

RHSV SPECIAL GENERAL MEETING

Tuesday 27 June 2023, 5pm

To be held as a hybrid meeting both in person at

RHSV 239 A'Beckett Street, Melbourne VIC 3000 and online via Zoom

To adopt amendments to the RHSV's Constitution. These proposed amendments and rationale for had been circulated to RHSV members.

Minutes of the Special General Meeting

1. Attendance, Acknowledgement, Apologies

Present: President Richard Broome in the chair, approximately 70 RHSV members at the Drill Hall and 25 members via Zoom.

Richard opened the meeting with an acknowledgement of Country. Richard acknowledged the various lands on which we were each placed and on behalf of the RHSV paid respects to custodians and traditional owners and carers of the lands and waters, their elders past and present and young people emerging as protectors and custodians of Country.

Apologies were received from: Andy May, Arapiles Historical Society, Bernadette Wells Merbein District Historical Society, Bob Lambell, Brian Reid, Christine Johnston, David Hall, Dingley Village Historical Society, Elizabeth Wade, Heytesbury District Historical Society, Joan Beaumont, Kirsten Binns Smith, Lois McEvey, Mandy Bede, Marian Quartly, Michael Smith, Simon Smith, Tim Gatehouse. Walter Karl Scharley

There were no proxies received and the number of attendees exceeded the quorum.

2. Discussion of proposed amendments

Richard advised that documentation outlining the proposed amendments to the Constitution had been distributed and asked if there were any questions or comments from attendees. No questions or comments were received.

3. Proposals for acceptance of revision of the Constitution

Richard then put the following proposal to the meeting: *That the amendments to the Constitution of the Royal Historical Society of Victoria as circulated be adopted.*

Moved Richard Broome, seconded Rosalie Triolo. Carried.

4. Tabling of Council's approved changes to RHSV by-laws

Richard presented to the AGM Council's approved changes to RHSV by-laws. Documentation outlining the proposed changes to the By-Laws had been distributed. Richard thanked Councillors for their work on updating the By-Laws.

5. Meeting closed at 5.15pm then AGM was commenced.

RHSV Annual General Meeting

113th ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

AGENDA

Tuesday 27th June 5:15pm

**To be held as a hybrid meeting both in person at
RHSV 239 A'Beckett Street, Melbourne VIC 3000 and online via Zoom**

1. Attendance, apologies, proxies and Acknowledgement of Country
As per the SGM minutes attached.

2. To confirm the minutes of the 112th Annual General Meeting.

Moved Peter Williams, seconded Julia Jackson: *That the minutes of the 112th AGM held on 17th May 2022 and the reconvened AGM meeting held on 23 December 2022, are a true and accurate record.* Carried.

3. To receive the President's Report for the year ended 31 December 2022 including delivery of an edited President's Report.

The third year of Covid was in many ways harder than the previous two with deaths from Covid variants approaching 8,000 by year's end in Victoria. We continued to use zoom for events and extended this to combine both zoom and live events. We hired dedicated casual staff to achieve this, thanks to Max Richardson for his invaluable work.

The RHSV is supported by our patron, Her Excellency, the Governor of Victoria, Linda Dessau AO; the Mayor of the City of Melbourne, Sally Capp our civic patron, and former RHSV president Bill Russell, our ambassador. During the year the Honourable Steve Dimopoulos succeeded Danny Pearson, as Minister for Creative Industries. Rob Heath our honorary legal adviser, continued to provide excellent pro bono advice. Personal Financial Services, our financial advisers, merged with the Yarra Lane Group, and gave important advice to diversify our investments and manage our financial future.

Our mutual connections with almost 350 affiliated societies throughout Victoria continued to keep the community history movement strong in a difficult year.

