



PUFFING BILLY PRESERVATION SOCIETY

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MINUTES OF 2017 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

SUNDAY 8 OCTOBER 2017

GEMCO THEATRE, KILVINGTON DRIVE, EMERALD

The meeting opened at 2.02 p.m. with Jeff Goodwin (President) in the chair. Jean Clowes (Vice-President) & John Robinson (Treasurer) were also at the table.

Members present:

John Apostolou, Sean Arnephy, Alan Bailey, David Baker, Jenny Baker, Jason Blair, Alex Blinks, George Bosomworth, Russell Bowen, John Bradley, John Brady, Kathy Bruce, Lachlan Campbell, Peter Charrett, Ralph Cleary, Jean Clowes, Bob Cochrane, Sylvia Condon, David Conlan, Graham Cornish, Ken Cox, John Crisp, Jill Dawson, Rob Dawson OAM, Kevin Eisfelder, Neal Elfick, Christine Ellerton, Peter Ellerton, Richard Elphick, Don English, Jeff Gazzard, Ted Godwin, Jeff Goodwin, Greg Goold, Jim Gordon, Judy Gordon, Alan Gray, Murray Groen, Susan Ham, Andrew Hennell, Russell Hicks, Kelvin Hill, Bernie Holmes, Don Horsburgh, Tim Horton, Craig Howie, Gareth Hunter, Nadine Hutchins, Bill Ireland, David Isherwood, Larry James, David John, Neil Kingswood, Graham Knight, Maggie Lambert, Anne MacLeish, Ian Marks, Eric Marsh, Don Marshall, Kevin Mathisen, Alexander McCooke, James McInnes, Peter Medlin, Greg Michael, Dion Moroney, Doug Newberry, Dennis O'Brien, Kim Oldfield, Jeremy Paton, Warwick Piper, Bob Prewett, Karl Pydde, Harold Raeburn, Joy Raeburn, Chris Raggett, Michael Randall, Andrew Rayment, Philip Rayment, Linc Reed-Nickerson, Roy Richens, Graham Robinson, Greg Robinson, John A Robinson, Col Rogers, Adrian Rose, Brenda Saunders, Robert Smith, Kevin Stanes, Graeme Stapley, Karen Streeter, Kevin Taig, Geoff Tasker, Ian Thiele, John Thompson, John Tunks, Ben Van der Linde, Hedwig van Haalen, Colin Walkerden, Melissa Walkerden, Rosemary Walkerden, Herb Warren, Bruce West, Andrew Wheatland, Damien Woodward, Deborah Woodward, Paul Woodward

Present as observers:

Annette Goold, Merle Mathisen, Margaret McInnes, Ian Norton-Smith, Joy Norton-Smith, Heather Tasker, Lucas Woodward

1. APOLOGIES:

The following members had submitted apologies:

David Barr, Matthew Batt, Peter Binks, John Blackler, John Boulton, Murray Breach, John Bugg, David Burke, David Campbell, Ian Campbell, Zac Campbell, Bill Chalmers, Peter Chaplin, Brian Coleman, John Conway, Thelma Cotter, Bernadette Cowley, Pete Davey, John Douglas, Keith Doyle, Rex Dumbleton, Cam Elliott, Daryl Fairweather, Greg Finlay, Greg Finster, David Fletcher, Graham George, Michael Gitsham, Josiah Glasson, Alf Grigg, Peter Harcourt, Ian Harper, Andrew Hazell, John Hearsch, Tim Heeks, Fran Henderson, David Hennell, Murray Holmes, Tracey Horton-Crundall, Andrew Howlett, John Hoy, Allan Inglis, Neville Kellam, Sharleen Killian, Rex Kingham, John Larke, John Lawrence, Allan Leaver, Neil Lewis, Keith Lierse, Jill Lockwood, John MacLeod, John McDonald, Alex McLean, Rob McUtchen, Peter Meagher, Dom Meese, Frank Mitchell, Robyn Morris, Ian Naylor, Jens Neelsen, Ian Newman, Stephen Nichols, Peter Norton, James Park, Paul Pavlinovich, Eric Platt, Peter Ralph, David Rashleigh, Max Raynor, Lindsay Rickard, John Robinson, John Roodenburg, Rob Rossiter, John Shaw, Lorna Shaw, Malcolm Simister, Kevin Southey, Peter Stowell, John Sutcliffe, Margaret Sutcliffe, Les Thompson, Peter Trenery, Stuart Turnbull, Lisa Vitale, Ken Walker, Rod Watson, Andrea West, Wayne Whitford, Roger Willsher, Bob Wilson, Helen Wilson, John Wolff

2. MINUTES OF 2016 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Copies of the Minutes had been distributed prior to the meeting.

