



**MINUTES OF THE 65TH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING  
SUNDAY 7 NOVEMBER 2021 (held via ZOOM)**

The meeting opened at 2:14 p.m. with Anne MacLeish (President) in the chair.

**1. Welcome, Attendance, Apologies, Introductions**

In opening the meeting, the Chairman acknowledged the Traditional Owners of this country throughout Australia and recognised their continuing connection to land, waters and culture and paid our respects to their Elders past, present and emerging.

Also acknowledged were the people who 121 years ago worked hard to construct the Narrow-Gauge line from Upper Ferntree Gully to Gembrook, through these beautiful Dandenong Ranges and the many pulled together to fight hard to save this Railway for the enjoyment of the people of Melbourne and visitors from 1955. Through their vision and through the hard work, the Railway now provides enjoyment of steam travel to many.

Thanked were members not able to attend due to volunteering this day at Puffing Billy Railway.

All were welcomed, including all members of the Society who are present today and guests and the trust that this meeting is constructive and enjoyed by all.

This has been a challenging year for us all and it is a pleasure to welcome all to our second Zoom AGM.

**Members present:**

Alex Blinks, Leslie Brown, Bret Butler, Fraser Clayton, Graeme Cleak, Ralph Cleary, Jean Clowes, Bob Cochrane, Andrea Coffey, Norman Crothers, John Dare, Geoffrey Dean, John Douglas, Geoff Earl, Kevin Eisfelder, Richard Elphick, Greg Finlay, Greg Finster, Jeff Goodwin, Jim Gordon, Judy Gordon, Jeff Gouldson, Alan Gray, Howard Grenville, Alf Grigg, Malcolm Hanson, John Hearsch, Tim Heeks, Andrew Hennell, Russell Hicks, Bernie Holmes, Tim Horton, Gary Houston, Tony Howker, Gareth Hunter, Bill Ireland, Steven Kaye, Dianna Kidgell, Graeme Kidgell, Graham Knight, Maggie Lambert, Desmond Lang, Cliff Leigh, Neil Lewis, Anne MacLeish, Richard Main, Don Marshall, Phil Matthews, Mike McCarthy, Alexander McCooke, Bruce McLean, Peter Medlin, Greg Michael, Jens Neelsen, Doug Newberry, Kim Oldfield, Jeremy Paton, Ron Peach, Eric Platt, Andrew Rayment, Max Raynor, Roo Richards, Col Rogers, Rob Rossiter, Gary Ryan, John Scott, John Shaw, Lorna Shaw, Peter Shearman, Cliff Simmons, Paul Sparks, Graeme Sproul, Kevin Stanes, Tony Stratford, Kevin Taig, Keith Theobald, Peter Trenery, Lyn Wade, Geoff Wallace, Andrew Webster, Andrea West, Bruce West, Andrew Wheatland, Deborah Woodward, Peter Zegenhagen

**Guest present** - Simon Nunan

**Apologies:**

Apologies have received already from those who are unwell, unable to access the meeting, travelling or involved with railway volunteering.

Gary Baker, Jenny Baker, James Bancroft, Istvan Bohata, John Brady, Bill Chalmers, Brian Coleman, John Crisp, Graeme Daniel, Neal Elfick, Peter Harcourt, Ian Harper, David Hennell, Don Horsburgh, Andrew Howlett, Peter Hutchison, John Kay, John Larke, Allan Leaver, Nola Ledbury, Tony Marsden, Peter Norton, Kevin Perry ESM, Philip Rayment, Peter Stowell, John Sutcliffe, Margaret Sutcliffe, John Thompson, Les Thompson, Barry Thomson, Mike Topp, Hedwig van Haalen, Ron Walker, Rod Watson, Len Whalley, Geoff Winkler, Paul Woodward, Grant Woolcock

Members of the Executive introduced themselves.

A short Zoom Poll was conducted to categorise those in attendance in various categories such as Volunteers, Railway Staff, Members with various years of membership, membership of other railways local or interstate or overseas. 52% indicated they were volunteers, 65% had been members for more than 20 years, 24% between 5 and 20 years, 7% less than 5 years. 57% indicated membership of other Heritage Railway groups (Victoria, interstate, overseas). 4% were staff of ETRB.

## 2. Minutes of 2020 Annual General Meeting

Copies of the Minutes had been made available prior to the meeting. No amendments were noted.

It was moved Alf Grigg, seconded Andrea Coffey, that the Minutes of the 2020 Annual General Meeting be adopted. Due to technical issues with the Poll function, this was determined via the Raise Hand option in Zoom separately for In Favour, Against and Abstain votes. **CARRIED**

There were no matters arising from the minutes.

## 3. President's Annual Report

This report had previously been made available to members.

