

# WESTERN AUSTRALIAN GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY INC.

Twenty-eighth Annual General Meeting  
held on Sunday, 24<sup>th</sup> June 2007  
at the East Perth Railway Station, East Perth

## MINUTES

### 1.0 WELCOME

Thanking members for attending and welcoming them to this AGM, Ian Scott, President, opened the meeting at 1.35pm.

### 2.0 PRESENT Withheld

### 3.0 APOLOGIES Withheld

### 4.0 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING HELD 25 JUNE 2006

Minutes of the previous AGM held on Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> June 2006 were confirmed as a true and correct record.

**MOVED: Graham Bown**

**SECONDED: Brian Croker**

**CARRIED**

### 5.0 BUSINESS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES - NIL

After reading the Minutes, Management Committee was of the opinion that nothing required to be dealt with under this section, however, Members were invited to speak on any item they considered should be raised. Some items are covered later in the meeting.

### 6.0 PRESIDENT'S REPORT 2006-2007

President spoke to his report indicating that a busy year has been recorded which included setting the foundations for a range of changes that will prove to be most beneficial to present and future members. A key factor had been a stable and forward thinking management group as well as strong support from active sub-committees and individual members. (See pp12/13 of the AGM booklet). Several issues were highlighted:-

- Rearranging facilities after vacating Unit One has been successfully concluded.
- A great deal of work was already done several years ago on a Strategic Plan document but for a number of reasons matters had not been followed up. Therefore, drawing from a cross section of interests and responsibilities, changing priorities brought about by declining membership and the impact of improved technology forced a review of our strategic directions and these matters were considered at a group forum led by Mike Murray, last November. Nine areas were identified for immediate research and recommendation. Two key recommendations have been acted upon (a) purchase of an 'on-line' Library catalogue and (b) establishment of the 'Virtual WAGS' group to undertake research with the aim of upgrading our web site to cater for on-line payments for membership, book shop, course bookings and research for none members. Further information on these nine areas, together with actions to date, can be found at the conclusion of this report.
- Outside the strategic review another major initiative was the purchase of a web server and Bill Fleming has been very busy over the past two months in bringing that into commission. The server situation is that although WAGS bought the hardware, through the efforts of Bill Fleming and Martin Pinnell, WAGS has obtained a community sponsorship through IBM. This means that once the hardware is in place and established, IBM will help with software and training to ensure the computers are networked effectively. Bill Fleming has also negotiated to purchase five new computers that will replace the oldest of WAGS current equipment.
- With regard to restoration of the deteriorating historical material at the State Library (the HRRC Project), as at the end of April 586,000 pages of newspapers have been microfilmed, 52,000 photographic images and 95 film titles. A later report indicated that the newspapers are approximately 86% completed. Therefore, the original targets of the HRRC are on track and will exceed original expectations. The Committee, through the Friends of Battye and in liaison with the

State Library, are negotiating with Lotteries WA as to the possibility of further grants to save more documentation. It is important to mention that WAGS owes a vote of thanks to Lotteries for their \$3M grant as well as the State Library which has contributed over \$1M in kind by way of making space available, purchase of equipment and allowing staff to be available over and above the Project. (See p12 of the booklet).

- After twenty-one years, provision of Volunteers to the Genealogical section of the State Library continues, as does a close liaison between managerial staff, including Marilyn Dimond, and with the National Archives at Victoria Park, with personnel from both organisations attending meetings at the NAA and WAGS.
- Common goals were discussed at the Affiliated Societies AGM in Albany last July which was attended by several Management Committee members. Warren Blackwood has re-affiliated after twelve months absence and the Geraldton Family History Society has become affiliated bringing the total of country and near metropolitan societies affiliated with WAGS to eleven.

## 7.0 TREASURER'S REPORT FOR YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2007

Withheld.

## 8.0 SUB-COMMITTEE AND OTHER REPORTS – AS PRESENTED

President drew attention to the reports from Sub-Committees, Special Interest Groups and WAGS House Groups, at pp16-32 of the AGM booklet, viz:

Sub-Committee	Convenor	Page
AFFHO	Margaret Hickey	No report
Archives	Vacant	No report
Awards	Pauline Pryer	17
Computer Systems	Bill Fleming	17
Education	Janet Revill	18
Historical	Vacant	No report
Internet	Marilyn Dimond	19
Liaison – Affiliated Organisations & Groups	Liana Fitzpatrick	20
Library	Edwina Shooter	21
Membership UPDATE: Currently, a fraction more than last year.	Jean Pearce (Asst. M'ship. Officer)	22
Operations	John Cannon	No report
Projects UPDATE: Higher backed chairs requested, especially for Computers 5 & 6 – OS&H issue.	Vacant	22
Property	Lawrence Doran	23
Public Relations	Vacant	23
Publications	Lyn Watt	24
Research	Jane Innes	24
WAGS Vols/SLWA Genealogy Centre UPDATE: Appreciation extended to all the volunteers listed in the last paragraph of the report.	Marilyn Dimond	25
<b>Special Interest Groups</b>		
Computer	Mike Murray & Lesley Sylvester	26
Convict	Audrey Holland	27

