

Minutes Monaro Folk Society Annual General Meeting 2024

Date: Wednesday 1 November 2023 7:30 pm

Location: Canberra Irish Club, 6 Parkinson St, Weston ACT 2611.

and by Video conference meeting via ZOOM

Chairperson: David Ball – President

1. Welcome and Apologies:

Meeting Executive:

David Ball (President and meeting chair)

Colin Towns (stand-in Secretary as Ian was not in Canberra and therefore not present in person)

Moir Holmes (Treasurer)

David opened meeting at 7:35 pm, as quorum had been confirmed (Membership total 153, so quorum is one tenth plus one = 16). The Membership Secretary had provided printout of Members which were highlighted.

Present:

26 Attendees

4 Remote Attendees by Zoom

Apologies:

12 Apologies

2. Previous Minutes – Wednesday 1 November 2023

2 typos were noted (both were dates). No other issues.

Moved: Dave Wardle. Seconded: Mark Simmons. Carried.

3. Matters arising from 2023 AGM

David confirmed that the membership lists had been aligned and that the current membership was 153.

Noted: Anna Brown has taken over as Membership Secretary.

Meeting passed a Vote of Thanks to Christine Gifford for her sterling work over the years and assisting in the handover to Anna.

6. Reports

6.1 President's Report

Noted rebuilding of events since Covid and improving attendance. 2 successful concert events coordinated by Merry Muse. Musings is revitalised with Declan O'Connell assuming editor role.

6.2 Treasurer's Report

Financially the Society is in a strong position. Thanks to a very successful Merry Muse this year, running two major concert events, the Society was able to spend \$3787 on PA equipment purchases. The Society supports Artsound FM; 2XX; Friends of the Albert Hall; Australian National Choral Association; Trad and Now.

Discussion

Some issues raised with respect to the website. Matt questioned payments made for Web services, and he offered to review. Action: Committee to action if considered appropriate.

Lance concerned that signup for Square (to take credit card payments) seems to require excessive personal information. Action: Treasurer to review.

Clarified that insurance payments appear low as some premiums were paid after the financial year.

Ian queried if an annual payment was made to the National Choral Association. Moir confirmed that payment was made.

6.2.1 Vote of thanks to Graham MacDonald who reviewed the accounts.

6.3 Income and Expenditure Financial Report for 2023-2024.

6.4 Assets and Liabilities 2024.

6.5 Reviewer's Report.

6.6 Public Officer Report and Section 73 Report.

6.7 Membership Report.

Reports to be Accepted.

Moved: Lance Green. Seconded: Eileen Newmarch. Carried

7 Sub Group Reports.

7.1 English Country Dance Report

7.2 Bush Dance Group Report (BDG)

7.3 Canberra Contra Club

7.4 End of Month Dance Team (EOMDOT) Report

7.5 ISD Annual Report

7.6 Merry Muse Report

7.7 Settlers Annual Report

7.8 Set In Their Ways (SITW)

7.9 Celtic Choir of Canberra

7.10 Tuesday Night Music Group

7.11 Other Reports

Reports Accepted: Moved: David Ball Seconded: Moir Homes Carried.

8 Election of New Officers for 2024/25 Committee

8.1 Appointment of Returning Officer - Colin Towns.

The following nominations were received and all elected unopposed.

President: David Ball

Vice President: No nomination received

Treasurer: Moir Holmes

Secretary: Ian Bull

Public Officer: Antonella Salpietro

Committee Members: Colin Towns, Gabrielle Mackey, Matthew Gibbons, Rebecca Tarrant, Rita Turnbull, Tina Lynam.

9 Standing items of business

9.1 Appointment of reviewer

It is proposed that the reviewer for 2024-25 be appointed by the Committee in 2025.

Moved: David Ball. Seconded Ian Bull. Carried.

9.2 Membership fees

Moir Holmes proposed an increase in membership fees for 2025-2026 such that fees cover the estimated administration costs (including Insurance, Website maintenance, Zoom fees, AGM costs, membership cards etc which currently total \$25 per head). Paper distributed to attendees giving the proposed breakdown.

Discussion on consistency of member / non-member charges; whether the differential is sufficient; and whether there was enough incentive to become members.

Discussion on increasing membership fees while the society maintains a healthy unused bank balance.

Discussion on whether this increase would cover costs 2025/26, especially as ABC Radio had broadcast just today that ACT Scouting were budgeting a 50% rise in costs, and that insurance costs are likely to rise significantly.

Members spoke in support of and against the motion.

Motion:

Moved: Moir Holmes (Treasurer). Seconded: Anna Brown (Membership Secretary)

That the membership fees for Monaro Folk Society for the 2025/26 Financial Year be set as below, and that the Committee may reduce these fees if considered appropriate.

If a member requests paper copy of Musings then the Committee will charge a fee to cover costs of printing and postage.

Family Concession - \$35

Family Membership - \$40

Single Concession - \$20

Single Concession - \$25

Remote Membership - \$8

The motion was carried by a show of hands.

10. Other business

Mark Simmons commented that the website "What's On" page was frequently out of date. Organising Groups are supposed to maintain currency. Queried if automation could be used to roll forward regular events.

Mark raised on behalf of Jim Lissaman, that some old info was still on the internet. David responded that information cached by web browsers could be very out of date. Little can be done about this.

Judy Gorman expressed concern that access to our public pages sometimes is problematic. Believe this might be also caused by browser issues.

Bob Hodgson stated that he has old material, banners etc several which have wrong website, dates etc.

Lucky door prizes (membership to Trad and Now magazine) won by Anna Brown and John Hewitt.

Meeting closed at approximately 8:30pm.