

Minutes of VFMC A.G.M.

Sunday June 15th 2025

Senior Citizen's Hall, Lawrence Grove, Ringwood East.

1. Welcome and Introduction:

Meeting opened: 2.36 pm. President Michael Hassett welcomed everyone and gave an acknowledgement of country.

2. Attendance:

Present: Michael Hassett, Peter Kernebone, Don Fraser, Trevor Voake, Collin McLaren, Rick Lowen, Stan Alexander, Bill Buttler, Maree Buttler, Tony O'Neil, Maggie Somerville. Attending via Zoom: Katy Cotrill, Bryce Russell, Tony Kelly, Brian Ellwood, Lee Ellwood,

Apologies: Stuart Ashbumer, Francesca Taboule, Regina McDonald, Ray and Joan Mundy, Beth Duffy, Margie Voake, Dominic Martin, Bette Martin, Wal Tiedemann, Julie Tiedemann, Stephen Whiteside

3. Proxy Holders:

MH has proxy from Dominic Martin.

4. Minutes of the 2024 AGM were distributed:

Everyone, having read the minutes, agreed that they were a true report.

Maree Buttler moved that the minutes be accepted. Seconded by **Tony O'Neil**. Carried.

No matters arising.

5. Reports and Statements:

(a) Reports:

(i) Presidents Report (Michael Hassett):

- There were no questions.

(ii) Concerts Report (Maree Buttler):

- There were no questions

(iii) Dance Report (Bill Buttler):

- Question from Michael Hassett: Is the dance committee considering different dance styles, e.g. couples dances or ballroom?
- Answer from Bill Buttler: Younger audiences are not familiar with those dances, but it may be a good idea to look at these.

(iv) Membership Report (Trevor Voake):

- Trevor Voake: There are now 128 members. Two new this week.
- Question from Michael Hassett: How many unpaid members are there? TV: about 20. A letter will be set out soon requesting payment.
- Question from Rick Lowen: What is the average age of members? TV: Majority would be 60+ BB: Do we have ages/DOB on the registry? TV: No. Average age is my own estimation.
- Question from Tony O'Neil: Could there be more daytime events to accommodate those who don't wish to drive at night? (This matter should be brought separately to the General Committee. Tony notes that he would like to run a shanty session during the day as a club activity.)

(v) Billabong Band (Trevor Voake):

- There were no questions.

(vi) Newsletter report (no printed report, Maggie Somerville):

- Newsletter is going well. Distribution seemed to be delayed for electronic delivery earlier in the

year, but that has been resolved. Aust. Post are now slower than they used to be, so it is a challenge to get the printed newsletter out before the subsequent dance.

- RL: I do not receive a newsletter, either printed or email. TV: Will try to resolve.

(vii) Publicity and Sessions (no printed report, Don Fraser):

- Sessions consistent over the year. Lively playing and interchange. Wide variety of interests. Good talent exposed. Attendance of 680 over 37 weeks. More in Summer, less in Winter. 5th Tuesday theme nights are well received and produce thoughtful contributions. Thanks to WT for managing the library and making it available each Tuesday.
- Publicity: Print media is non-existent. Advertising on-line or on-air are most effective we believe. We need to review our publicity in the coming year.

(viii) Web report (no printed report, MH):

- Not much to report – just keeping things going. We had a meeting in Jan. to make a list of things to do and update. The Fireside Fiddlers portion of the Web site is a very old part and MH has been working on updating this to match the formatting of the rest of the web site.

Colin McLaren moved to accept the reports, seconded **Trevor Voake**, **carried**.

(b) Financial Statements:

The treasurer, Don Fraser, delivered the Treasurer’s Report:

- Question from Colin McLaren: p3, why is there no figure for hall hire? MH: Looks like it has been rolled into Dance and Sessions figures, as those numbers are up by about the missing amount.
- Question from Colin McLaren: Re storage, we should be saving \$600, but the storage costs appear to be higher. DF: Don’t know. I will find an answer. It is possible the rates have gone up. TBC.
- Question from Rick Lowen: What does the insurance cover? DF: Public liability only. Does not cover the costs of club equipment. RL: Do we have director insurance and the like? MH: This is being reviewed by the committee.

Rick Lowen moved to accept Treasurer’s report. Seconded **Maggie Somerville**, **Carried**.

Notes:

1. Prior to the meeting Michael Hassett and Peter Kernebone signed the Consumer Affairs Victoria “Schedule 1, Regulation 18, 19 and 20”, stating that they believe the presented reports give a true and fair view of the financial position of the association.
2. After the meeting, Colin McLaren signed the Consumer Affairs Victoria “Submission of financial states” form to confirm that the report was duly presented.

6. Election of Office Bearers:

Michael Hassett vacated the chair, Colin McLaren was invited to take the chair during the nomination and election of the Office Bearers.

Colin McLaren thanked retiring Office Bearers.

Tony O’Neil moved that we give a vote of thanks to the general committee, seconded **Stan Alexander**, **Carried**.

