MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE WELLINGTON PHOTOGRAPHIC SOCIETY HELD IN PERSON AND VIA A ZOOM CONNECTION ON 11 NOVEMBER 2021 AT 7.10 PM

ATTENDANCE

In-Person

Shannon Doyle (Chair), Helen Beaven, David Cornick, Glen Innes, Patrick Flanagan, Mel Keith, Neil Kennington, Julie McGowan, Keith Molloy, Bronwyn Rideout, Lola Makower, Peter Rodgers, Rick Spencer and George Sutton. Via Zoom

John Boyd, Donna Jennings, Barry Mahon, Sue Mahon, Jeff Mein-Smith, Syd Moore and Lesley Moyes

WELCOME

Shannon welcomed to the meeting both those present in person and those connecting to the meeting via Zoom. He noted that the effects of the pandemic had caused the AGM to be delayed and it was only recently that the Society had been allowed access to the venue with limited numbers. No meetings had taken place since July.

APOLOGIES

Resolved:

That the apologies for absence from Julie Brixton, Brian Gray, Terry Harkin and Lee McLauchlan be accepted.

(G Innes/ P Rodgers)

CARRIED

CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

Glen Innes summarised the key points from the minutes.

Resolved:

That the minutes of the previous Annual General Meeting of the Society held on 3 September 2020 be confirmed as a true and correct record.

(G Innes/ P Rodgers)

CARRIED

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Shannon Doyle spoke to his report, commenting on the steady growth of the Society over the past two years despite the setbacks during that time. That was due in large part to the efforts of the committee and the support and participation of the membership.

At the end of September 2021, the membership stood at 142, an increase from the previous year but it may decline slightly due to the ongoing effects of the pandemic. Compared with some other clubs, we have come through a difficult time relatively unscathed.

Finances remained strong with exhibition expenses being the major cost during the year. Sponsorship was important to help fund both the exhibition and capital purchases and Shannon believed this is an important method of keeping the society operations cost-neutral. The support of the Pelorus Trust in this regard was noted with thanks. Some significant capital purchases would be needed in the coming year, including a replacement laptop and AV equipment to stream meetings.

The Society had been able to attract some top speakers during the year, including Karoline Stus, Joseph Kelly, Mandy Lynn, Poppy Lekner, Simon Runting, Andyb Monk, Mary Livingston, Joshua Harvey and Bob Zuur. He thanked Lee Maclauchlan for her efforts in arranging such a stimulating programme. The meetups had also been successful. They had included Image Critique Meetings, a Full Moon shoot at Wrights Hill, New Year's Mini-golf, PSNZ Honours Club and an Astro presentation with Frank Hopfler.

The Exhibition date was shifted to mid-year to take the pressure of an incoming committee to have to organise a major event very shortly after coming into office. The new venue of Te Auaha Gallery had worked well for us over the last two exhibitions. The use of our club frames certainly had enhanced the professional presentation of this annual showcase. The success of the exhibition had been significantly boosted by the sponsorship of Wellington Photographic Supplies and Art for Art's Sake with printing and matting and by a team of tireless volunteers who handled the frame cleaning, set up and dismantling.

Competition Winners during the year were as follows:-

Public competition Nicola Lively

Projected Image 2020 Mel Keith (Waiting)

Print Competition 2021 Open Emma Hissey

Diffuse Rick Spencer New Member Emma Hissey

Media and publicity had continued to be used as the prime means of raising our profile and attracting new members. Facebook, our Discussion group and Instagram all had had significantly increased their following during the past year.

Shannon thanked committee members for their work during the year, most of whom were offering themselves for another term. He also welcomed new nominees Helen Beaven, Terry Harken and Rick Spencer. Glen Innes was standing down after serving terms as President, Immediate Past President and Secretary due to other commitments. Shannon thanked Glen for his contribution during that time. While standing down as President, Shannon would continue to be involved on the committee, focussing particularly upon social media and marketing.

Resolved:-

That the President's Report to the Annual General Meeting 2021 be adopted. (S Doyle/P Flanagan) CARRIED

TREASURER'S REPORT

Mel Keith spoke to the Interim Statement of Receipts and Payments for the Year Ended 30 June 2021, noting that the cash resources of the Society stood at 32, 717 on 30 June 2021.

She apologised for the fact that a complete set of accounts was not able to be presented and that the accounts for the previous year were still unreviewed and outlined the underlying reasons behind that. The transition from a manual cheque-based system to a fully electronic regime, supported by the specialist accounting package MYOB had yet to be fully completed.