Our full and part-time staff are led by our wonderful Executive Officer, Rosemary Cameron, who has orchestrated many excellent events, exhibitions and reporting improvements over the year. Our part-time Collections Manager, Jillian Hiscock, continues to enhance our collection and is focussing especially on the important work of identifying material on Indigenous people. All that she and her volunteers do in this respect is loaded up to TROVE

to enhance our global profile. Helen Stitt is employed three days per week to manage the images collection. Both Jillian and Helen work with volunteers to advance work on our collection.

Our administrative staff includes Christina Browning our part-time Marketing Officer who began in early 2022 and has built our profile on social media. Emily Maiolo began as our Administrative Officer in December 2021 and has provided excellent service on scores of administrative matters and particularly as the welcoming face of the RHSV at the front desk. Kristin Adnams, a qualified accountant, has enhanced our financial reporting since joining us in 2022.

The RHSV is assisted by a wonderful team of volunteers who number close to eighty people. They work on enhancing our digital collections, preparing exhibitions, cataloguing, and helping with the bookshop. In particular, the work of Margaret Fleming and Greg Buchanan who continued our commercial site searches, bolstering our income; David Thompson who worked on exhibitions and the image room. Ashley Smith and Cheryl Griffin who prepared monthly articles for *Docklands News* and *CBD News* respectively and Cheryl Griffin who also wrote articles for the Genealogical Society of Victoria's magazine, *Ancestor*. Cheryl also prepared a most significant exhibition, Kaleidoscope, celebrating women of the RHSV, and her assiduous research will appear in many articles on our website into the future.

Adrian Jones, formerly Associate Professor of History, La Trobe University chaired the 2022 Victorian Community History Awards panels, assisted by Gary Presland and Helen Doyle. Together they led an impressive team of fifteen judges for the twelve awards.

Our committees also do much of the work of the RSHV. I urge you to read all the committee reports in this annual report for 2022 for much of the impressive work of the RHSV is done by these hard-working and creative committees. Also, I recommend reading my Chairman's report of the Council's activities.

Our donors large and small continued to assist the work of the RHSV and a full list appeared in the April *History News*. Special mention must be made of Maria Myers and our Ambassador Bill Russell who both gave generously.

There were a number of new initiatives in 2022. Two new distinguished annual lectures were added to the RHSV calendar. These were: the Indigenous History Lecture and the Hugh Anderson Lecture . Both lectures are published in the December 2022 issue of the VHI.

In October we held a two-day conference to celebrate the sesquicentenary of the Victorian Education Act of 1872 which established the transformative aims of free, compulsory and secular education.

Financially, the RHSV posted a small deficit in 2022 for the first time in years. Our operational results were solid and our assets and overall financial position are strong as revealed in the Treasurer's report. However, there are structural challenges to our operating costs in the years ahead which we must face.

We were unsuccessful in the latest Creative Victoria funding round due to a change in funding criteria and our long-term income stream doing commercial site-search reports for development projects is being eroded by the digitisation of the Sands and McDougall directories and other factors. Our building lease continues to remain in limbo, throwing our long-term future and rental costs into some uncertainty. These challenges will be confronted in 2023.

The President's Report and Annual Report as tabled were accepted.

4. Audit of Financial Statements

The Audited RHSV Financial Report for the year ended 31 December 2022 had been circulated to RHSV members.

The Treasurer Daniel Clements discussed aspects of the Audited Financial Report. He stated that although the report shows a deficit of -\$37,439 members should take comfort that this essentially reflects a negative return on our investments due to the market uncertainties created by COVID. The Treasurer said:

'it is very pleasing that the financial position of RHSV remains strong as is demonstrated by the balance sheet enclosed, and that the initiative and commitment of the Executive and Council have provided the organisation with this financial stability'.

Foundation – Reserve

The balance of the investments held by the Foundation as at 31 December, 2022 as reported at note 10 of the financial statements was \$830,694 (2021: \$704,646), which represents an increase of \$126,048 over the 12 month period. This increase is the net result of revenue generated from these investments, additional funds received and the application of these funds to their purpose.