It was moved Doug Newberry, seconded Lachlan Campbell, that the Minutes of the 2016 Annual General Meeting be adopted. **CARRIED**

3. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

A question was asked further to Item 8 of the Minutes in relation to monitoring of the use of Members free travel vouchers. Jean Clowes stated that there is no indication of excess use under current system. It was further stated that the free travel offer may be helping to increase membership numbers, which have been increasing for each of the last 5 years. It is not intended to record the Membership number due to workload of booking officers.

4 PRESIDENT'S ANNUAL REPORT

This report had been previously circulated to members. Jeff Goodwin summarised the Society's activities over the year:

4 Climax trains with 75% non PBPS pax. plus 6 social committee events, Vol BBQ and the 50 year badge event which averages out at 1 event a month. 24 FETs were also run which raised funds for the Society. Other money raised included \$80,000 from Great Train Race, \$18,000 from Santa trains which will go towards the Museum. Funds from FET & Climax operations go towards Climax.

There are 20 active subcommittees. Archives now have the use of the whole building in Kings Road. The film Archive is digitising the film collection which runs to some 64h 17m 53s. Publications: 3rd edition of Climax book has been produced. Later this year *Speed Limit 20 Plus* will be available. *Narrow Gauge* Magazine: John Thompson is stepping down from editorship. A search is on for a replacement. Membership figure is up for 5th year in a row. Museum team is working hard, mixed gauge track has been installed.

Thanks and best wishes for the future were expressed to Rex Kingham who has stepped down from the Secretary position a/c health and to John Brady who is stepping down from the Society Executive & the Board.

It was moved Jeff Goodwin, seconded Deborah Woodward that the President's Annual Report for 2017 be adopted. **CARRIED.**

5. PRESENTATION OF BALANCE SHEET AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

This report had been previously circulated to Members. John Robinson summarised Financial report. Society is in an extremely sound financial position. A very good surplus was achieved for the year and we have never been in a better position. Surplus was \$256,877 before a grant to ETRB of \$25,854 for Climax work. \$120,065 was made available for Museum works and \$21,638 for NGG16 129. Comprehensive profit was \$89,320. The Society is doing its best to contain costs. GTR revenue of \$81,097 is down on the previous year, the reasons for which are being looked at. Factors include more fun runs at that time, and the requirement for a qualifying time reduced no of runners, the latter may be reversed next year.

\$18,095 nett profit on Santa specials. \$33,034 raised for Climax. Main Society expenditures are for the events. The cost of administration is minimal due to volunteer and Board input. The Balance sheet shows Nett Assets at \$3,023,547.

In reply to a question, it was stated that the funds promised prior to the last Federal Election are on the way for the Discovery Centre.

It was moved John Robinson, seconded Graeme Knight that the 2017 Financial Report be adopted. **CARRIED**

6. MEMBERSHIP SUBSCRIPTIONS

John Robinson reported that the Executive is recommending that membership rates not be increased this year. He indicated that, given the rates have been static for 3 years, an increase may be necessary next year.

It was moved Don Horsborough, seconded Rosemary Walkerden that the Executive's recommendation be adopted. **CARRIED**

7. APPOINTMENT OF AUDITOR

It was moved Doug Newberry, seconded Geoff Tasker that McLean Delmo Bentleys Audit Pty Ltd be re-appointed as Auditor for the Society for the current year. **CARRIED**

8. ELECTION OF OFFICE BEARERS

Due to there only being sufficient nominees for the positions which fall vacant at this meeting, no elections were necessary.

Therefore, Jeff Goodwin was declared elected to the position of President and Tim Heeks was declared elected to the position of Secretary.

The following were declared elected to the 4 vacant positions of Committeeman:

Bob Cochrane Neil Kingswood Ben van der Linde Kevin Stanes

9. SOCIETY AWARDS

Certificates of Appreciation

The following Members were awarded A4 Certificates of Appreciation for service to the Railway in a particular area.

David Crawford, Jill Dawson, Jens Neelsen, Ian Norton Smith, Bob Prewett, Robert Smith

The following Members were awarded A3 Certificates of Appreciation for service to the Railway in a particular area:

Dave Conlan, Don English, Neil Lewis, Chris Raggett, Ken Walker, Andrew Wheatland.

The "Years of Membership" badges for those who have been members for the periods shown, were then presented.

