

WESTERN AUSTRALIAN GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY INC.

**Thirtieth Annual General Meeting
Sunday, 28 June 2009
Held at the State Library of Western Australia
Ground Floor, Theatrette,
Alexander Library Building, Perth, WA.**

MINUTES

1.0. WELCOME

The meeting opened at 1.30pm and President, Liana Fitzpatrick welcomed members and thanked them for attending.

2.0. PRESENT – see Appendix A for listing

3.0. APOLOGIES – see Appendix B for listing

4.0. MINUTES OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 29 JUNE 2008

Corrections: 3.0 Apologies – should read Jeanette Robertson

14.0 Appointment of Auditors - moved by: Jeanette Robertson

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the previous AGM held on Sunday, 29 June 2008
with corrections be confirmed as a true and correct record.

MOVED: Graham Bown SECONDED: Audrey Holland

CARRIED

5.0. BUSINESS ARISING FROM MINUTES

14.0. Appointment of Auditors - Eric Ho FCPA was appointed Auditor.

No other matters were raised.

6.0. PRESIDENT'S 2008-09 REPORT

Liana spoke to her report highlighting a number of matters:

- 2009 is the Society's 30th Anniversary and a variety of events have been planned for the year. There was a special afternoon tea in May for early members and founding members which was particularly enjoyable. In August there will be a seminar featuring overseas guest speaker, Michael Gandy.
- New member orientation sessions are being held on a regular basis and are working very well. The objective of these sessions is to make the new members feel welcome in the library and make them aware of what resources are available to them.
- The Special Interest Groups are an integral part of the Society and the individual groups are being run very successfully and are a credit to WAGS.
- A trial began in February of Sunday opening once a month in the library. This appears to be a popular move and a review will be undertaken at the end of the year.
- A revamped website was launched in January. The website includes a great deal of information and is being continually updated and there has been a lot of positive feedback. Thank-you to Chris Loudon and his team and Mike Murray and his team who initially worked on the website.
- Western Ancestor won two awards – the Australasian Federation of Family History Organisations' (AFFHO) inaugural Nick Vine Hall Award for the best 2007 family history society magazine in Australasia for societies with more than 200 members, and the best family history magazine in the overseas societies category of the Elizabeth Simpson Award which was awarded by the Federation of Family History Societies in England (FFHS). Congratulations to our Editor, Malcolm Parr.

Malcolm Parr has been Editor of Western Ancestor for the past 18 years and has decided to retire from this role at the end of 2009.

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- Liana advised she had travelled to Auckland to attend the 12th Australasian Congress on Genealogy and Heraldry and found the Congress very informative. A copy of the book *Preserving the Past for the Future* is available in the library and includes information on the Congress.
- Our volunteers continue to work at the State Library in the Genealogical Centre and the National Archives and also at the Department of Birth, Marriages and Deaths Registry.
- The "Blue Operations Manual" is being reviewed.
- A number of long standing members have decided to retire from volunteering after many years of service. Thank-you for your many years of work to Marilyn Dimond (Internet Officer and Webmaster – 13 years), Bill Fleming (Computer Systems Officer – six years) and Edwina Shooter (Librarian – five years). Margaret Hickey (Bookshop Officer – eight years) and Malcolm Parr (Western Ancestor Editor – 18 years) have advised that they will retire at the end of the year.
- Thank-you to the Management Committee and especially to Ian Scott for his help this year. Liana also thanked members for their support.

7.0. TREASURER'S REPORT FOR YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2009 ACCEPTED (*Deleted from these minutes*)

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

MOVED: John Carter SECONDED: Norma Biggs

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.

AFFHO

Thanks to Ian Scott for being our representative this year. A representative is required for the coming year.

Computer Systems

Thanks to Bill Fleming for all his work.

Historical

Liana noted that at the 30th Anniversary function for early members some of the previous presidents had advised they are writing a history of the first ten years.

Liaison

A replacement for this role is required.

Library

Bev Mackey is trialing in the Library at present.

Membership

Membership is now 2029 (348 new members). It is pleasing to note that the number of people not renewing is declining so it would appear that our focus on keeping members is working.

Operations

The operations review is ongoing. There has been a lot of discussion regarding streamlining duties and positions and one outcome has been the need for a coordinator to oversee all the volunteers in all areas. A member is willing to take on the role.

Projects

Thanks to everyone who has offered to assist with the various ongoing projects.

Public Relations

This role is vacant and Liana called for volunteers to come forward to take on the role and suggesting more than one person could be interested and a group of people could carry out

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this role by forming a committee. WAGS has secured a monthly time slot on Curtin Radio on the first Wednesday of the month commencing at 1.20 and offering general and specialised information.

WAGS Representative on the Memorial Assessment and Advisory Committee

Yvonne Coate is our representative on this committee. Yvonne is a Foundation member and it is pleasing to note that Yvonne and her husband Kevin received the Order of Australia medal in the Queen's Honors in June

Irish

No report received as Convenor, Sandra Stock is on leave. Ray Hartnet was remembered.

London and Home Counties

Late last year a panel discussion was held regarding the London Blitz. This will be repeated at the State Library on 1 August during National Family History Week. The panel will comprise WAGS members who actually experienced the London Blitz.

Liana mentioned that a number of WAGS members will also be giving presentations at the State Library during that Week.

Swan River Pioneers

Liana advised she had attended the Foundation Day Dinner.

Liana asked if there were any questions regarding any of the reports and Bill Fleming requested clarification of the work being done at the Department of Birth, Marriages and Deaths Registry. Ian Barnes advised some of the records already transcribed contained errors and our volunteers are working through the records correcting errors.

