



Victorian PRAHRAN  
History MECHANICS'  
Library INSTITUTE

## 2019 Annual General Meeting

Held via Zoom on Tuesday 24 November 2020 commencing at  
6.00pm

# Minutes

### Attendance

Donald Barker, Claire Barton, Riannon Berkerley, Milton Biddle, Dr Judith Buckrich (President), Deb Campbell, John Chandler OAM (Committee), Jennifer Chapman, Dr Michelle Cleary (Committee), Ellen Coates, Tony Coates, Denys Correll, Wendy Eldridge, Judith Ellis, Gail Evans, Patrick Galvin, Steven Haby (Secretary Librarian), Carole Jean, Peter Johnson, Tim McKenna (Committee), Robert Mense, Chris Michalopoulos (Committee), Geoffrey Patterson, Marie Pernat, Kevin Powell, William Power, Ben Quin (Treasurer), Kevin Reed, Rosemary Spenser, Carol Stals, Steve Stefanopoulos (Vice President), Cheryl Threadgold, Tony Tibballs, Mike Trickett, Brian Tseng, Andrew Turner, John Watt, Elizabeth Winkleman, Penny Woodward, Stacey Zarifopoulos.

The Secretary Librarian welcomed everyone to the meeting and explained the procedure for motions to be moved and seconded (whereby any objections rather than acceptances would be recorded) and how members would vote on the special resolution regarding the Model Rules and the Committee.

The Secretary Librarian also advised that there was a correction to the annual report where under the section Committee the reference to secretariat is to be deleted.

1. Welcome and apologies  
President Dr Judith Buckrich officially opened the meeting at 6.10pm and welcomed everyone in attendance.

Apologies were recorded from Dr Stella Barber, Pam Baragwanath, Gary Bester and Ian Hind.

2. Minutes of the 2018 Annual General Meeting  
The Minutes were tabled to the meeting and the motion put that they be so moved.

Moved: John Chandler  
Seconded: Mike Trickett  
Objections: Nil.

3. Business arising from the Minutes

**There was no business arising from the Minutes of the previous AGM.**

4. Correspondence received in relation to the 2019 AGM

**The Secretary Librarian advised that an email had been received from Dr Stella Barber announcing her withdrawal as a candidate for the 2020 Committee.**

5. President's report

**The President Dr Judith Buckrich spoke to her report and noted that it was unusual to be speaking about 2019 when so much had happened since this year with the impact of COVID-19.**

**Judith appreciated the hard work and support of the staff and Committee during 2019 which was a busy year with many events but also troubling with the loss of tenants in Chapel Street which provides the majority of the PMI's income. Judith noted that it would be pleasing to see the Committee in attendance at more of the events but also acknowledged that the members of the Committee have other commitments as well. Judith hoped that the new Committee will work to support each other, the staff and the organisation and work constructively as a team.**

**Judith asked the outgoing Vice President Steve Stefanopoulos to say a few words. Steve echoed Judith's comments in regard to the Committee and hoped that they will work well to address issues such as the Chapel Street properties and a strategic direction. Steve said the PMI's collection is fantastic and there have been some very good partnerships forged with other organisations and hoped that this would continue.**

**Judith then moved her report be accepted.**

**Moved: Dr Judith Buckrich**

**Seconded: Wendy Eldridge**

**Objections: Nil**

6. Secretary Librarian's report

**The Secretary Librarian Steven Haby spoke to his report and commented that 2019 was a busy and eventful year and paid tribute to Chris Mosyer-Barker's tenure as the Communications and Marketing Coordinator and thanked Chris for all her efforts in promoting the organisation. Steven thanked the Committee, staff and volunteers for their superlative efforts in supporting the organisation.**

**Steven then moved his report be accepted.**

**Moved: Steven Haby**

**Seconded: Judith Buckrich**

**Objections: Nil**

7. Treasurer's report

The Treasurer Ben Quin presented his report and noted that the PMI's income had dropped considerably to \$118,000 from \$216,000 due to loss of tenants in the Chapel Street properties. New tenants will be a challenge due to the market downturn, retail landscape and other factors. The PMI will need to spend capital to upgrade the properties to make them more attractive to prospective tenants.

