

**Annual General Meeting  
of the  
IRISH AUSTRALIAN ASSOCIATION INCORPORATED  
2020**

Held

SUNDAY 20th September 2020

**Meeting Opened** 2.00pm

**Apologies** 10 apologies were noted

Present 29 members attended representing a quorum of the membership.

**Welcome from the Chairman**

Welcome from the Chairperson Kevin Neeson to all members present.

He then read out the "Welcome to Country".

**Minutes of the last AGM**

The minutes were read by the Hon Secretary

There were no amendments to the minutes, as read and delivered previously to all members by email.

**Proposed** by Paul Anderson and Seconded by Vince Sheehy that the AGM Minutes of the 20th Sept 2019 be confirmed as a true and accurate record.

Accepted by acclamation.

**Presidents Report**

The Chairperson invited the President Margaret Monks to make her report on the year's activities.

Thank you all for coming in at this unusual time.

This year has been very challenging for everyone but we are in the best state in Australia. Before this awful time, in November I attended a garden party with Kevin Neeson and Frances Stokes. All other invitations were cancelled because of the Covid pandemic restrictions. Before the final cancellation we had the "Pint Pulling" competition which was a great success thanks to Linda Dowling and her helpers. The next day was the Saint Patrick's parade. We had representatives from the Lord Mayor, the Premiers, Labour opposition and the MLC. The Parade was well attended but not as many as previous years but it was enjoyed by everyone and after we had really nice afternoon.

Music was provided by Celtic Music Club, and "The Craic and the Cratur", dancers from the the Adelaide Academy, Roberts, Newry, and Tolan dance schools of Irish Dancing. It was a really a lovely occasion: of course we did have complaints about music being too loud. That is something that happens every year, I put it down to getting old. That unfortunately was our last show at the club until just recently. We thought we would open on Saint Patricks day because the Oval was cancelled and we do not know if will be on in 2021. Just hoping. We were excited when reality kicked in and we realised we would get a huge crown and put people in danger. So we closed the club after the Parade.

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During the time of closure Mrs Lan Le the governors wife phoned to see how we were getting on. I had a lovely talk with her and I thanked her in an eMail. Then Stephen Marshall sent a very nice letter which I also answered. Mrs Le phoned again and during the conversation all the clubs were doing it tough. She said the Governor was Patron to over 300 community clubs and others and everyone was in a bad way.

Finally we opened on the 3rd July with "The Craic and the Cratur". It was a terrific night. It was lovely sitting at the door to hear people saying "lovely to be back at the Irish Club". We had a few hiccups but most everyone did the correct thing. You can't dance and have the bar. Naturally our preferences is bar open. The Friday nights have been lovely to come in and enjoy.

As you know we are totally run by volunteers. The only club run by volunteers and have kept the doors open for 62 years. A huge thanks to Chairperson Kevin Neeson, Secretary Matt Cottrell, Treasurer Sinead Frayne and the finance committee, and all the Board, Vice President Mike Lyons, Maureen McNamara, Tona Hoban, Esther O'Reilly, Carmel Cunningham for their work and of course Frank O'Reilly as our Bar Manager and Paul Ennis as our Membership secretary. We need volunteers to help with the bar, so would be more than happy to train them. Also anyone who has ideas for us to run the club don't hesitate to come to us with your ideas. I would also like to thank Carol McGrane for standing in for Carmel Cunningham doing the Web publishing and Facebook management, Carol has done some amazing work. Eamon West for all his help on the sound. The only one he had trouble with was me. Also Peter Clifton who comes from Brighton to look after the garden outside. A very big thank you to you all. Also I would like us to remember the people who have gone before and have kept the club going for these 62 years. Lucky the young men who left Ireland and England had the insight to build us our club and we hope we are doing them proud.

Finally I would like to thank our outgoing Chairperson Kevin Neeson. No one knows the amount of work Kevin has done. Besides the huge job of Chairperson which has drastically changed over the years like every job this has grown so much. You don't just sit and chair a meeting you have to be up with all the rules and regulations now. So much to know and do. He also does the set up for music, sets up the hall making sure things are ready. Comes in and cleans the hall at weekends when people have not done what is expected of them over and above anything. We have been really lucky to have him with us and I personally thank him.

*Margaret Monks* September 2020

**Proposed** by Paul Ennis and Seconded by Kevin Neeson that the Presidents Report of the 20th Sept 2020 be adopted.

Accepted by acclamation.

## **Financial Report**

The Chairperson invited the Treasurer Sinead Frayne to present the Financial Reports from Chris Dickinson CDA Audit & Advisory.

Three sets of Financial Statements were presented to members including,

- Audited Financial Statements
- Profit & Loss Statements and Detailed
- Balance Sheet of the books

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**General Summary of Financial report**

Income	\$79,422
Expenses	\$101,073
Loss	<b>\$21,651</b>
Cash at Bank with Bank SA	\$40,108
Term Deposit at People's Choice CU	\$124,509

Assets of the club had not changed dramatically and currently stand at \$1.98 million.

- St Patrick's day at the Adelaide Oval generated an income of \$0.
- The Shop next door brings in steady income of \$1450- per month

There was discussion from the floor over the perceived missing money that was identified in a previous AGM audit.

The Chairman gave a detailed explanation of this situation.

