

Minutes Monaro Folk Society Annual General Meeting 2025

Date: Friday 22 August 7:30 pm

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

And video conference call meeting via ZOOM

Chairperson: David Ball – President

1. Welcome and Apologies:

Alison Goodman, Bob Hodgson, Christine Briton (video call), Christine Gifford, Colin Towns (video call), Darri Adamson, David Ball, David Cornforth, David Hunter, David Pearce, David Wardle,

Deborah Wiltshire, Gabrielle Mackey (video call) Gavin Holmes, Geoff Kell (video call), Ian Bull, Joanne Ball (video call), Judith Gorman, Kirsten Hulse (video call), Lance Green (video call), Lawrence Pearce, Mandy Scott, Mark Simmons, Mary Collier, Matt Gibbins, Maureen Fox, Moir Holmes, Pauline Allingham, Pauline McCauley, Rita Turnbull, Rob Mahony, Shona Lee (video call)

Quorum was achieved with 32 present.

Apologies

Antonella Salpietro, Barbara Court, Lance Court, Ann Mathas, Anna Brown, Eileen Newmarch, Gabrielle Mackey.

Proxies

The Secretary tabled a notice of proxy received from Gabrielle Mackey for David Ball to vote on her behalf if required.

2. Attendance Register.

2.1 Quorum confirmed and meeting started 7:36pm.

3. Welcome

4. Previous Minutes – 29 August 2024 AGM

David Ball moved that the meeting minutes be confirmed with agreed changes. Seconded Moir Holmes. Carried.

5. Matters arising from 2024 AGM

Issues relating to MFS website public pages as noted at last year's AGM reported as now resolved.

6. Reports

Reports are published on the www.monarofolk.org.au website and printed copies are available at the AGM meeting to attendees. Where requested printed copies can also be sent to members.

6.1 President's Report

Notes: The President noted key events in the previous twelve months. These included the successful Carnival Day, and calling workshops run by Lance Green. All of the on-going dance workshops were going well. The Irish Dance weekend in October 2024 attracted 153 participants. It was also noted that Antonella Salpietro had advised the committee that she would not seek re-election as public officer for 2025-26.

6.2 Treasurer's Report

Notes: The Treasurer provided some background about the overall administration and operating costs for the Society. Declan O'Connell continues to edit and publish the Monaro Musings newsletter. There are rising printing distribution costs where members are sent hard copies of the newsletter. The Committee continues to monitor this impact and assesses it as a minor issue at this time.

The Treasurer thanked Graham McDonald for his services as the reviewer of MFS accounts.

Gabrielle Mackey and Ian Bull were thanked for the organisation of the Carnival Day. It was noted that while there was an overall cost of \$1,200 for hosting the free event, the event was beneficial to the members of the society while promoting the MFS activities to a wider audience.

The overall MFS Operating Loss for 2024-2025 was offset by interest of around \$1,600.

Current MFS Assets are assessed at around \$30,000.

Membership fees account for \$3,800 in revenues and overall operating administration costs are around \$4,000.

The treasurer provided an overview of the progress of the subgroups noting that all ongoing groups are tracking well. The Committee will continue to monitor incomings and outgoings of the Society.

Key Points.

1. Irish Set Dance workshops are making a profit that is offset by a loss on the dance weekend.
2. English Country Dance had been poorly attended for some time and making losses for some time and, in agreement with the organiser, discontinued.
3. The Bush Capital Band is doing well with several outside engagements.
4. Bush Capital Dance Group is also doing well with increasing attendance.
5. The End of Month Dance Organising Team has been making losses on most events but returns a profit on the New Year's Eve dance at the Yarralumla Woolshed.
6. Tuesday Night Music Group is cost neutral and also performs at outside events.
7. The Merry Muse runs monthly events and special concerts with an overall annual profit around \$700.
8. The MFS supports other community organisations through subscriptions such as Artsound, 2xx and Friends of Albert Hall.
9. The MFS also supports the Ducks Crossing Trad and now folk magazine through subscriptions.
10. The treasurer noted that hall rentals will be going up 17% and that the committee will continue to monitor sub-groups and costs prior to looking at increasing attendance fees for both members and non-members.
11. The meeting was advised that the end of month dance for 27 September will be at the Canberra Baptist church hall and not at Albert Hall.
12. The Treasurer thanked Graham McDonald for his service to review the annual financial report.