The PMI did receive some funding from grants during the year and expenses such as salaries continue to be the largest outlays. Ben noted that 2020 will be a very difficult year financially however with reductions in opening hours, cuts to expenditure and the support from JobKeeper and State Government business grants the situation is not as dire as it could be. Our return on Perpetual Trustees investments has improved during the year which is encouraging.

The PMI made a \$32,000 loss in 2019 which compares well to the \$280,000 loss in 2018.

The main focus will be to secure new tenants in Chapel Street.

John Chandler thanked Ben for his efforts in managing our finances and preparing detailed reports for the members.

Wendy Eldridge asked how the book sale income was recorded in the report. Ben noted that it normally recorded as sale of books.

Ben then moved his report to be accepted.

Moved: Ben Quin

Seconded: John Chandler

Objections: Nil.

8. Special resolution: Model Rules

The Secretary Librarian provided the meeting a brief summation on the special resolution and the model rules and asked members to speak for or against the motion tabled in the Agenda or to make any comments.

Steve Stefanopoulos noted that the Model Rules will need to be modified to suit our requirements, for example around memberships (where under the Rules are tabled at each Committee meeting) however in the PMI's case this is not practical.

Pat Galvin asked what would happen if the motion was rejected (the status quo would remain and there would be no change).

Judith Ellis noted that it would be feasible for the Committee to meet more regularly via Zoom for example rather than face to face.

Denys Correll noted that in regard to membership approvals this would be delegated by the Committee to the Secretary Librarian and/or staff.

Ellen Coates asked about the charitable status of PMI. Denys Correll noted that this would not change and there would be no impact on the PMI.

The special resolution as follows was put to members to vote via SurveyMonkey.

*"1. That the PMI adopts the Model Rules under the Associations Incorporation Reform Act (2012) and*

*2. That the PMI officially advises the Minister for Local Government to request that the Government revokes the Prahran Mechanics Institute Act (1899) allowing the PMI to be incorporated under the Associations Incorporation Reform Act (2012) and adopt the Model Rules therein as per the resolution (1) above."*

The outcome of the vote was as follows:

Yes: 35

No: Nil

Abstain: 2

Defer to 2020 AGM: 2

Total votes recorded: 39

The resolution was moved in the affirmative.

9. Election of three Committee members

Judith Buckrich invited all candidates to speak to the members for no more than 90 seconds and that questions would be invited at the conclusion of the speeches. The candidates spoke in the following order: Dr Michelle Cleary, Denys Correll, Judith Ellis, Gail Evans, Mike Trickett and in the absence of Gary Bester the Secretary Librarian read a short statement from Gary.

Penny Woodward asked the candidates how they would work together as a team and support each other and staff. All candidates responded (with the exception of Gary).

There being no other questions the members were asked to vote with the counting undertaken by Donald Barker who was appointed returning officer.

The outcome was as follows:

Gary Bester	5 votes
Dr Michelle Cleary	31 votes
Denys Correll	23 votes

<b>Judith Ellis</b>	<b>19 votes</b>
<b>Gail Evans</b>	<b>15 votes</b>
<b>Mike Trickett</b>	<b>18 votes</b>

**Therefore Dr Michelle Cleary was re-appointed to the Committee and Denys Correll and Judith Ellis were appointed to the Committee.**

**10. Appointment of auditor**

**Prospect Accountants were re-appointed as the auditor for the PMI.**

**11. Other business**

**The Secretary Librarian then made a short statement thanking Judith, John and Steve for their respective contributions to the Committee over the years and invited Judith to make a short statement to close the meeting.**

**Judith thanked everyone for their support and requested as thanks that John Chandler be made a life member of the PMI for his efforts.**

**Judith then officially closed the meeting at 7.30pm.**

**Steven Haby  
Secretary Librarian  
8 December 2020**