The forensic investigation into the financial discrepancies of the financial year 17/18 be wound up due to lack of information.

The chairperson indicated after these discussions by the Sub-Committee that the IAA Board had made a resolution that after many hours of investigation by the Sub-Committee that the amount was not going to be identified and that the Board would close the discussion on the subject at the close of this AGM. The sub committee could not continue with the investigation due to lack of information.

Discussion from members were raised some issues with this explanation.

- Sam Somerset addressed the Treasurer with a list of questions which were answered.
- One member asked why it didn't get brought to the fraud squad.

Further discussion was closed.

**Proposed** by Sinead Frayne and Seconded by Frank O'Reilly that the Financial Report of the 20th Sept 2020 be accepted.

Accepted by acclamation.

**Life Membership**

Chairperson invited Frank O'Reilly to step forward to receive his Life membership

Kevin read out the history of Frank and his involvement in the club over the 30 years.

Nominated by Kevin Neeson and overwhelming acclaimed by all members.

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## Report on St Patrick's Day Festivities

The Chairperson indicated that due to the Covid 19 Pandemic the annual St Patricks Day festivities were cancelled by Government request. This caused a loss of \$25,000 income for this year.

The St Patrick's Day Parade was well attended

The Chairperson then gave some discussions that had taken place due to members concerns at the last AGM Downstairs Bar. The Club had difficulty in getting a Plan to then be able to get a quote for the work. Values of \$5,000 to \$10,000 were required just to get a plan drawn up. A verbal quote of approx. \$45,000 had been obtained but this was given with no detailed drawings and no OH&S issues

The Board would continue to explore the situation and report back to the next AGM.

He also indicated that the front wall should have some sort of modernisation. The Board to follow through with discussions re this subject.

## Election of Officers

There being no other business the Chairman indicated that all Board positions would now be declared Vacant and elections would now take place.

He invited Mr Sam Somerset to conduct the elections.

The following nominations were received on properly formatted nomination forms duly nominated, seconded and signed.

Postion	Proposed	Nominated by	Seconded
<b>President</b>	Margaret Monks	Frank O'Reilly	Esther O'reilly
<b>Vice President</b>	None		
<b>Chairperson</b>	Sam Somerset	Patricia Willcocks	Matt Cottrell
<b>Hon Secretary</b>	Tricia Willcocks	Sinead Frayne	Tona Hoban
<b>Hon Treasurer</b>	Sinead Frayne	Tona Hoban	Sam Somerset
<b>Hon Membership secretary</b>	Paul Ennis	Kevin Neeson	Margaret Monks
<b>Hon Events Secretary</b>	None		
<b>Board members</b>	Tona Hoban		
	Russell Barter		
	Frank O'Reilly		
	Esther O'Reilly		

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Postion	Proposed	Nominated by	Seconded
	Robyn Quigley		
	Matt Cottrell		

There being no other nominations it was declared that all Board Members be elected unanimously.

Newly Elected Chairperson Sam Somerset remained in the Chair and thanked all new members for their willingness to assist the club this coming year.

**President Margaret Monks read out the Ethics of the club as below.**

1. As a Member of the Irish Australian Association Incorporated I will do everything I can to preserve control of the Association and of the Irish Memorial Hall by the Irish Australian Community;
2. I will uphold the Articles of the Constitution of the Association and shall ensure that I am well acquainted with them;
3. Whenever I observe that the Articles of Association are being broken I shall raise a point of order with the Chairperson or appropriate officer of the Association;
4. I shall engage in discussion of matters raised at meetings so as to make a meaningful contribution and allow the best possible decision to be reached;
5. I shall listen carefully to matters discussed by other Members whether they are persons with whom I agree or not;
6. I shall assist the Chairperson to control the meetings to avoid delay and to facilitate mutual understanding by addressing all my remarks to the Chairperson or through the Chairperson to another Member;
6. I shall avoid speaking directly to any other Member during the formal course of a meeting unless directed to do so by the Chairperson;
7. Where necessary I shall engage in vigorous debate but I shall hold no ill will towards any Member who disagrees with me and I shall avoid personal derogatory remarks. I shall not say outside a meeting what I should have said at it;
9. I shall do all this in a spirit of loyalty to the Irish Australian Association and avoid personal gain, making sure especially in financial matters that wherever possible transactions are witnessed or checked by another Member so that not only is honesty practiced but is its also seen to be practiced;
8. I shall consider it a privilege to serve loyally the Articles of the Association and my fellow Irish Australians and never carry away from a meeting or function of the Association any bitterness or ill will towards my fellow Members.
9. I shall help all Associate groups of the Association to run functions and activities whether or not I am personally interested in such groups so as to weld the Irish Community into a co-operative whole.

**General Business**

**Being no formal general business notified the meeting accept general comment form the meeting.**

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- o Kevin Neeson indicated that there may be a grant from the Adelaide City Council re the front façade of the clubrooms.
- o Ian Stapleton hoped that the Board could would encourage more members especially younger ones.
- o Sean McGrath also spoke on the need for more members.
- o Frank O'Reilly asked if the new Board could look at disabled parking could be pursued through the Adelaide City Council
- o The Chairperson then thanked all members and invited them to stay and mix with other members

To be confirmed as true and accurate.

Signature:

Chairperson

Date: