

BURGHER ASSOCIATION (AUSTRALIA) INC.

THE MINUTES OF THE 2010 AGM, HELD AT THE BAA CENTRE ON TUESDAY, 23RD NOVEMBER 2010 WITH ELAINE JANSZ PRESIDING.

The President declared the meeting open at 7.45pm after establishing that the attendance of eligible Members had exceeded the quorum. She welcomed those present and noted apologies from; Rev. John Blaze, Mrs Gwen Boustead, Mrs Dyan Davidson, Mrs Rosemarie Johnson, Mrs Marlene Caspersz, Mr & Mrs David & Caroline Van Dort and Mr Herman Loos.

She then addressed the items on the agenda with the assistance of the Honorary Secretary, Stafford Tambimuttu.

ITEM 1 To confirm the minutes of the 2009 AGM

Since the minutes were circulated to the Members with the 79th *Edition of the Summer 2009 News Bulletin*, they were considered read. The Members were invited to raise any matters they wished to query concerning the minutes, but there were none. In the circumstances, the minutes were appropriately received and adopted on a motion proposed by Bevill Jansz and seconded by Leslie Fernando.

ITEM2 To confirm from the Committee of Management reports of the transactions of the Association over the preceding year

Again since the Annual Report addressing this topic was sent to the Members in the *Notice dated 7th October 2010*, it was taken as read. However, the Secretary offered to read the report if the Membership preferred this. In the absence of any response, the report was received and adopted on motion proposed by Rowena Hamlett and seconded by Leslie Fernando.

ITEM3 To receive and adopt the Audited Financial Statement for year ending 30th June 2010 pursuant to Section 30 (3) of the Associations Incorporation Act

This report was also made available to the Members as an attachment to the *Notice dated 28th October 2010* and therefore assumed as read. Once again there was no response to the Honorary Treasurer, Neville Davidson's invitation for questions. Therefore, the report was received and adopted on a motion proposed by Leslie Fernando and seconded by Bevill Jansz.

ITEM4 To elect a Honorary Auditor for the ensuring financial year

The Vice-President, Doyne Caspersz recommended that Mr Malcolm Auwardt be reappointed to the position for the reason expressed in the previous AGM minutes (highly competent & qualified, no charges and the "arms-length" relationship he maintains with the Association). Bevill seconded the recommendation and the Members **unanimously approved it.**

ITEM5 To discuss proposed resolutions/amendments to the rules

The Honorary Secretary on behalf of the Committee of Management of the Burgher Association (Australia) Inc. proposed the following changes to the present Constitution (Rules), as two (2) separate Special Resolutions **as defined in Section 29 of the Associations Incorporations ACT 1981.**

For convenience, set out below are the proposed changes, which appear in "Bold"

Resolution 1-Alter present Clause 20 (1) and Clause 27 to read as:-

20 (1) The Committee of Management shall consist of the following Office Bearers and Committee Members:-

- (a) A President;
- (b) A Vice President;
- (c) A Secretary/**Public Officer**;
- (d) An Assistant Secretary;
- (e) A Treasurer;
- (f) An Assistant Treasurer;
- (g) An Editor;
- (h) A Public Relations Manager, and;
- (i) Seven (7) ordinary members of the Committee.

SECRETARY/PUBLIC OFFICER

27 The Secretary/**Public Officer** of the Association shall keep minutes of the resolutions and proceedings

of each General Meeting and each Committee Meeting in books provided for this purpose, together

with a record of the names of persons present at Committee Meetings and deal with administration

matters, correspondence and motions as directed and notify all members of meetings **and also**

perform the duties of the Public Officer as stipulated in the Associations Incorporations Act 1981.

Resolution 2-Alter present Clause 29 (2) to read as:-

FINANCIAL ADMINISTRATION

(2) All accounts must be paid by cheques **signed by two (2) of a number of Officers authorised by the**

Committee of Management of whom one such Officer must be the President or the Treasurer.

Vice President, Doyne Caspersz presented the above amendments to the Constitution to the members and explained to them the reasons for the changes. He advised that Resolution 1 is a change that will be forced upon the Association as a result of forthcoming changes in the relevant legislation, which is expected before the end of 2011 (we are being pro-active by implementing this change prior to being compelled to do so). The reason of Resolution 2 was explained on the basis of an inquiry from Leslie Fernando, which was to streamline the management of the Associations finances, particularly for Audit purposes.

The changes were **Unanimously Approved** by the Members.

ITEM 6 To elect Officers of the Association and Members of the Committee

The President, Elaine Jansz declared all positions on the Committee of Management vacant.

The Secretary, Stafford Tambimuttu then advised the Members that the following **uncontested nominations** were received:

OFFICE BEARERS

PRESIDENT: DOYNE CASPERSZ
VICE PRESIDENT: NEVILLE DAVIDSON
HON. SECRETARY: STAFFORD TAMBIMUTTU
HON. ASS. SECRETARY: ELAINE JANSZ
HON. TREASURER: LESLIE FERNANDO
HON. ASS. TREASURER: TONY JOHNSON
PUBLIC RELATIONS MANAGER: BEVILL JANSZ
HON. EDITOR: DAVID VAN DORT

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

CAROL CLARKE
FRED CLARKE
ROSEMARIE JOHNSON
CAROL LOOS
HERMAN LOOS
CYNTHIA PLUNKETT
CLAUDE VANGRANBERG

The Secretary confirmed that all the positions on the Committee of Management were filled.