Ian Barnes also advised that the Management Committee had written to the Department requesting they look at lowering the cost of buying certificates. The request had been denied. A further letter has been sent requesting a transcription service be put in place and Liana has been advised they are looking into this matter. A subsequent letter has been received advising of a price increase for certificates.

Bill Fleming stated that the State Library has requested that all volunteers sign a Code of Conduct and asked had this matter been drawn to the attention of Management. Liana will discuss this with Marilyn Dimond, the State Library Volunteer Coordinator.

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.

10.1. NOMINATIONS RECEIVED FOR THE FOLLOWING POSITIONS:

Position	Nominee	Result at AGM
President	Liana Fitzpatrick	Elected unopposed
Vice-President (2)	No nominations received	Vacant – Management Committee to fill
Librarian	No nomination received	Vacant – Management Committee to fill
Treasurer	No nomination received	Vacant – Qualified Accountant required
Secretary	Karen Tregenza	Elected unopposed
Publications Officer	Lyn Watt	Elected unopposed
Projects Officer	Ian Barnes	Elected unopposed
Property Officer	Lawrence Doran	Elected unopposed
Liaison Officer	No nomination received	Vacant – Management Committee to fill
Committee Member	Margaret Pike	Elected unopposed
Committee Member	Ian Lister	Elected unopposed
Committee Member	Brian Golding	Elected unopposed
Committee Member	No nomination received	Vacant – Management Committee to fill

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Liana introduced Ian Lister (member for two years) and Brian Golding (member for nine months) to those present.

10.2 EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST FOR VACANT POSITIONS:

Beverley Mackey is working through a trial period for the position of Librarian.

Liana asked for nominations from the floor for the following positions:

Vice-President (two positions)
Liaison Officer and Committee Member.

The roles of the Liaison Officer and Committee Member were explained followed by a request for anyone who was interested in the above vacant positions to think about nominating.

It was suggested that the fact that the Management Committee meet on a Wednesday afternoon may be a deterrent to people nominating.

- 10.3 In the absence of a nomination from an available qualified person for the position of Treasurer, it is the intention of Management to continue with the employment of a professional Accountant, currently Donna Boshart.

11.0. APPOINTMENT OF AUDITORS

RESOLVED: That we appoint Eric Ho as Auditor for the coming year

MOVED: Ian Scott SECONDED: Lawrence Doran

CARRIED

12.0. PRESENTATION OF AWARDS

Jeanne Iles

Jeanne Iles is commended for the dedication and work she has given to the Society.

Jeanne joined the Society in 1982 and soon became an active member as a library assistant which she carried on until 1995.

In 1987 she joined the Research Team spending two days a week on research for the numerous requests which were being received by the Society. She retired from this position in 2008.

Her work has been truly appreciated by the Society and by those whom she has helped locally, interstate and overseas.

JEANNE ILES is awarded the Society's 'CERTIFICATE OF APPRECIATION' and a One (1) year FREE membership to the Western Australian Genealogical Society Inc.

Gwen Treasure

Gwen Treasure is commended for the dedication and work she has given to the Society.

Gwen joined the Society in 1987 and became an invaluable member of the Research Team.

She regularly attended the Library on a Thursday to carry out research for others until her retirement in 2008.

Her work for the Society has been truly appreciated by many overseas, interstate and rural people searching for answers where they could find none.

GWEN TREASURE is awarded the Society's 'CERTIFICATE OF APPRECIATION' and a One (1) year FREE membership to the Western Australian Genealogical Society Inc.

Jane Innes

Jane Innes is commended for her dedication and work she has given to the Society.

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She became a member of the Society in 1986 and has been a very active participant since that time, having joined the Management Committee in 1987 and remaining on it for 10 years, four of those years, 1994-1997 inclusive, as an elected Junior Vice President.

Jane has also served as a Key Holder, Library Assistant and a member of the Operations Sub-committee, Library Sub-committee and as a Research Officer.

In 1987 she undertook the position of Research Officer in which she proved of invaluable benefit to the Society and those researching their family history from local, interstate and overseas. Jane retired from this role in 2008.

JANE INNES is awarded the Society's 'CERTIFICATE OF APPRECIATION', for her role as Research Officer and One (1) year FREE membership to the Western Australian Genealogical Society Inc.

Jane was unable to attend the AGM because of other commitments and will be presented with her Award at a later date.

Ron Sutton

Ron Sutton is commended for the service and commitment he has given to the Society.

He joined the Society in 2003 and is a member of the Enrolled Pensioner Guards Special Interest Group, with whom he has had a very strong relationship.

Ron has been the Treasurer for this group, 2003-2008, and introduced a simple and easy book-keeping system to enable accurate accounts to be kept. He also negotiated with the bank to reduce fees on the bank account helping the group's financial position.

As newsletter editor for the EPG in 2004-2005 he produced and also wrote articles for it whilst also creating a record of EPG soldiers which is hoped to lead to an update to Frank Broomhall's book – "The Veterans – A History of the Enrolled Pensioner Guards in WA 1850-1880"

Ron's commitment, enthusiasm and diligence have proved very advantageous to the Enrolled Pensioner Guards Special Interest Group.

RON SUTTON is awarded the Society's 'SPECIAL INTEREST GROUP AWARD' and a One (1) year FREE membership to the Western Australian Genealogical Society Inc.

13.0. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

On Wednesday WAGS received a grant of \$5,000 from the Bendigo Bank. This amount will go towards the purchase of a digital film reader which costs \$22,000 (provision for this is in the budget).

14.0. AGM RAFFLE DRAW

First Prize – Mike Logan
Second Prize – Helen Geijssel
Third Prize – Peggy Carter

The meeting closed at 2.37pm followed by afternoon tea.