

WESTERN AUSTRALIAN GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY INC.

Twenty-ninth Annual General Meeting
held on Sunday, 29th June 2008
at the East Perth Railway Station, East Perth

MINUTES

1.0 WELCOME

Welcoming and thanking members for attending the AGM, Ian Scott, President, opened the meeting at 1.30pm.

2.0 PRESENT - See Appendix A for listing

3.0 APOLOGIES – See Appendix B for listing

In addition to the list of apologies read out by the Secretary, Bev Russell's apologies were received. It was noted that Jeanette Robinson was present and should therefore, be deleted from the list of apologies.

4.0 MINUTES OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 24TH JUNE 2007

RESOLVED: That the Minutes of the previous AGM held on Sunday 24^h June 2007 be confirmed as a true and correct record.

MOVED: Don Heerey

SECONDED: Graham Bown

CARRIED

5.0 BUSINESS ARISING FROM MINUTES

5.1 VIRTUAL WAGS

Report later in the meeting, see Item 13.0

5.2 WAGS SERVERS

Progress on the Servers has been included in the Computer Systems report from Bill Fleming. Questions were invited from the floor to be answered by either the President or Bill Fleming.

5.3 HRRC PROJECT

The restoration of seriously deteriorating historical WA material held in the State Library is now complete and this very successful project has now been wound up. President will write an article for the next edition of the *Western Ancestor*.

5.4 INTERNET MEMBERSHIP

Members were reminded that at the last AGM this topic received vigorous debate resulting in a resolution that the Management Committee provide a definition as to what was required, as it related to planning at that stage. However, after speaking with the Virtual Wags team, Internet Membership was not considered a necessity and the topic has been allowed to lapse.

Members were invited to raise any other queries they may have regarding last year's AGM Minutes – none received.

6.0 PRESIDENT'S 2007-08 REPORT

President spoke to his report highlighting a number of matters, viz:

- Consolidation of initiatives decided at the Group Forum in November 2006, see list below.
- Although a small increase, it was pleasing to note that membership decline has been arrested. It is important to continue promoting the benefits of WAGS membership to the wider community to maintain membership levels and associated income.
- The Library catalogue and the Server are both in the final stages of completion. This has been a huge task and it is clear that the tremendous work undertaken by the volunteers involved, ie Bill Fleming's

group, Cynthia Brock's group and Chris Loudon, in bringing both projects to their conclusion was underestimated. Benefits of the upgraded Server and the linked Library Catalogue in the Dewey system, will be felt within a few months.

- President has regularly received acknowledgement from the SLWA staff and Margaret Allen, for the tremendous work of volunteer provision and support over twenty one years by Marilyn Dimond and her group in the State Library.
- Close liaison with the National Archives at Victoria Park continues.
- Support for WAGS Affiliated Societies continues and a group of our Management Committee members attend their Annual Meeting each year which the Affiliated Societies organise.
- National Family History Week 2 – 10 August will not be quite the same at the State Library this year but there will be plenty of opportunities for WAGS to promote itself through presentations and an Open Day at WAGS on Sunday 10 August.
- A Feasibility Study supported by a Lottery West Grant, between ourselves and the RWAHSoc to examine the possibility of the two bodies sharing facilities whilst keeping their own identities and to ascertain potential options.
- In the absence of a suitably qualified volunteer to carry out the task of Treasurer last year, a part-time Accountant was employed to supervise WAGS finances. See also Treasurer's Report.
- President expressed his appreciation to Peg Carter; Jeanne Illes; Jane Innes; Janet Revill; Val Runham, and Gwen Treasure, retired volunteers, who, over a long period of time, some since 1979 when WAGS started, undertook a considerable amount of work for WAGS.
- On behalf of WAGS, President thanked all members of the Management team and other volunteers who assist in the servicing of the Library, carrying out Society administration and those involved in various sub-committees, special interest groups and suburban groups.

