



**MINUTES OF THE 63RD ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

**SUNDAY 10 November 2019**

**MASONIC CENTRE, BAYVIEW RD, BELGRAVE**

The meeting opened at 2.02 p.m. with Anne MacLeish (President) in the chair. Ben van der Linde (Vice-President), Gareth Hunter (Secretary) and Greg Michael (Minutes Secretary) were also at the table.

In opening the meeting, the chairman acknowledged the traditional owners of the land on which we were meeting, their elders past, present and emerging. Also acknowledged were those who 120 years ago constructed the railway and those who pulled together to preserve this railway for Melbourne and its visitors. Other members of the committee present were introduced.

**Members present:**

Alan Bailey, Gary Baker, Jenny Baker, Ian Barkla, David Barr, Alex Blinks, Russell Bowen, John Brady, Rob Burns, Peter Chaplin, Peter Charrett, Fraser Clayton, Ralph Cleary, Jean Clowes, Bob Cochrane, Andrea Coffey, John Conway, Ken Cox, John Crisp, John Dare, Jill Dawson, Rob Dawson OAM, Geoffrey Dean, Neal Elfick, Don English, Greg Finlay, Ted Godwin, Jeff Goodwin, Greg Goold, Alan Gray, Alf Grigg, Dylan Haywood, Tim Heeks, Andrew Hennell, David Hennell, Russell Hicks, Bernie Holmes, Don Horsburgh, Tim Horton, Craig Howie, Tony Howker, Gareth Hunter, Nadine Hutchins, David Isherwood, John Jackson, Steven Kaye, Dianna Kidgell, Graeme Kidgell, Neil Kingswood, Maggie Lambert, Jill Lockwood, Anne MacLeish, Tony Marsden, Phil Matthews, Kevin May, Alexander McCooke, Rob McUtchen, Peter Medlin, Greg Michael, Douglas Moyle, Doug Newberry, Kim Oldfield, Jeremy Paton, Ivor Peach, Ron Peach, Warwick Piper, Karl Pydde, Andrew Rayment, Max Raynor, Roo Richards, Bob Sanderson, Kevin Taig, Geoff Tasker, Ian Thiele, John Thompson, Ben van der Linde, Lyn Wade, Geoff Wallace, Herb Warren, Bob Watson, Andrew Webster, Andrea West, Bruce West, Deborah Woodward

**Present as observers:**

Martin Fensome (auditor), Annette Goold, Janet Jackson, Wendy May, Heather Tasker

**1. APOLOGIES:**

Members who are volunteering for the Railway as the meeting took place and those who are unwell, travelling or distant were all acknowledged.

The following members had submitted apologies:

John Beckett, Istvan Bohata, John Boulton, Leslie Brown, Ian Bryant, Andrew Burns, David Campbell, Lachlan Campbell, Sue Chaffey, Bill Chalmers, Mick Chaney, Michael Chapman, Wayne Clarke, Patrick Clements-Cramp, Brian Coleman, Ross Connor, Bob Cook, Graham Cornish, John Couch, David Crawford, Graeme Daniel, Pete Davey, David Eaton, Christine Ellerton, Peter Ellerton, Vicki Everett, Greg Finster, Jeff Gazzard, Josiah Glasson, Jim Gordon, Judy Gordon, Charlie Gormley, Michael Guiney, David Hall, Peter Harcourt, Bob Heath, Fran Henderson, Harry Hibgame, Pin Ho, Philip Holder, Andrew Howlett, Eddy Ireland, Larry James, Ian Johnston, Leo Kennedy, David Kerry, John Larke, Roland Law, Allan Leaver, Neil Lewis, Keith Lierse, Tony Linden, Liz Longford, Karli Lycett-King, Ian Manning, Don Marshall, John McDonald, Peter Meagher, Philip Miller, Ian Naylor, Jens Neelsen, Ian Newman, Stephen Nichols, David Norton, Peter Norton, John Orr, Gary Pallister, James Park, Kevin Perry ESM, Eric Platt, Adrian Ponton, Neil Powers, Hacka Raeburn, Joy Raeburn, David Rashleigh, David Rawlings, Roy Richens, Lindsay Rickard, John Robin, Greg Robinson, Rob Rossiter, Brenda Saunders, Melanie Scerri, John Shaw, Ian Shepherd, Robert Smith, Paul Sparks, Kevin Stanes, Graeme Stapley, Andrew Stephens, Peter Stowell, John Sutcliffe, Margaret Sutcliffe, Chris Tasker, Les Thompson, Barry Thomson, Michael Thornton, Mike Topp, Peter Trenery, Stuart Turnbull, Hedwig van Haalen, Colin Wales, Ron Walker, Colin Walkerden, Melissa Walkerden,

Rosemary Walkerden, Rod Watson, Andrew Wheatland, Wayne Whitford, Roger Willsher, Geoff Winkler, Paul Woodward, Grant Woolcock

### **1.1. DECLARATION OF INTEREST**

The chairman explained that the Society needs to operate to standards of governance as set by the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission (ACNC) which cover amongst other things, conflict of interest. To that end, the Chairman asked for those in three categories to identify themselves, namely volunteers on the Puffing Billy Railway, PBR staff and members or volunteers of other Tourist and Heritage Railway groups.

### **2. MINUTES OF 2018 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

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

It was moved Andrea Coffey, seconded Jill Lockwood, that the Minutes of the 2018 Annual General Meeting be adopted. **CARRIED**

### **3. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES**

The matter of operational vs non-operational assets has been addressed. Outgoing Treasurer as at October 2018 advised that the Society had no asset register. Auditor's Management Report for 2017-2018 requested asset valuation in 2019 and an asset investigation was completed in May 2019. The Society is also wishing to work with the ETRB concerning assets. Land valuation was undertaken, but this was not possible on other assets. It was noted that a separate account has been established to hold funds raised in relation to Locomotive 3A consisting of original bequests, donations since 2010 and includes an allocation towards past interest. All future interest will be credited to this account.

### **4 PRESIDENT'S ANNUAL REPORT**

This report had previously been made available to members. Anne MacLeish summarised the Society's activities over the year:

She also informed the meeting that an email was received from the ETRB on Friday 8 November disputing information in the three parts of the Annual Report. The following statement was read to the meeting by Ben van der Linde.

"The ETRB has raised concerns about the PBPS Annual Report, chiefly relating to ownership of some operational assets. It is acknowledged that the ETRB has made an unsubstantiated claim to the assets of the PBPS. It has already been noted in the PBPS Annual Report that it is intended to complete a full asset verification and valuation in the current financial year. The PBPS Executive Committee affirmed at a meeting on Friday that the report was prepared in good faith and to the best of our knowledge and that the report was moved and accepted at an Executive Committee Meeting."

The Annual Reports were accompanied by two letters from the Auditor, McLean Delmo Bentleys Audit Pty Ltd. Martin Fensome, Auditor, was present at the meeting to answer questions about the audit process. Advice is to be sought from the relevant bodies, ACNC and ASIC.

In answer to a question it was noted that the asset revaluation in the report is for land. Revaluation for the Museum Exhibits is still to be done. A member stated that in the VR records prior to 1977, the current NAL cars were shown as being privately owned by PBPS. It was agreed that references to locomotive 3A in the report should be "components of 3A". It was also noted that ownership of various assets needs to be clarified, noting the Board's position. Legal advice had been obtained a while ago re understanding of the ETR Act and PBPS owned asset, and as a result, a request was made for a facilitated session to resolve the different views.

A question was asked, noting that the recent email from the ETRB could be compared to a divorce, if there is a plan to build a new relationship with the Board? The Society has



Nominations were called from the floor of the meeting for the positions of:

Treasurer:	no nominations
Two Committeeman: (both one-year positions)	Nominee Andrea Coffey Seconded by: Jill Dawson Nominee Dylan Haywood, Seconded by Neil Elfick

As there were just 2 nominees for 2 positions no ballot or resolution was required, and the 2 nominees were declared elected to the positions.

The chairman expressed her thanks to John Conway and Andrew Stephens who were retiring from the Committee.

It was noted that Ben van der Linde, Rob McUtchen, Graeme Kidgell and Jenny Baker continue in their positions until the next AGM.

## 9. GENERAL BUSINESS

A question was asked to clarify what was meant by references to "The Board".

This is the Emerald Tourist Railway Board who since 1977 has been responsible for operating the railway, and until 2018, there were nominees from the PBPS to the Minister responsible, who accepted and appointed PBPS and Government representatives to Board positions.

A question was asked about what allowances are made for future legal fees.

It was noted that a Legal Contingency Fund has been established as part of the Society's accounts based on legal advice. It was also noted that some small insurance payments are expected in this area.

A question was asked about the process used to apportion payment in the legal matters.

Due to current legal actions no answer to this is possible.

The matter of the Archives in the Kings Rd property was raised in relation to the increased presence of Society Executive members using the office space which was felt compromised the ability of the Archive team to operate efficiently, noting that both Society and Board Archive materials were present. Concern was expressed that public access is now being advertised. Work is going on to identify Society Archive material as opposed to Board material.

The chairman stated that the Executive will work with the Archive team to resolve the issues, noting that only 3 members of the Executive have a key to the building and that the Archive is within a locked area within the building, although the Library section is open within the building. The Executive were re-located to Kings Road, by the ETRB management. There may come a time when a separate PBPS office is required.

A member commended the Publications Committee for the recent *Timeless Impressions* book but queried why it was not for sale at the Belgrave shop, whereas other publications were.

It was stated that the ETRB decides what they want to stock in their shops, but representations will be made to the new ETRB Commercial Manager about this.

A question was asked about the future of products such as Footplate Experience Trains (FET) and Santa Specials.

The Society will be speaking to the Board's new Visitor Experience Manager about these specials.

A question was asked about the PWC report and what was known.

It is thought that there are some 10 options for the future governance, but they are not known at this time. The Society did make a submission to the PWC Review in May.

A question, on notice, asked if it was worthwhile considering disbanding the Society and re-forming as a Friends type group.

This was not regarded as a practical way forward.

The chairman announced that work is proceeding on a feasibility study of re-creating lineside features at Landslide, such as re-installation of the water tank stand and loading platform.

The matter of non-operational heritage rollingstock was discussed. The aim is to enhance historic rolling stock for display and possible use. This includes the 2 cars, 6NB and another, retrieved from Ocean Grove which are acknowledged to be owned by PBPS. Proposals with the ETRB include movement of 19NQR (Pulpwood truck) to the Museum from Clematis for restoration to static display and movement of eight "at-risk" vehicles to undercover storage at a site at Gembrook. Both proposals to be funded by the Society.

The chairman announced that a further grant of Society funds would be made to the board for the Belgrave Signal Box project, once clarification was received on a previous grant to this purpose.

A question was asked about engagement with young volunteers.

The chairman indicated that some preliminary work has been done on a separate Child Safety policy, which is separate to the Board's work, but as no under 18 workers are involved it is simpler. The Young Volunteer Representative Team are considering a future organising Santa Trains.

A question was asked about ownership of 14NB.

14NB was donated to the Society in 1959 from Pakenham and is part of the review with the ETRB.

It was noted that Passenger numbers are down especially domestic pax and that there is a need to emphasise domestic pax are important. This is a matter for the ETRB.

The chairman noted that PBPS members are working with the ETRB staff on aspects of the Lakeside Discovery Centre and its coverage of the Preservation Era (from 1955 to the present) of the Railway.

A question was asked about progress on the restoration of NG/G16 129.

It was reported that the boiler had passed its tests and following some basic brake tests, the locomotive moved under its own steam on Wednesday 16 October. Further testing in Belgrave yard is required before any main line tests. The loco has been completed within original budget (at today's values) with testing expected to be completed by the end of the month.

## **10. PRESENTATION OF AWARDS**

The following "Years of Membership" badges were announced and presented to those in attendance.

### **20-year membership badge**

Alan Bailey, Bob Cochrane (present). Also Ian Campbell, Mark Cudmore, Leon Dark, John Douglas, Malcolm Dow, Jenny Henry, Keith Holmes, John Loftus, Winston McCann, Mike McCarthy, Ken O'Connor, Glenda Roberts, Philip Rubie, Gordon Rudolph, Des Thompson.

### **30-year membership badge**

Rob Burns, Jean Clowes, Stephen Kaye, Andrea West (present). Also Alan Bodey, Michael Dickerson, Basil Hancock, Ian Lonsdale and Geoff Sievers.

### **40-year badge recipients**

Graham Cornish, David Guymer, Chris Holliday, John Marr, Richard Norman, David Pickford, John Robins, Les Thompson, David Wymond

### **50-year badges**

On 13 October 2019, 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 an event at the Menzies Creek Museum.

Fran Henderson, Terry Hurley, Bernard Kelly, Len Ledwich, Peter Medlin, Michel Randall, Jeff Schultz and John Woollett

Two were presented at today's meeting: Doug Moyle and Ron Peach.

### **Certificates of Appreciation**

(Apologies were expressed as the actual certificates were not yet available)

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

Lachlan Campbell, Matt Dunkley, Kevin Stanes, Colin Walkerden and Paul Woodward

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

Russ Bowen, John Brady, Jean Clowes, Tim Heeks, David Hennell, Harry Hibgame, Russell Hicks, Neil Kingswood and Andrew Rayment

### **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.

Bob Cochrane, Jeff Goodwin, Ray Leivers (in absentia), Bob Heath (in absentia) and Tony Marsden.

## **11. CLOSURE**

The Chairman thanked all members for attending and trust that all look forward to the next year. Appreciation was expressed to Roo Richards and Peter Chaplin for the PA system, Greg Michael for the Minutes, Martin Fensome for managing the Committee elections and to Jenny and Gary Baker for organising the afternoon tea.

The following information on upcoming events was provided

- It is likely that there will be an event for the launch of NG/G16 129.
- A special consist may be put together on 8 December to recognise the anniversary of the introduction of NBH cars by the VR.
- A soft launch of the Museum is planned for 14 December with ongoing openings on the 1st, 3rd and 5th weekends for December and January.

Alan Gray of the Model Railway group reported that they had attended 3 exhibitions during the year which is useful promotion for the railway and presented a plaque to the Executive Committee in recognition of their support.

Members were reminded of the ability to submit items for consideration by Committee. It was reported that the Society's Constitution is being looked at, but other work has had a higher priority. There is always a need for more volunteers to assist in the various areas of Society activity.

Meeting closed at 3:50 p.m. and was followed by afternoon tea.