

2023 YWNA AGM Minutes – Held online from the eco-centre St Kilda 7.30pm 22nd November 2023

Present: Natalie Davey, President, Michael Gulliver, Secretary, Sanja Blackburn, Treasurer and Geoff Harry, Returning Officer.

List of all members in attendance attached.

Apologies: None received

Description	Details:
Assembly	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The meeting's start was delayed due to technical issues with Natalies computer. The meeting commenced approximately 7.35pm. • The Secretary outlined the agenda as follows:<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Welcome to the AGM• Confirmation of last years minutes• President's report• Treasurer's report and membership fee approval for the next year• Election of office holders if applicable • Prior to commencing the meeting the Secretary made a final request for people to advise if they were standing for a committee position. This was done at this point in the meeting so online voting could be prepared if required.• This request identified the people standing as new ordinary committee members including Annie Mumford, (subsequently it was identified that Annie's nomination was in the Secretary's spam folder) Kath Peletti and Michael Gulliver as Secretary (with both standing for an ordinary member if they were unsuccessful), Anna Rabinov as Vice President and Jo Samuel-King and Claire Hudson standing as Plant lab co-ordinator.• Returning committee members standing for re-election were Sanja Blackburn as Treasurer, and, at this point in the meeting, Gina Fiske for Floods and Affiliates, Tricia Wevill as Plant ecologist, Gio Fitzpatrick as naturalist, Rosie Grech as Communications and Tania Splawa-Neyman as surveys and data (more details about the roles and positions of the committee follows)• Geoff Harry was introduced to the members as the Returning officer for the AGM. Geoff Harry is the Chair, Audit & Risk Committee Department of Premier & Cabinet and Bayside Council and holds similar roles with 5 other Melbourne councils. He also has extensive additional experience in Board room requirements in both the public and commercial sectors. Geoff was recommended to the Association as being highly credentialed to act as the returning officer by the Governance officer of Bayside Council. We thank Geoff for his support over the course of the meeting.

Sub Committee, Member reg and returning Officer	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If only one nomination is received the nominated person will be declared elected. If more than one member nominates a ballot must be held. • Geoff Harry acted as returning officer. Geoff directly oversaw and signed off on all aspects of the election process.
Committee numbers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Secretary proposed that next year there be 8 committee member positions in addition to the office holders, an increase of two. • Motion: That the committee be made up of 12 members in total: President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer and 8 ordinary members. <p>Moved by: Gina Fiske Seconded by: Sandy Morrison</p>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ At this point in the meeting the correct sequence of events was not followed. The rules indicate that the President stand first then he/or she chair the rest of the meeting. The elections actually proceeded as follows: ▪ Vote for Secretary was held. Michael Gulliver and Kath Pelettit stood. Bob Tammik spoke in support of Kath's nomination and Michael spoke in support of his own nomination. ▪ An online vote was held with Michael receiving 22 of 35 votes and Kath 13 votes. ▪ Proxy votes were then allocated by the returning officer under the principal that the person in receipt of proxies would vote the same way with their proxies as they did for themselves. ▪ Michael and Natalies vote were added as they were unable to vote online ▪ This resulted in a final tally of 13 additional votes for Kath and 6 for Michael with a final result of 28 for Michael and 25 for Kath. ▪ Geoff Harry calculated the above votes and declared Michael to have won this vote.
President	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Written Nominations: Natalie Davey ▪ As no-one else contested this position Natalie was declared as President
Vice President	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Written Nominations: Anna Rabinov ▪ As no-one else contested this position Anna was declared as Vice President
Treasurer	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Written Nominations: Sanja Blackburn ▪ As no-one else contested this position Sanja was declared as Treasurer
Naturalist Advisor	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Written Nominations: Gio FitzPatrick ▪ As no-one else contested this Position Gio was declared as Naturalist advisor
Floods and affiliates	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Written Nominations: Gina Fiske ▪ As no-one else contested this position Gina was declared for Floods and Affiliates
Plant ecologist	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Written Nominations: Tricia Wevill ▪ As no-one else contested this position Tricia was declared in the Plant ecology role
Communication	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Written Nominations: Roise Gretch ▪ As no-one else contested this position Rosie was declared in the communication role

Vacancy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Written Nominations: Annie Mumford ▪ As no-one else contested this position Annie was declared as a new ordinary member
Vacancy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Written Nominations: Kath Peletti ▪ As no-one else contested this position Kath was declared as a new ordinary member
Vacancy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Written Nominations: Tania Splawa-Neyman ▪ As no-one else contested this position Tania was declared as a new ordinary committee member
Plant lab	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Written Nominations: Jo Samuel-King and Claire Hudson ▪ Jo spoke in support of her own nomination ▪ The Secretary spoke to express the view of the current committee that having a Councillor sit on committee was potentially perceived conflicts of interest and would complicate relations between Council and YWNA, the primary partner of the Association. ▪ Marcus raised a point of order and objection to this response that was effectively being given on behalf of Clare. ▪ In consultation with those physically present the Secretary withdrew his comments and apologised ▪ Jo stated that she accepted Michael's apology and spoke to the fact that she had sought legal advice and consulted with the Governance Officer of Council who gave her the all clear in relation to her standing as an ordinary member of the YWNA committee (preferably not as an office bearer)". ▪ Claire then spoke in support of her own nomination ▪ A vote was put to the members. ▪ Jo received 22 votes and Claire 13 – after allocation of proxies the result was 36 to 18 ▪ Geoff declared Jo as the winner of this election
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Claire indicated that as she lost the vote for plant lab co-ordinator she wanted to stand as an ordinary committee member
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This was discussed with the returning officer who agreed that this was a request consistent with the rules.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This meant a poll was prepared for the 9 people contesting the 8 ordinary committee positions to stand for election
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rosie, Annie, Tania, Gio, Tricia, Gina, Jo, Kath were successful and Claire not. The 8 people were declared by Geoff as holding the ordinary committee positions
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An objection was then raised that the people standing did not have a chance to introduce themselves to the members as is required under the rules
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • When a new vote was proposed Geoff suggested the entire voting process be re-run on another occasion as a result of the confusion for members of running a new poll on the evening • This was put to a vote of members still present with 24 of the 25 people remaining online voting to continue on the evening
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All ordinary members then gave a short summary of their skills and interest in standing • A new vote was held • The same result stood with Geoff declaring that Rosie, Annie, Tania, Gio, Tricia, Gina, Jo, Kath were successful and Claire not
Meeting close	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The meeting closed approximately 21.45 with Geoff reflecting on the value of so many committed people being interested in standing and a suggestion that the Association look to clarify the model rules around committee members and specific roles either at a separate meeting or the next AGM.

Attachments:

- Notice of AGM
- Presidents report
- Treasurers report
- Attendee list