion page.
- Fay highlighted the discounts provided to members by Registered Training Organisations and The Celebrant Suite
- The Association had managed to secure a 15% Discount off their standard rates through TFE group of Hotels. Further benefits to members were being sort.

- Fay indicated that the best way she had found communicating with members was through “mail chimp”.
- Moved: Fay Davidson
- Seconded: David Nelson
- Carried: All

8. Appointment of Auditor

The President pointed out we needed to appoint an auditor for the following financial year and recommended Margret Thomas. It was pointed out that Margret Thomas had been Auditor for the Association for the past 42 years. It was agreed that Margaret should be appointed auditor for the association, for a further year.

Moved Dorothy Harrison

Seconded by Janette Parson-Smith.

Carried All

In recognition of this Dawn Besley indicated, she, on behalf the Association and members, would be purchasing a gift to thank her for this service.

9. Notice of Motion to change clause 2a of the Associations rules:

Section 2 Classes of Membership to include State registered Celebrants was approved.

This will now read

2a. Subject to terms and conditions herein following, membership of the Association is open to Authorised Marriage Celebrants, appointed under the Marriage Act 1961, as amended from time to time.

Proposed by Dorothy Harrison

Seconded by Stanley Gibbs

Carried All

There being no further business the President thanked everyone for their attendance and declared the meeting closed at 0945am

Signed as an accurate record of the events and intentions of the Annual General Meeting 2020

Dorothy Harrison _____ Date _____ 2021

Janette Parson Smith _____ Date _____ 2021