20 year membership badge

Those who were in attendance were presented with their 20 year membership badge:

Graeme Atkins, Christopher Awdry, Neil Bruce, Ian Dyson, David Evans, Don Frazer, Leo Kennedy, Chris Le Marshall, Bryce Leydon, John MacLeod, Ron McKinna, Pat Minihan, Frank Mitchell, Kim Oldfield, Warwick Piper, Graeme Prideaux, Lorna Shaw, Graeme Stapley, John Tunks, Don Ward, Randall Wilson, Deborah Woodward

30 year membership badge

Those who were in attendance were presented with their 30 year membership badge:

Bernie Holmes, Allan Johnstone, Ian Manning

40 year badge recipients

Those who were in attendance were presented with their 40 year membership badge:

John Bradley, Glenn Degenhardt, Alf Grigg, Allan Leaver, Brian McGrath, Col Rogers, Adrian Samuel, Steve Strangward

50 yr badges

In July 2017, the Society recognised the following members who have amassed the impressive total of 50 years of membership, with the presentation of their 50 year badges in a special ceremony at the Packing Shed.

Gavin Clark, Peter Hastie, Graham Knight, Ian Naylor, Lance Perrin, Andrew Reynolds, Len Whalley, Tony Marsden

Gold Pass Awards

The following persons were presented with the Gold Pass award in recognition of meritorious service to the railway. In announcing the awards, a history of the recipients' involvement in the Railway was given.

Kathy Bruce, John Crisp, Bernie Holmes, Rex Kingham, Stefan Rebgetz, Colin Walkerden.

10. GENERAL BUSINESS

Bob Prewett addressed the meeting re the Railway Modellers group and their attendance at Exhibitions which is aimed at recruiting members and volunteers. He showed a recently completed model of the first of the new NBH carriages, 60 NBH.

Anne MacLeish & John Thompson announced the planned release date of *Speed Limit 20 Plus* which will be at Emerald on 25 and 26 November 2017. Mockups of various components of the book were displayed. The auction of significantly numbered books starts next Sunday and will continue for 3 weeks.

It was noted that Gembrook book sales has 2 copies of the original *Speed Limit 20* available.

Andrew Rayment raised the issue of signwriting on Climax which is not as per the agreed original style but a later version of it. It was also noted that the locomotive number on the dome, is shown as I694 and needs to be changed to 1694.

Q What new initiatives for fund raising are being considered?

A. The Great Train Race is being reviewed to increase the profit generated, which was down this year for various reasons. Funds generated from Footplate Experience Trains depend on the number of these that are operated which is governed by a limited season for these and the number being booked, which range between 24 and 30. Increased regulation, e.g. on GTR, reduces profits. If additional initiatives are brought forward, then they will require extra resources, i.e. volunteers to implement.

Q What is happening re a new Constitution for the Society?

A. An updated Emerald Tourist Railway Act has been to Cabinet, and was to be introduced in Parliament this year, but has been deferred by the Government due to other legislation. A Society Constitution subcommittee will be reconvened later this year as it is likely that the new Act will require changes to Society constitution, so it's better to wait till implications of the new Act are known, rather than make two separate changes to our Constitution.

To conclude this Item, a film from the Archives, sourced from the Tom Murray Estate, showing early work parties and trolley operations was shown.

11. QUESTIONS

This topic is related to the general operation of the Railway rather than just Society business.

Q. Last train UFTG to Belgrave was in Feb 1958, so 60th Anniversary is next year. Are there plans to commemorate this event?

A. Being worked on for 24/2/2018 but needs Young Volunteers to assist.

Q The Museum is interested in doing something to commemorate the 100th Anniversary of the Armistice that ended World War 1, i.e. November 2018, perhaps re-enacting the return of WW1 troops via the railway?

A Seems like a worthwhile project and there is time to organise something.

Q A further anniversary for next year is 12 April 2018, being 60 years since the first work party at Belgrave and can there be a commemoration of this event?

A This will be considered.

Q Can the whistle on G42 be a "proper" Victorian Railways whistle?

A The current whistle is the proper one for this locomotive.

Q Why isn't there any audible warning when the new pedestrian gates at Lakeside are opening?

A The gates conform to Australian standards but will be monitored for any issues in their operation.

Q Tables and chairs were moved from Gembrook to Lakeside but not replaced.

A They will be replaced.

Q. Double heading long trains, eg when 13 and 11 combine to run as No 18 during Thomas days, can be a problem controlling passengers. Could 13 / 38 run to / from Cockatoo instead?

A We need to balance pass cars with demand, so likely combined sets will continue. G42 will operate the 16 car trains this season.

Q The phone line between Belgrave and Pole 106 is in poor condition with fallen wires unsightly and a problem when lineside clearing commences.

A Falling trees caused the problem but resources and weather have prevented the restoration of the line, which only carries the magneto phone circuit, but S&T are planning work parties in better weather and would appreciate any offers of assistance.

12 CLOSURE

Meeting closed at 4.29 p.m. The meeting was followed by afternoon tea provided by the Social Committee.