Enrolled Pensioner Guards	Jean McDonald	27
Irish	Heather Pizzino	28
London & Home Counties	Mike Murray & Lesley Sylvester	28
North of England	Al Jones & Chris Cooper	29
Scottish	Margaret Pike	29
South Australian	Ian Simon	No report
South Western European	Shirley Babis	No report
Swan River Pioneers 1829 – 1838	Lyn Coy	30
The Master Genealogist	Cynthia Brock & Neil Bradley	31
Victorian	Keith Fellowes	31

#### **WAGS House Groups**

Armadale District		No report
Eastern Hills	Edwina Shooter & Diana Boxall	32
Northern Suburbs		No report
South of the River	Lee-Ann Atkinson	32
Western Suburbs	Gill Piper	No report

### **9.0 BUSINESS ON NOTICE – MOTION**

#### **9.1 Proposal for new membership category of ‘Internet Member’**

“6. (1) (g) **Internet Member:** This class shall be open to all persons interested in internet access to the Society’s resources, under conditions of membership determined by the management committee.”

The above motion was put by proposer John Cannon. However, as the Meeting considered that conditions of membership should be determined by WAGS members rather than the Management Committee alone, it was not supported. After further considerable discussion, it was

**MOVED**

**That this AGM directs the Management Committee to produce explanations, definitions and conditions for a class of Internet Member, to be presented to either a Special General Meeting or at the next Annual General Meeting, in order to consider changing the Constitution.**

**MOVER:** Ian Barnes

**SECONDER:** Margaret Hickey

**CARRIED**

### **10.0 ELECTION OF NEW MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE 2007-2008**

#### **10.1 Nominations received by the due date for the following positions:**

President	Ian Scott
Vice President	Margaret Hickey
Vice President	Vacant
Librarian	Edwina Shooter
Treasurer	Vacant
Secretary	Karen Tregenza
Publications Officer	Lyn Watt
Projects Officer	Vacant
Property Officer	Lawrence Doran
Liaison Officer	Liana Fitzpatrick

Committee Members: Bevan Kerr  
Margaret Pike  
Janet Revill  
Myra Tomkinson

The above members were declared elected.

**10.2 Expressions of Interest of suitably qualified persons to be called from the floor for vacant positions:**

**10.2.1 Treasurer**

No nominations were received. Don Heerey agreed to continue for a short time as Acting Treasurer. To be considered further by the Management Committee.

**10.2.2 Vice President (1)**

Margaret Pike declined Bill Fleming's nomination. To be considered further by the Management Committee.

**10.2.3 Project Officer**

As there were no other nominees for this position, Ian Barnes' late nomination was accepted.

**MOVED**

**That Ian Barnes be appointed as Project Officer.**

**MOVER:** Edwina Shooter

**SECONDER:** Margaret Hickey

**CARRIED**

**10.3 Introduction of new Committee for 2007-2008**

Ian Scott advised that, in compliance with the Constitution, the ensuing year would be his final as President; therefore it would be necessary for members to identify and nominate a suitable member for President by the next AGM.

Management Committee members for 2007-2008 were then introduced to the meeting.

**11.0 APPOINTMENT OF AUDITORS**

**MOVED**

**That Anderson Munro & Wyllie be appointed as the Society's Auditors for 2007-2008.**

**MOVER:** John Carter

**SECONDER:** Cherie Strickland

**CARRIED**

**12.0 PRESENTATION OF AWARDS**

**12.1 Special Interest Group Service Awards**

Helen Pearce (Member No. 1895)

Helen receives this award as a member of the Victorian Special Interest Group for her work with the Port Phillip Pioneers – an extension of the Victorian Group. Helen took over as rep of the Port Phillip Pioneers in 1994 from the original reps and continued in the role until 1999. She has always been a stalwart member of the Victorian Group and still attends. Helen is unable to attend the AGM because of a prior family commitment.

Joan Anderson (Member No. 566)

Joan receives this award for her work as a member of the Victorian Special Interest Group. Joan is an inaugural member of this group which was formed in 1986. She was the 'LEGS' rep from 1988 to 2001 and chaired the Victorian Group meetings when the convenor was away in 1999. Over the years Joan has been a regular contributor and is still an active member of this group today.

**13.0 ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

**13.1 Report of the Direction Setting Workshop:**

The President indicated that the following matters had arisen out of the review of the Strategic Plan of several years ago and that a lot of hard work by Volunteers had made the task of the new group simpler although the Management Committee was aware that some members felt that little or no progress had been made. However, a number of issues had been, or were in the process of being finalised.