Moved Daniel Clements, seconded Jim Dixon: *That the meeting approve the audited financial reports for the year ending 31 December 2021.* Approved

5. To appoint the Auditor for 2023

The Treasurer recommended that our existing auditor Kevin Adams of BKM Audit Services be re-appointed as Auditor for 2023.

Moved Daniel Clement, seconded Joel Becker: *That Kevin Adams of BKM Audit Services be appointed as Auditor for 2023.* Carried.

6. To elect members of Council and office-holders

Richard Broome vacated the chair and Rosalie Triolo assumed the chair and stated that there were 3 nominations for 3 ordinary positions namely Cathy Butcher and Nikita Vanderbyl for re-election as they have completed their 2 year term and Paul Fearon who had been co-opted under s 54(4) of the Constitution. No election was deemed necessary, and these nominations are declared elected.

Rosalie declared that 2 office-holder positions are open for election, that of President (currently Richard Broome) and Secretary (currently Carole Woods). The nominations are:

- Richard Broome for President
- Carole Woods for Secretary

No election is deemed necessary, and these nominations were elected by unanimous acclamation.

7. To announce recipients of Distinguished Service Award, Awards of Merit and the Barbara Nixon Volunteer Award.

Distinguished Service Award

The RHSV President Richard Broome announced the Distinguished Service Award for former councillor and philanthropist Gordon Moffatt AM and discussed the enormous assistance given to the RHSV by Gordon over many years. Richard had presented the award privately to Gordon, who was suffering from poor health. See the citation below.

Awards of Merit

See citations for Awards of Merit on the RHSV website.

RHSV Councillors Rosalie Triolo, Elisabeth Jackson and Carole Woods presented Awards of Merit to the following:

Heather Arnold, President Koo Wee Rup Swamp Historical Society, Secretary South Eastern Historical Society. Nominated by RHSV.

Lois Comeadow, office holder The Brighton Cemeterians. Nominated by Isaac Hermann.

Marilyn Moore, President Coburg Historical Society. Nominated by Coburg HS.

Lance Pritchard, Secretary Werribee & District HS & Museum. Nominated by Gordon Hope, President Werribee & District HS. Supporting letter from Gordon Hope.

Graeme Speers, former President Heidelberg Historical Society. Nominated by Jenn Burgess, President Heidelberg HS.

David Thompson, former President Port Melbourne Historical and Preservation Society. Nominated by Sue Leong, President Port Melbourne H&PS.

Deferred Award of Merit presentation from 2022:

Andrew Mackenzie OAM, Heidelberg Historical Society. Nominated by John Meynell Withers.

Carole stated that the following recipients of Awards of Merit had chosen to have their awards presented in their home historical society:

Bergliot Dallas, Life Member Nepean Historical Society. Nominated by Janet South, Archivist and Research Officer, Nepean Historical Society.

Robert (Bob) Lambell, Life Member and former President Camperdown & District HS. Nominated by Maree Belyea, Secretary Camperdown & District HS. Supporting testimonial from Allan Willingham, Architect and Architectural Historian.

Jan Morris, former President Anglesea & District Historical Society. Nominated by Barry Davidson, President Anglesea & District HS. Supporting letters from Surf Coast Heritage Committee and Surf Coast Shire.

Garry and Jan Wallden. Garry former President of Katandra District History Group. Jan and Garry are the backbone of the Group. Nominated by Janice Senior, President and Bob Kennedy, Secretary, Katandra History Group.

Bernadette Wells, former President Merbein District HS. Nominated by Jennifer Bennett, JP, former Secretary Merbein District HS

Noel Withers, former President Greensborough Historical Society. Nominated by Sue Ballantyne, Vice-President, Greensborough HS.

Barbara Nixon Volunteer Award

Rosemary Cameron, the RHSV Executive officer, announced that the Barbara Nixon Volunteer Award would be given posthumously to one of the society's most treasured volunteers, Guy Wilson, who had died suddenly on 21 June 2023. James Nixon read the citation. See below.