It was moved Andrea Coffey seconded Tim Horton that the President's Annual Report for 2021 be received. The Zoom Poll function was used for this and all following Resolutions. **CARRIED.**

## 4. Presentation of Financial Report for 2020-2021

This report had been previously made available to Members.

In presenting the report, the work done by the Finance committee of Tim Horton, Eric Platt and Sandra Beldman was acknowledged together with the work done by our auditor.

It was moved Graham Knight seconded Richard Elphick that the 2021 Financial Report be accepted. **CARRIED**

## 5. Membership Subscription for 2022-2023

Anne MacLeish reported that the Executive is recommending that membership rates be as follows-for 2022-2023 (no rises since 2018-2019). The increase will help offset extra costs incurred since separation from ETRB.

Membership grade	Current membership rates	2022-2023 proposed
Full	\$82.00	\$90.00
Full (Concession)	\$52.00	\$60.00
Junior (under 18 years)	\$27.00	\$30.00
Family (2 ad, <=4 ch.)	\$142.00	\$145.00

It was moved Alf Grigg seconded Bill Ireland that the Membership rates for 2022-2023 change to \$30 for Junior, \$60 for Concession/Student, \$90 for Full and \$145 for Family. **CARRIED**

Life	\$2400.00	\$2,700.00
Senior Life	\$1430.00	\$1,530.00

It was moved Graham Knight seconded Peter Zegenhagen that life membership fees change to Senior Life \$1530 and Life \$2700 from July 1 2022. **CARRIED**

**6. Appointment of Auditor**

It was moved John Dare seconded Kevin Taig that Saward Dawson Chartered Accountants be appointed as Auditor for the Puffing Billy Preservation Society for the 2021-2022 year. **CARRIED**

**7. Election Results**

The Chairman announced that the following Committee members would continue in office from last year.

- Vice President:** Graeme Kidgell
- Committee Member:** Richard Elphick

The President then handed over the Chair to Vice President Graeme Kidgell to announce the outcome of the nominations called for in September.

The following nominations for the positions previously advised have been received:

- President:** Anne MacLeish
- Committee Members:** Alf Grigg, Richard Main, Phil Matthews, Jeremy Paton  
Gareth Hunter

No nominations had been received for Secretary or Treasurer. The number of nominations for Committee Members is less than the number of vacancies. Therefore Anne MacLeish is declared elected for two years and the nominated Committee members Alf Grigg, Richard Main, Phil Matthews ad Jeremy Paton are declared elected for two-year terms, and Gareth Hunter has accepted a one-year term due to work commitments.

The Vice-President handed the Chair back to the President. As per clause 11.9 of the Constitution, nominations were called for from the meeting with successful nominees to hold the position until the next AGM in 2022.

Secretary (1 year): Richard Main was nominated by Dianna Kidgell seconded Andrew Webster. Being the only nominee, he was duly elected as Secretary.

Treasurer (1 year): Jeremy Paton was nominated by Tim Horton seconded Alf Grigg . Being the only nominee, he was duly elected as Treasurer.

Which leaves more vacancies for Committeemen for the next 12 months. No nominations were received from the meeting. The Chairman noted that these vacancies can be filled at any time if a member should express interest.

**8. Presentation of Awards**

The following Members who'd achieved the Years of Membership shown, both continuous and cumulative, were read out and displayed via a PowerPoint presentation and congratulated.

**20 years Continuous membership: - read by Richard Main**

Robert Beare	Russell Bowen	David Crocker
John Forrester	Paul Fuller	Murray George
Niels Kroyer	Christopher Potts	David Price
Keith Theobald	Peter Trener	Ben van der Linde
Lyn Wade	Simon Walker	Roger Whitehouse

**20 years Cumulative membership: - read by Richard Main**

Graham George	William Major	Malcolm Marcus
Rowan Millard	Dennis O'Brien	Paul Sparks
Chris Tasker	Tony Tobias	

**30 years Continuous membership: - read by Jeremy Paton**

Carl Barnard	Nick Breach	John Conway
Judy Gordon	Howard Grenville	Larry Hazell
Don Horsburgh	Tim Horton	Peter Stowell
Herb Warren	John Wymond	

**30 years Cumulative membership: - read by Jeremy Paton**

Andy Bevan	Bob Cochrane	Brian Coleman
Frank Dean	Geoffrey Dean	David Evans
Don Frazer	Bryce Leydon	Pat Minihan
Gary Pallister	Graeme Prideaux	Roo Richards
Wally Schneider	Robert Wilson	

**40 years Continuous membership: - read by Alf Grigg**

Michael Foley	John Hoy	Warren Stephenson
Andrew Webster		

**40 years Cumulative membership: - read by Alf Grigg**

John Brady	Michael Clarke	Peter De Garis
Bernie Holmes	Mike McCarthy	Philip Miller
Geoffrey Moore	Andrew Stephens	

John Brady submitted a thank you message for this. Bernie Holmes was present and also expressed his thanks. Andrew Webster described how he joined the Society in 1981.