(a) President

Colin McLaren called for nominations for **President**.

Name	Nominates	Name	Seconded	Reply
Trevor Voake		MH		Declined

Maggie Somerville		Bill Buttler		Declined
Maggie Somerville		MB		Declined
Maree Buttler		Don Fraser		Declined
Maggie Somerville		Colin McLaren		Declined
Michael Hassett		Peter Kernebone	Tony O'Neil	Accepted. Carried

Colin McLaren welcomed **Peter Kernebone** as **President**.

(b) Vice President

Colin McLaren called for nominations for **Vice President**.

Name	Nominates	Name	Seconded	Reply
Maggie Somerville		Bill Buttler		Declined
Michael Hassett		Rick Lowen		Declined
Maggie Somerville		Michael Hassett	Tony O'Neil	Michael accepted and was initially voted in, but later deferred this role to TV, and took up the role of Secretary.
Peter Kernebone		Trevor Voake	Michael Hassett	Carried

Trevor Voake welcomed as **Vice President**.

(c) Secretary

Colin McLaren called for nominations for **Secretary**.

Name	Nominates	Name	Seconded	Reply
Maggie Somerville		Maree Buttler		No
Michael Hassett		Katy		No
Maggie Somerville		Michael Hassett	Maree Buttler	Accepted, carried

No nominations were initially accepted. Michael Hassett willing to act as Secretary while the position is vacant. He would be willing to relinquish the Vice President role in favour of that of Secretary.

Maggie Somerville moved that **Michael Hassett** act in the role until the role is properly filled. Seconded: **Maree Buttler**. **Carried**. Later Trevor Voake agreed to take on the role of Vice President (see previous notes), and MH was formally voted in as Secretary.

Colin McLaren welcomed **Michael Hassett** as **Secretary**.

(d) Treasurer

Colin McLaren called for nominations for **Treasurer**.

Name	Nominates	Name	Seconded	Reply
Michael Hassett		Don Fraser	Maree Buttler	Accepted, carried

Colin McLaren welcomed **Don Fraser** as the **Treasurer**.

(e) General Committee

Colin then vacated the chair and handed over to Michael Hassett to facilitate the remainder of the meeting, with Peter Kernebone continuing the role of Secretary for the remainder of the meeting.

Michael Hassett called for nominations for general committee members.

Name	Nominates	Name	Seconded	Reply
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Maggie Somerville	Nominates	Rick Lowen		No, but would be willing to go on a sub-committee
Colin McLaren	Nominates	Maggie Somerville	Maree Buttler	Yes
Maree Buttler	Nominates	Bill Buttler	Colin McLaren	Yes
Maggie Somerville	Nominates	Maree Buttler	Tony O'Neil	Yes
Maree Buttler	Nominates	Tony O'Neil	Maggie Somerville	Yes
Maree Buttler	Nominates	Colin McLaren	Maggie Somerville	Yes
Maggie Somerville	Nominates	Brian Ellwood	Maree Buttler	Yes

(f) Allocate Roles

Volunteers were sought to fill the club roles given below:

Position	Nomination	Reply
Concert Convenor	Maggie Somerville nominated Maree Buttler and Brian Ellwood to share role	Accepted
Dance Convenor	Maggie Somerville nominated Bill Buttler	Accepted
Sessions Convenor	Maggie Somerville nominated Don Fraser DF is willing to do the job again, but would like to delegate more this year, and is looking for volunteers.	Accepted
Membership Officer	Bill Buttler nominated Trevor Voake	Accepted
Publicity Officer	Peter Kernebone nominated Bill Buttler as "Publicity Coordinator" BB thinks that this role should be one of coordinator, that there should be a position description.	Accepted
Newsletter Editor	Colin McLaren nominated Maggie Somerville	Accepted
Billabong Band Convenor	Michael Hassett nominated Trevor Voake	Accepted
Website Support	Bill Buttler nominated Steve Bullock, Peter Kernebone, Michael Hassett	Accepted
Wattle Day Team	Michael Hassett nominated Don Fraser and Tony O'Neil . Jane Bullock and Bette Martin may be interested and are to be invited to join the team	Accepted
Youth Outreach	No position. Committee to consider if this is a viable position.	Accepted
Highland Games Coordinator	Michael Hassett nominates Bill Buttler	Accepted
VFMC Library Manager	Michael Hassett nominates Wal Tiedeman (not present – subject to confirmation)	Accepted

7. Confirm amount of annual subscriptions:

Moved by **Don Fraser** that membership fees remain the same for this year. Seconded by **Tony O'Neil**.
Carried.

8. Set the date for payment of annual subscriptions:

Colin McLaren moved that the Annual Subscription be paid by 1 April 2024. Seconded **Maggie Somerville**.
Carried.

Meeting concluded at 4:21 pm.

Afternoon tea followed, as well as a short session of dance and other tunes, and an exciting harmonica playoff.