She undertook to work with the incoming Treasurer, Rick Spencer to put matters right as soon as possible and have both sets of documentation endorsed by a Special General Meeting to be held in the first quarter of 2022.

Resolved:-

That the Treasurer's Report to the Annual General Meeting 2020 be adopted. (M Keith/G Sutton)

CARRIED

INTERIM STATEMENT OF RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS TO 30 JUNE 2020. Mel explained that these were a basic statement of the Society's financial cash position with more work to be done to complete the formal accounts.

Barry Mahon advocated that a fixed date be set for this work to be completed. Rick Spencer said that it would be done as soon as possible, but until he had looked at the issues, he could not foresee how much work was involved. The first quarter of 2022 seemed a reasonable target. Glen Innes said that the committee was determined to complete this as a priority and move forward.

Resolved:-

That the Interim Statement of Receipts and Payments for the Year Ended 30 June 2021 be received and priority be given to completing the outstanding work and presenting reviewed financial statements for the two previous years to a Special General Meeting for formal adoption, such a meeting to be held during the first quarter of 2022

(P Keith/G Sutton) CARRIED

ELECTION OF OFFICERS AND COMMITTEE MEMBERS FOR 2020/21

Glen Innes read out the list of nominations received. At this stage, no elections were required as no positions were contested. However, in view of the short notice of the AGM, the committee had agreed that nominations from the floor or by Zoom would be considered. None were forthcoming.

Resolved:-

That the following officers and committee members be declared elected for the 2021/22 year.

President: Mel Keith

Vice President No Nomination Honorary Treasurer: Rick Spencer

Honorary Secretary: Bronwyn Rideout (PSNZ Liaison)

Committee: Helen Beaven

Julie Brixton,

Terry Harken (Membership Secretary)

Julie McGowan,

Lee McLauchlan (Programme Coordinator)

Keith Molloy,

Immediate Past President: Shannon Doyle

(S Doyle/P Flanagan)

CARRIED

SUBSCRIPTIONS FOR 2021/22

The committee had recommended a small rise in subscription fees which had been static for a number of years. A major factor prompting that was a significant rise in the rental charge for the Tararua Tramping Club Hall.

Resolved:-

That the Subscription fees for 2021/22 be set at the following levels;-

Full Member \$90.00 Student/Unwaged \$50.00 Youth under 18 no fee

(M Keith/G Innes) CARRIED

FINANCIAL REVIEW

Resolved:-

That the 2021/22 Annual Financial Statements of the Society be subject to an independent financial review and that the Committee be authorised to appoint a suitably qualified person to undertake that task.

(G Innes/B Rideout) CARRIED

GENERAL BUSINESS

Covid 19 Protocols

The President advised that the Tararua Tramping Club were keen to see all hall hirers adopt appropriate Covid Safety protocols to protect all users of the facility invited. The Committee had discussed this and was recommending mandatory mask-wearing, socially-distanced seating, scanning and sign-in plus hand sanitation. Additionally, attendance in person should be restricted to those that could produce a Vaccination Certificate. Endorsement from the meeting was sought. It was suggested that zoom connections for meetings could be used for those who were either unwell or without the vaccination certificate. Another suggestion was to see if PSNZ was able to give any guidance on this issue. It was then noted that a recent email from PSNZ covered this issue for

clubs.

Resolved:

That this Annual General Meeting endorse the adoption of a Covid 19 Safety Protocol as outlined for all of its future activities based at the Tararua Tramping Club and that such a protocol be publicised to the membership.

{K Molloy/L Makower}

CARRIED

Communication With Members

Peter Rodgers sought assurance that the society was not becoming too dependent on Social Media as not all members were connected to Facebook for example.

Shannon explained that the social media focus was directed in the main to the wider community and had proved to be a very useful tool to boost the Society's profile and to recruit new members. Internally focussed communication was via email and by use of the website.

Charitable Status

Peter Rodgers noted that the failure to complete the financial statements had affected the lodging of returns to the Charities Commission and that the Society was currently deregistered.

In response, the Committee had agreed that the reinstatement of the Charitable Status of the society must be a priority once the finances had been finalised.

Impact

Shannon explained that he was responsible for 90% of the content of Impact and with Covid hugely affecting his livelihood as a professional photographer, he had simply had to prioritise strategies for his business to survive over the production of the magazine for the Society

VOTE OF THANKS

The meeting concluded at 8.10 pm with a warm vote of thanks to the Chair.