Item	Initiative	Result
1	Change the Society name	Taking note of members' wishes, Management has confirmed there will be no change in the name of our Society.
2	Review WAGS Location	The Royal WA Historical Society and WAGS have received the results of the Lotteries funded Feasibility Study which found that unless either generous government or private funding of joint premises can be achieved, all bodies will remain in their present situations. See separate report at item 11.0.
3	Move to Virtual WAGS	Development of the Website is still proceeding, including the introduction of on-line payment of membership and book-shop trading. See separate report 13.0.
4	Appoint a PR Co-ordinator	We still do not have a PR Coordinator. Anyone who feels they have the ability or know someone else who does, are invited to apply.
5	On-line Library catalogue	Work is well under way changing our cataloguing system to Dewey, and making preparations to go on-line. This is now expected to be completed by the end of 2008.
6	LDS Film Agency	Following a number of administrative delays, this service has recently commenced. The first order has been lodged. Not yet promoting to the public although members of the public are welcome to use it. Initially WAGS members are encouraged to utilise the service although, at the present time, readers are limited.
7	Library Guest Vouchers	This proved to be very successful in attracting new members and Management agreed to continue the initiative where each financial member will receive two 'free' guest vouchers for use by friends or family.

**7.0 TREASURER'S REPORT FOR YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH, 2008
DELETED**

RESOLVED: That the President's and Financial Reports be received.

MOVED: John Carter

SECONDED: Chris Loudon

CARRIED

8.0 SUB-COMMITTEE AND OTHER REPORTS – AS PRESENTED

Sub-committee Convenors were invited to speak to their Reports as published in the AGM booklet.

Awards

Edwina Shooter, Librarian, indicated that the Awards exist for Members to recognise volunteers who have undertaken work for the benefit of the Society and it is hoped that more nominations will be received in the future.

Library

Edwina drew attention to her report in which she indicated there are nine bays of books left to re-catalogue; this is down to six and a half and almost 10,000 bar code labels have been put on books in the Library. When this project has been completed people will be able to search for even small places that have not previously been identified and will prove to be of great benefit. Those books that have not yet been re-catalogued due to time constraints will be re-visited and it is expected that all books will be searchable on-line from home by the end of the year.

Public Relations

Liana Fitzpatrick advised that although there has not been a specific Public Relations person again during the past year, she has undertaken a number of duties that would fall within this category, ie National Archives, State Library, 'Have A Go Day', newspaper articles, etc. However, a volunteer who felt they could take on this role, which is not onerous, would mean that WAGS could be represented at local community events and adverts could be placed in appropriate newspapers in a timely manner. Anyone who is interested should speak with Liana who will provide additional details.

Research

Margaret Hickey advised that although there are three excellent volunteers looking after research enquiries a Co-ordinator is urgently required.

WAGS 30th Anniversary

A small committee is currently working on arrangements for 30th Anniversary celebrations and these will be published in the December *Western Ancestor*.

Enrolled Pensioner Guards

Ian Barnes, Projects Officer, echoed Liana and Margaret's call for more volunteers who could assist with the various roles advertised.

After Ron Sutton retired, Jean McDonald took on the role in an Acting capacity to stop the group closing, and a special thanks was due to her, but as Jean herself had now retired a new Convenor was needed.

Ian encouraged Members to 'apply' to fill the advertised vacancies indicating that the work was not hugely time consuming or onerous but assistance is urgently required.

Computer Systems

Bill Fleming thanked all those people who had assisted him during the year, particularly Chris Loudon.

9.0 BUSINESS ON NOTICE - NIL

10.0 ELECTION OF NEW MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

Nominations had been received by the due date for the positions as listed on the agenda. President advised that whilst those nominated were excellent persons to undertake the roles for which they were nominated it was disappointing that elections would not be necessary as generally, elections provide an indication of the strength of an organisation.

10.1 NOMINATIONS RECEIVED FOR THE FOLLOWING POSITIONS:

Position	Nominee	Result at AGM
President	Liana Fitzpatrick	Elected unopposed
Vice-President	Margaret Hickey	Elected unopposed
Vice-President	No nomination received	Vacant – Management Committee to fill.
Treasurer	No nomination received	Vacant – Qualified Accountant required.
Secretary	Karen Tregenza	Elected unopposed
Librarian	Edwina Shooter	Elected unopposed
Publications Officer	Lyn Watt	Elected unopposed
Property Officer	Lawrence Doran	Elected unopposed
Liaison Officer	Liana Fitzpatrick	As the AGM confirmed Liana as President she withdrew her nomination for this position. Nominations were then called from the floor.
Projects Officer	Ian Barnes	Elected unopposed
Committee Member	Margaret Pike	Elected unopposed
Committee Member	Myra Tomkinson	Myra expressed an interest in the now vacant position of Liaison Officer thereby leaving this position vacant.
Committee Member	No nomination received	Vacant
Committee Member	No nomination received	Vacant