**50 years Continuous membership: - read by Graeme Kidgell**

Phil Asker AOM	Don English	Ian Grenfell
Desmond Lang	Darryl Levin	Max Michell
Terry Nisbet	Andrew Rayment	Philip Rayment
John Shaw	Andrew Wheatland	

Andrew Rayment described how he and his brother Phillip joined the Society and his involvement over the years.

## **50 years Cumulative membership: - read by Graeme Kidgell**

Gary Houston  
Dave Macartney

Cliff Leigh  
Norman McClure

Peter Lowenstein  
David Thiessen

Gary Houston also described his early involvement selling lollies and engine cleaning.

## **60 years membership: - read by Anne MacLeish**

These were described as the true pioneers of the Railway.

Phil A'vard  
John Davies  
John Hearsch  
John Malcolm  
Peter Ralph (dec)  
John Stephens  
Duncan Waite

Ian Barkla  
Ted Godwin  
Reg Jackson  
Kevin Mathisen  
Cliff Simmons  
Kevin Taig

Bernie Broughton  
Peter Harcourt  
John Kerley  
Alan McDougall  
Denys Steinhauser  
Barry Thomson

Reg Jackson had sent in a thank you message.

Cliff Simmons who was present, described the early days in 1960 paying a 1 Pound membership fee. When Life Membership was to be increased from 20 to 30 Pounds, he signed up for a Life member at 20 quid.

Kevin Taig expressed his thanks to fellow volunteers over the years for their help and friendship.

## **9. General Business**

Alf Grigg summarised the PBPS Child Safety policy “headlines” which, as a priority, is to be further developed.

Graeme Kidgell spoke on the acquisition of 6NB and 8NB (ex-Ocean Grove) and their subsequent movements. They were moved in September 2021 from Officer to Rawson, pending under coverage storage at Thomson. The carriages are and will remain property of PBPS.

Q What lines did they run on? Taken on notice. Members advised that they were assigned to Whitfield (6NB) and Gembrook Lines (8NB) originally.

Graeme Kidgell spoke on the Moondarra property. Purchased by PBPS in Oct 1979. In 2020, ETRB decided to do work – without consulting with PBPS. Contractors were directed to leave by PBPS. Inspections reveal damage to steel supports and water-logged ground. Supports are also seriously corroded. Engineer’s inspection deemed the building is structurally unsound and not fit for purpose. Access now prohibited. Asbestos may also be an issue. A further engineering report was commissioned on required works. A large majority of members support a complete redevelopment for Society purposes. Moondarra committee has been formed to manage this process.

Q Need to take into account responsibility if something happens to the building in the interim. A Signs have been posted and ETRB are aware of building status.

Q Any thoughts on actual demolition? A Need to take into account services on the site.

Q ATCO buildings might be a solution. A Need to consider how they would look on site.

Anne MacLeish reported on current situation regarding the Archives and regaining access to Society records etc. There is a need to separate PBPS Corporate records from

Historical collections. A number of members have indicated that they are willing to help with this project, but access to Kings Road will be subject to ETRB permission. ETRB have offered access to Kings Road with no fee based on agreement acceptance.

Memorandum of Understanding with ETRB - Received report from CEO in the last few days. Also still reviewing ownership of Society Assets which needs further assistance from members with any knowledge of previous transactions. Will be an independent interview process to obtain relevant information. Several members expressed willingness to assist with this including John Shaw, Kevin Taig, Doug Newberry, Bruce West, Graham Knight, Don Marshall and Geoff Dean.

Q on Vax status for volunteers and passengers A This is a matter for the Railway, not Society.

Q Method of communicating with members re the AGM was queried A Email is used as much as possible. Nominations were called for in September and names of nominees forwarded in early October.

Q Members' travel benefits A This is still being resolved with the Railway.

Q When is next *Narrow Gauge* magazine being published? A Delays have occurred with paper supply company closing due to COVID but is now being bound, but again delayed due to COVID. Should be in the mail this week.

Q Any consideration to a live Webcam of the Railway A This is a matter for the Railway.

Q Any progress for premises for Executive A Nothing to report but more space would be good, ideally in the Outer East suburbs.

A member commented that the Moondarra redevelopment would be good for volunteers, as not much is provided by the Railway.

## **10. Closure**

Thanks expressed to Greg Michael for the Minutes and Brad Hurle, Gareth Hunter, Russell Hicks and Phil Matthews for supporting the meeting organisation.

In closing, the Chairman stated that the Executive were always looking for help on projects, including fundraising, admin, work on policies and procedures, bookkeeping and mail order work.

A pre-Christmas Members Zoom meeting is being planned and if possible a suitable function to honour the 50 and 60 year members, when COVID restrictions permit.

Meeting closed at 4:19 p.m.

Members continued to chat over zoom on informal matters, after the meeting.