

**IRISH AUSTRALIAN ASSOCIATION
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
SUNDAY 10 OCTOBER 2023**

Commencement: 12.07pm

Welcome

The Welcome to Country delivered by Chairperson Denis Carey

The Chairperson advised members that Marc O'Conaill would be the Returning Officer. He welcomed all present to the AGM (43 members) and confirmed we had enough members present so a quorum was met.

Apologies

Apologies were received from the President Jennifer Keogh and Vice-President Vincent Sheehy. Apologies received from members were Esther O'Reilly, Malachy O'Reilly, Geraldine O'Reilly, Gillian Drummond, Patrick Carey, Janine Carey, Martin Cunningham, Dora Fuda, Katherine Lynch and Anne McGuinness.

Minutes of Previous AGM

The Chairperson asked if anyone would like the minutes read out from last year, everyone declined.

*Kathleen Somerville proposed the minutes be accepted, Ann Norris seconded.
Majority agreed.*

Report of the President

Denis Carey read the statement on behalf of President Jennifer Keogh on the activities over the past 12 months and tendered her report.

*Ian Stapleton moved that the President's report be accepted, Mike Lyons seconded.
Majority of members indicated their support for accepting the President's report.*

Financial and Auditor's Report of the Treasurer

Treasurer Peter Clifton provided an overview of the financial position of the IAA and provided some context to some of the figures. The auditors report was tendered.

Some members sought clarification in relation to some inconsistencies in the financial report. The Treasurer stated that this was due to certain assumptions made by the Auditor and some inconsistencies in MYOB (an occurrence that has been happening for several years). Peter confirmed the cash position is a true record and the inconsistencies are related to the accruals.

Carmel Cunningham suggested changing the Constitution so no private accounts can be used to pay Club invoices. Peter advised that this would be an action for the new board to look into.

Kevin Neeson moved that the Auditor's Report be accepted, John Somerville seconded.

A majority of members indicated their support for accepting the Auditor's Report.

The Chairperson thanked the volunteers who have worked on the Board and in particular thanked the outgoing President and Treasurer for their great work in providing stability for the IAA. The Chairperson advised he had something he wanted to tell the members which was not to be discussed or debated at the AGM:

Consumer and Business Services (CBS) wrote to the IAA Public Officer as they had received a complaint / allegations of non-compliance. They have requested a range of documents, some as far back as 2018, including our membership register. We have contacted CBS for further information, however they have declined this request. This is a matter for the new board but members need to be aware, the club may need to seek legal advice. If Denis Carey remains on the Board, he will ensure all members are kept fully informed.

Margaret Monks thanked the Board for a wonderful job over the last 12 months.

Election of the Committee

The Chairperson invited the Returning Officer to assume control of the meeting.

On the positions on the Board falling vacant the Returning Officer outlined the approach he would take to the election of Board members. He emphasised that he would have no regard to the history of anyone or any event or whether anyone had issues with the character of a nominee.

President: One nomination received from Denis Carey. Proposed by Frank O'Reilly and seconded by Terry Stephen. Denis accepted the nomination.
A majority of members indicated their support for Denis Carey being appointed President.

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Vice President: No nominations had been received by the closing date. The Returning Officer invited nominations from the floor - no nominations were received.

Position is open and can be filled by the newly elected Board.

Chairperson: One nomination had been received for Denis Carey, however, due to his appointment as President, this nomination was withdrawn.

The Returning Officer invited nominations from the floor - no nominations were received.

Position is open and can be filled by the newly elected Board.

Secretary: No nominations had been received by the closing date. Kevin Neeson proposed that Annmarie Marchioro be nominated. Annmarie accepted the nomination.

A majority of members indicated their support for Annmarie Marchioro being appointed Secretary.

Treasurer: No nominations had been received by the closing date. Denis Carey proposed that Keith Byrne be nominated. Keith accepted the nomination.

A majority of members indicated their support for Keith Byrne being appointed Treasurer.

Membership Secretary: No nominations had been received by the closing date. Margaret Monks proposed that Shirley Quinn be nominated. Shirley accepted the nomination.

A majority of members indicated their support for Shirley Quinn being appointed Membership Secretary.

Social Convenor: No nominations had been received by the closing date. The Returning Officer invited nominations from the floor – no nominations were received. It was stated this role has not been filled for two years (as described in the Standing Orders – Hon Events Secretary), however Denis Carey has been liaising with members and entertainers. Denis stated he is happy to continue in this role.

A majority of members indicated they agreed to continue with this arrangement.

Ordinary Members: Kevin Neeson nominated Marc O’Conaill. Kathleen Somerville seconded. Annmarie Marchioro nominated Frank O’Reilly. Kevin Neeson seconded. Nicole Lynch nominated Thomas Lynch. Kathleen Somerville seconded.

A majority of members indicated their support for Marc, Frank and Thomas being appointed Ordinary Members.

Reading of the Ethics of the Association

President Denis Carey invited the newly elected Board to take a seat at the front and then read out the Ethics of the Association.

Other Business

The President asked if the members had any suggestions for the new board to consider, with the following responses:

- Suggestion to purchase a new sound system for club (Will Rowe)
- Curtains at the back of the upstairs stage (Kevin Neeson)
- Speakers downstairs at the back of the hall (Keith Byrne)
- Possibility to open earlier on Fridays (Tony Lynch)
- More RP's required (Frank O'Reilly)
- Activities to engage more young people (Marc O'Conaill)
- Improved vetting of new members (Kathleen Somerville)
- Tri-coloured lights on tree outside (Norm Anderson)

Bernie Kierns asked how much influence the IAA has on other groups eg GAA, AIDA, etc. He stated that he was disappointed in the Irish Club as he has had members 'put out' of the band and the IAA did nothing to prevent it. Denis stated the IAA has no control on how they operate, reiterating they are still welcome at the club.

Will Rowe advised the members that social media reflects 65% of those engaging are 20-25 year olds.

Meeting Closed: 1.25pm