10.2 EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST FOR VACANT POSITIONS:

Position	Nominee	Nominator	Result at AGM
Vice-President	No nomination		Management Committee to fill
Treasurer	No nomination		Part-time paid Accountant to continue.
Liaison Officer	Myra Tomkinson	Ian Scott	Elected unopposed
Committee Member	Wendy Brown	Liana Fitzpatrick	Elected unopposed
Committee Member	No nomination		Management Committee to fill
Committee Member	No nomination		Management Committee to fill

Past President introduced the new Management Committee to the AGM which agreed that the Management Committee endeavour to fill the vacant positions. .

11.0 FEASIBILITY STUDY

Ian Scott provided a verbal report on the background to the Feasibility Study that had been supported by a Lotteries Grant, indicating that he had been closely involved with the Royal Western Australian Historical Society whose premises in Nedlands were now inadequate unless extensive renovations were undertaken. Costs of such renovations as well as the difficulties with planning permission were beyond that Society's means and after close liaison it had been agreed that the notion of sharing one building with similar historical

bodies, including the National Trust, generally termed a 'History House' would be a worthwhile exercise. Whilst WAGS is in an excellent position with its current venue and under no pressure to relocate, RWAHS will have to find alternative premises in the short term. A summary of the findings of the Feasibility Study, in particular, Scenario 5 that indicates the only possible solution financially would be for the State Government or a wealthy benefactor to offer shared premises at a peppercorn rent, had been circulated at the AGM which was advised that access to the full 165 page document was available in the WAGS Library should Members wish to read it. It was considered that the exercise had been most useful and should the question of WAGS relocation arise in the future, the Feasibility Study would provide excellent guidance. In response to a query about the Royal Perth Hospital Heritage Precinct, Ian advised that whilst this idea had been mooted much depended on what the State Government ultimately decided to do with the site and other considerations, such as parking, transport, etc would need to be considered by WAGS, and such a decision is expected to be some considerable time in the future.

12.0 MEMBERSHIP SUBSCRIPTION

Colin Caughey queried the current membership subscription and was advised that Members had twelve months to renew their membership without losing their current membership number. For information of Members, following is the resolution (02-3.08) of Management Committee at its meeting in March 2008:

5.2 Membership Guidelines

- (a) The Society's financial year commences 1st April and a member's subscription should be paid within three months of that date, ie no later than 30th June of the current year.
- (b) Unfinancial members will be refused access, as members, to WAGS facilities as from 1st July in each year.
- (c) A renewing member who pays their subscription three but no more than six months (ie by 30th September) after the due date will not be charged the Joining Fee.
- (d) A lapsed/re-joining member who pays their subscription after six months of the due date (1st October onwards) will be charged the Joining Fee plus pro rata Membership fee.
- (e) Members who have not renewed their subscription after twelve months will be charged the Joining Fee and the relevant subscription and be issued with a new number should they renew.

13.0 VIRTUAL WAGS

Ian Scott, spoke further on this topic, indicating that the project was larger and more complex than had been initially anticipated and with the resignation of Mike Murray due to pressure of business, thereby putting additional work onto other volunteers with the necessary technical expertise, the Management Committee had decided to postpone Stages Two and Three, ie the provision of WAGS data for sale on-line through the WAGS website and the 'One Stop Shop' linkage with State BDMs, etc. until a later date.

Stage One, as indicated above, will be completed and this will provide the facility for members to pay monies on-line.

14.0 APPOINTMENT OF AUDITORS

As indicated earlier, and for reasons of procedure, the Management Committee do not wish to appoint an Auditor at this time and intend to seek an alternative company to the one now engaged.

RESOLVED: That the appointment of Auditor be left to the discretion of the Management Committee.

MOVED: Jeanette Robinson

SECONDED: Don Heerey

CARRIED

15.0 PRESENTATION OF AWARDS

Margaret Crompton

Margaret Crompton has been awarded the Special Interest Group Award for her work over many years with the Victorian Special Interest Group.