The outgoing President, Elaine Jansz declared all of the above duly elected and addressed the Membership with her farewell Speech as follows:

My tenure as being President of this prestigious club has sadly come to an end, however I hope that I have been able to make a contribution to the Association during my time in office.

The highlights of my term I would say were the successes of the annual Christmas Festive Events in 2008 and 2009 which were very popular and has given the Committee confidence to attempt to fill the City Hall at Springvale in 2010, at a cheaper cost to our members and their guests.

Although we ran successful smaller events at our Meeting Place at Haughton Road in 2008/09, the same was not possible in 2009/10 as the Committee was unsure of the availability of the Club House to plan ahead.

The sale of 360 Haughton Road and the banking of this money has off-set the revenue lost from the hiring of this Meeting Place, however the length of time it takes to get building plans passed by Council has been frustrating the start of building our new Club House. The plans are in good hands of the Building Committee and I have every confidence that we will see a structure in the New-Year that all Members will be proud of.

The Committee has also been quietly busy on the welfare front. Our band of ladies led by Cynthia

Plunkett, Rosemarie Johnson and Carol Loos have given their spare time to visit Burghers and others in

Aged Care Facilities to cheer them up and from the reports received, their work is being well appreciated.

Sadly, we lost a dear friend and Committee Member Gloria De Kretser this year and we as a Committee

sincerely hope that her husband Maurice will be able to cope with the grief he feels today. Our thoughts

are with him. This incident prompted the Committee of Management to establish a Memorial to Honour

Committee Members who pass away whilst in service. The incoming President, Doyne Caspersz will

expand on this subject.

I thank all the Government Departments that have been generous with Grants to support the work that

we do and last but not least the whole Committee for the great job that they have done during my term

of Office and request them all to support our new President, Doyne Caspersz.

She then vacated the Chair and offered it to the new President, Doyne Caspersz. Also, the new Treasurer, Leslie Fernando exchanged places with Neville Davidson at the head table.

Dorrit promptly congratulated the Committee of Management for a job well done under the leadership of Elaine.

The incoming President, Doyne Caspersz having accepted the Chair, addressed the Membership. He thanked the past Presidents Bevill, Leslie and Elaine for the good examples set by them, particularly in the promotion of Multiculturalism within our society. He intended to pursue similar goals, although with a different slant, in order to bring out the best from the Members of the Committee of Management for the benefit of the Association and its Members, and *not* for "personal glory", as has been the philosophy in the immediate past. He expressed his vision to promote activity that would attract the young people in our community so as to ensure the continuation of this Organisation. Concerning the establishment of a memorial to honour the Committee members who pass away whilst in service, Doyne advised that the passing of Gloria De Kretser prompted this initiative. David Van Dort has to be credited for the concept, which is the creation of an Annual Scholarship/Educational Award Scheme to reward students in our Community for Scholastic Excellence. More information on this development will be published in future News Bulletins.

ITEM7 To discuss any other business of which due notice has been given in accordance with the Rules

Notice had not been received of any other business that required discussion, however, the President inquired from the Members if there was anything they wished to raise, despite the lack of prior notice.

Dorrit proposed the need for the Presidents Term of Office to be increased to three (3) years on the basis that; the 1st Year was usually a learning curve, the 2nd a period of gaining confidence/developing and the 3rd a time for fulfilling one's vision. Doyne thanked Dorrit for the proposal but made the observation that he was in somewhat of a bias position to express an opinion due to the conflict of interest that applied to his involvement, however, he confirmed that the Committee of Management will consider the recommendation, as well as any others, that arise out of this meeting.

In order to bring the membership to date on the progress of the building project, Neville Davidson asked for a brief update. Doyne advised that the plans are currently with Council (Monash) awaiting the issue of a Planning Permit. According to David Van Dort & Wendell Newman, who are the main drivers of this project, Council was faced with a large backlog and the Association has to wait its turn. Nevill also inquired if the start-date for building work is still expected to commence early in the New Year, to which Doyne replied that this was still our expectation. In reply to a question from Bevill, Doyne informed the Members that the new Hall will have a capacity of 110, which is nearly double the current capacity of the Hall

Rowena Hamlett inquired if there were any plans to expand the Calender of Social Event. Doyne confirmed that it has been the intention of the Committee of Management to include Events such as; Day Trips, Karaoke Nights etc. in our schedule, but any good suggestions from the Membership would be welcome. Concerning future Events generally, Doyne advised that he was of the view that a budget should be established for this purpose prior to scheduling an Annual Calender (1st July to 30th June). In order to attract the younger people in our Community, it was his vision to pursue the formation of a Sub-Committee consisting of these youngsters to promote Events such as Disco Nights. Fred cautioned that these functions are renowned for also attracting the unsavoury element, but Doyne was of the view that in the absence of evidence to the contrary, we have to accept that all participants as trustworthy and law abiding.

Tony expressed concern for the transport needs of the older Members to and from Social Events. Dorrit suggested the purchase of a Mini-Bus. Doyne advised that these are all issues that may need to be considered in the future, but that some of these needs are currently provided by Local Councils.

Finally, on behalf of the Members present, Fred thanked the outgoing President for a job well done and welcomed the new President, wishing him all the very best during his term of Office.

Since there were no other matters requiring discussion, the President declared the meeting closed (at 8.40pm) and invited those present to help themselves to the refreshments laid out in the kitchen area, and enjoy the rest of the evening.

Stafford Tambimuttu
Doyne Caspersz
Honorary Secretary

President