**13.1.1 Change of Name**

During the year, the Secretary, Karen Tregenza, had prepared a questionnaire, and collated responses, as to whether Members considered a change of name appropriate. A total of 657 replies were received, 130 voted for change; 511 voted for no change and 16 were undecided. Therefore, the Management Committee, at its last meeting, had resolved that no further action be taken. This matter is now completed.

**13.1.2 Review WAGS Location**

This matter is ongoing. During the year, Ian Scott, President, was invited to be a member of the Building Sub-committee of the Royal Western Australian Historical Society (Inc.) whose building in Nedlands, although valuable, had become unsuitable due to its limited size and location. In conjunction, WAGS and the RWAHS have applied to the Lotteries Commission for a grant towards the cost of a feasibility study to ascertain the benefits of sharing a joint location. Ian emphasised that nothing further would be contemplated without reference to Members. This matter is ongoing.

**13.1.3 Appoint a Public Relations Co-ordinator**

Management actively continues to seek a PR Co-ordinator. In the meantime, two people willing to set up displays have come forward. This matter is ongoing.

**13.1.4 Online Catalogue**

During the year, Management had approved the purchase of a new automated programme known as 'ALICE' that would carry out all the activities required to update and cater for the change-over of library resources to the Dewey System which is expected to be completed by the end of the year. It will then be possible for Members to access the library catalogue from home. This matter is now completed.

**13.1.5 LDS Agency**

It is expected that a twelve month contract to take over the LDS film agency with existing facilities, will be signed shortly. Administration will be undertaken by a WAGS Volunteer. This matter is now completed.

**13.1.6 Training for Volunteers**

Several training sessions for volunteers have been completed this year.

**13.1.7 Library Guest Vouchers and Reduced Visitors Fees**

Instead of reducing Visitor fees, a proposal that two Library Vouchers be mailed with 2007/08 membership cards to each financial WAGS member had been adopted by the Management Committee with the objective of increasing WAGS awareness within the community and in the hope of increasing membership. To date, approximately thirty Vouchers have been presented. This matter is now completed.

**13.1.8 Library Hours**

A review by Edwina Shooter and Margaret Pike indicated there should be no change to the current Library hours and in response to a question from the floor as to when this matter would be reviewed again, Ian advised that so far as the Management Committee were concerned, this issue was completed.

**13.1.9 Move to Virtual WAGS**

Mike Murray gave a verbal report indicating that the benefits of converting to a 'virtual' website will be most effective once Stage 3 has been completed. Most genealogical societies were now turning to this method of access for their members as well as offering limited access to non-members, and those who did not follow this trend would continue to suffer declining memberships. Discussions had taken place with the WA Justice Department for a link from the WAGS website for on-line access to WA Births/Marriages/Deaths records. This matter is ongoing.

## 13.2 Notices

### **Treasures Roadshow – Sunday 15 July 2007 1pm to 5pm**

Anyone seeking an expert opinion on their treasured possessions should attend this event hosted by the State Library of WA and located on the Mezzanine floor. Experts attending will be Janet Muir of Robert Muir Old and Rare Books, for paper-based items such as books, letters, diaries and photographs, and Wayne Gardiner of Wayne Gardiner & Associates Valuers for portable objects, militaria and other memorabilia.

### **National Family History Week – 4<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> August 2007**

Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> August 10am to 4pm - Open Day at the State Library in conjunction with WAGS, National Archives and State Records Office. Computer Group will be taking over the first floor.  
Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> August - LDS Seminar at Warwick at which WAGS will have a reduced presence in view of the prohibition placed on the sale of any type of resources at the Seminar.  
Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> August - Open Day at WAGS, to be publicised.  
Log on to [www.familyhistoryweek.org.au](http://www.familyhistoryweek.org.au) for more information.

### **National Archives of Australia Wednesday - 27<sup>th</sup> June 2007 at 10.30am – 12.00 noon**

Postmaster-General's Department records – seminar and tour

### **Australian – Irish Heritage Association - Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> July 2007 at 2pm**

The Mary Durack Memorial Lecture,. Lecture Theatre, Notre Dame University, Mount St, Fremantle. Speaker: Peter Sharkey, retired President of WA Industrial Relations Commission, Judge of the Supreme Court of Western Australia. Topic: The Irish in Australia: The Personal Perspective of a Descendant. All welcome. Further information Patrick Coughlan 9367 5737.

## 14.0 CLOSURE OF MEETING

Before closing the meeting, the President requested that any latecomers kindly see Jean Pearce so that she could ensure their name was included on the list of attendees.

On behalf of the Management Committee, the President expressed sincere thanks to all Volunteers who had worked to ensure another successful AGM. Thanks also to retiring members of the Committee; Don Heerey, Treasurer, and Pauline Pryer, Vice-President who had previously undertaken the role of Acting Treasurer as well as assisting Don during the past twelve months. Although not present at the meeting, the work of Laurie Price, former Liaison Officer, was acknowledged.

Ian Scott - President

Karen Tregenza - Secretary