Margaret joined WAGS in 1988 and the Victorian Special Interest Group in the same year. She is still an active member of this group.

She has helped many Victorian SIG researchers with suggestions on where to research while attending meetings of the group. During the round table discussions she has always been prepared to share her knowledge. After the quarterly meetings Margaret regularly assists new and old Victorian researchers in the Library and her expertise and patience has been appreciated by many over the years.

Margaret has helped to promote the Victorian Special Interest Group and WAGS for many years by helping with that Group's displays and information tables at family history fairs and functions.

Although this is a Group Award, WAGS also acknowledges Margaret's 11 years spent assisting with sending library books to the then country branches as part of the branch loans.

Glenda Rowe

Glenda Rowe has been awarded the Special Interest Group Award for her work over many years with the Victorian Special Interest Group.

Glenda first joined WAGS in August 1988 and joined the Victorian Special Interest Group within the month. One month later she took on the Indexing of Victorian Unwanted Certificates from Vicki Bridges.

This is a project that indexes the names on the certificates of Births, Deaths and Marriages. When family historians receive the certificates they have ordered from Victoria the photocopied page can include up to 3 more events besides the name with which one is interested. These extra events have been termed 'unwanted' by the Victorian Special Interest Group and it is an index of these that Glenda maintains. If another family historian sees a name they are interested in, then Glenda will provide the details for the person. At present there are over 3000 certificates held by Glenda and this is a fabulous service for family historians.

Glenda has been a regular attendee at the Victorian Special Interest Group meetings and regularly contributes to helping others with their research.

Janet Revill

Janet Revill has been awarded a Merit Award for her work over many years as Co-ordinator of the Education Committee, and for her work for the betterment of WAGS. Janet joined WAGS in 1990.

She has been a member of the Education Committee for 10 years and Convenor of that Committee for at least 8 of those years until she retired in April 2008. During that time the Education Committee, led by Janet, has run many education courses ranging from beginners, AJCP, Australian research, British research and more.

Under Janet's leadership the Education Committee has also run several successful one day seminars and kept the highly popular Monday lunchtime discussions going with an endless range of topics. This has also involved Janet writing articles and publicising the events.

In June 1997 Janet became the Education Committee representative on the Library Sub-Committee and participated in many busy bees, book sales and Library related works until she retired from this position in April 2008.

Janet has also been a committee member of the Management Committee for several years.

Janet has generously given her time and expertise since joining WAGS. She continuously promotes WAGS and encourages the recording of family history and is a worthy recipient of this award.

16.0 REPORT OF THE DIRECTION SETTING WORKSHOP

Nothing further to report than the information previously conveyed above.

17.0 INTRODUCTION OF NEW PRESIDENT

In response to an invitation to introduce herself to those present at the AGM, Liana outlined her WAGS involvement during the five years she has been a member and indicating that she was surprised to discover the number of volunteers who work behind the scenes and the amount of work they do for the Society. She has been the Liaison Officer for the last two years and been involved in organising many publicity events for WAGS. Although she may not have the WAGS experience of some other long-standing members she has been interested in family history for more than ten years and believes that it is important to participate. Liana retired from the Mathematical Association of Western Australian in August last year after many years of part-time work.

Ian Scott indicated that Liana is a most capable person to undertake the role of President and has the full support of other members of the Management Committee. In addition, Robyn Hukin, endorsed the support for Liana indicating that her effectiveness as Liaison Officer was second to none.

18.0 WAGS VACANCIES

Members were urgently invited to 'apply' for eleven vacant positions, as per the sheet provided.

19.0 ENTRY TO WAGS

The AGM's attention was drawn to the new procedure that to be fair to all members, evidence of current membership is now being requested on entry to WAGS Library. This is because a number of people who have not renewed their membership subscriptions were found to be using WAGS facilities during the past several months. Format of the new membership card allows it to be worn as a name badge and plastic holders are available at the front desk.

20.0 THANKS TO PAST PRESIDENT

On behalf of WAGS members Liana thanked Ian Scott for his excellent leadership during the past three years and presented him with the gift of a voucher and pen.

The meeting closed at 2.53pm followed by the raffle and afternoon tea.
(Cherie Strickland - First prize; Lee-Ann Atkinson - Second prize; Keith Fellowes – Third Prize)