6.3 Income and Expenditure Financial Report for 2024-2025

6.4 Assets and Liabilities 2025

6.5 Auditor's Report.

6.6 Public Officer Report and Section 73 Report

6.7 Membership Report

Motion to accept committee reports moved David Ball, Seconded Moir Holmes. Motion 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

Motion to accept sub-group reports moved David Wardle, Seconded David Ball. Motion Carried.

8 Election of New Officers for 2025 Committee

8.1 Appointment of Returning Officer

Ian Bull was nominated by David Ball, Seconded Colin Towns to be appointed as the returning officer.

President - David Ball was the only nomination received. As there were no other nominations a vote was not required. Appointment confirmed.

Vice President - no nominees received.

Treasurer - Moir Holmes was the only nomination received. As there were no other nominations a vote was not required. Appointment confirmed.

Secretary - Ian Bull was the only nomination received. As there were no other nominations a vote was not required. Appointment confirmed.

Public Officer - Gabrielle Makey was the only nomination received. As there were no other nominations a vote was not required. Appointment confirmed.

Committee Members

There were four nominations received for ordinary committee members. These were Tina (Christine) Lynam, Rita Turnbull, Colin Towns and Rebecca Tarrant. As there were no other nominations a vote was not required. Appointment confirmed.

9 Standing items of business

9.1 Appointment of reviewer It is proposed that the reviewer for 2025-26 be appointed by the Committee in 2026.

Moved. David Ball, Seconded Moir Holmes. Motion Carried.

9.2 Membership fees It is proposed that the membership fees for 2026-27 be the same as determined at the 2024 AGM for 2025-26, and that the committee be empowered to reduce the fees if it considers it desirable to do so.

Moved: David Ball, Seconded Mark Simmons. Motion Carried.

10. Other business

David Ball moved a vote of thanks and appreciation to the out-going Public Officer, Antonella Salpietro. Seconded. Moir Holmes. Motion carried.

Mark Simmons requested guidance from the committee on what sub group organisers need to do to avoid groups being closed by the committee. He requested that there be increased transparency and that feedback on budget and plans be provided. This is to be considered by the incoming committee.

Publicity Officer. Geoff Kell noted the difficulty of finding a communications officer, and suggested that a small group be formed to coordinate communications. Bob Hodgson suggested updating our publicity material. Gabrielle Mackey suggested communications should focus on social media. It was noted that David Ball paid for Facebook advertising for Carnival Day. Matthew Gibbins mentioned Facebook and the need to keep it updated. Access to facebook is coordinated by David Ball. Cassidy Buxton also recommends Facebook and updates Merry Muse postings.

Geoff Kell offered an assessment that the previous handouts are, in the main, still relevant.

Action: Committee to consider establishing a communication and promotion committee.

Bob Hodgson noted that he has the MFS Marquee stored at his house. This has the old website printed on it.

Action: Committee to arrange relocation or disposal of the MFS Marquee.

Seconded Moir Holmes. Motion Carried.

Lucky Door Prize. Two annual subscriptions were drawn out for the lucky door prizes. The winners were Christine Gifford (Ticket E34) and Ian Bull (Ticket E32).

Actions:

Committee to communicate the temporary freezing of attendance fees for six months and that a review of attendance fees will be undertaken by the Committee before the end of 2025. Mark Simmons discussed fees and observed that it seemed likely that an increase of \$1 to \$2 will not drive attendees away.

Action: Ian Bull to send communication.

Committee to advise sub groups on acceptance of budget.

Meeting Closed 8:37