8.To announce the recipient of the John Adams Prize.

Richard Broome announced that the winner of the John Adams Prize for the best article in the *Victorian Historical Journal* 2021-2022 was Mary Sheehan for her article 'A Grassroots View of Spanish Influenza in Melbourne'. Mary expressed her thanks.

9 To transact any business of which notice has been given in accordance with the rules of the Society. There was none.

The AGM concluded at 6.15 pm. It was followed by the Weston Bate Oration delivered by Dr Bart Ziino on 'Protected Industries, Protected Men: the dilemmas of wartime service 1939-46'. Gordon Moffatt AM initiated the project on which this lecture was based and provided the study grant for research by Dr Bart Ziino and his assistant Dr Brad Underhill.

Gordon Moffatt Nomination for a Distinguished Service Award 2023

Gordon Moffatt was a Melbourne City Councillor in the 1980s and he answered the call from the RHSV for a MCC councillor to sit on our Council. Gordon served on the RHSV Council for three years 1983-85.

Gordon never forgot the RHSV and from about 2004 has been the most generous of donors to the RHSV. Early on his donations were vital to the RHSV's very survival. and in recent years his giving has allowed the RHSV to enhance its activities. Gordon advocated the creation of a capital fund for the society, directly inspiring the establishment of the RHSV Foundation. He gave much wise advice about the Foundation's structure and operation. Another significant donation in 2021 stimulated the Council of the RHSV to forge an investment policy, create an Investment Committee, and engage a financial planner, Yarra Lanes Group to husband our financial resources. Therefore, Gordon Moffatt has stimulated the RHSV to transform itself through better financial governance. In honour of this long-term giving, the Society named its meeting room, 'The Gordon Moffatt Room'.

Gordon Moffatt was also the stimulus to create a historian in residence program. This arose out his interest in the unrecognised service of those in the Second World War period who could not enlist due to the provisions of the Essential Services Act. Gordon lobbied on this matter to government and the RSL but was without satisfaction. In 2021 he enlisted the RHSV to commission research on this matter to convince the wider public about the need to recognise publicly such service.

Dr Bart Ziino of Deakin University was commissioned to do this work funded by Gordon Moffatt and was made the RHSV's first Historian in Residence 2022-23. Dr Ziino will present his findings in June 2023 at the Weston Bate Oration, which will become an article for the *Victorian Historical Journal*. A second Historian in Residence, Fiona Gatt, will commence in late 2023 on a project about the social importance of shopkeepers in late nineteenth century North Melbourne.

Gordon Moffatt has displayed the best face of philanthropy, making no claims on the RHSV, but just giving generously. He is most deserving of a Distinguished Service Award.

Richard Broome AM

President RHSV

Guy Wilson Nomination for the Barbara Nixon Award

Guy joined the RHSV as a volunteer in January 2021. He was then a new retiree looking for meaningful activities. The RHSV struck gold when Guy walked through our front door.

Guy had recently retired from running RMIT's library at its Bundoora Campus and prior to that he'd spent his working life in the public library system. He was an exceptionally experienced and talented librarian. He told us that he was willing to help with anything as long as it didn't involve managing people!

Guy quickly grasped the reforms and changes that Jillian Hiscock, our Collections Manager, was implementing and he became her right-hand man.

Guy has contributed hugely to the organisation and auditing of our collection. His work has enabled us to make great strides in ensuring the physical collection is usable by updating labels, re-cataloguing books, moving the collection around so that it better fits the space and is more user-friendly and creating signage. All these things sound ordinary and mundane, but to a librarian it is important that these underlying tasks are done well and accurately, as they are the bedrock for all collection management tasks. Guy is meticulous and a very safe pair of hands.

Guy is also a very social person so the volunteer morning teas and lunches are energetic and full of chatter. He is much loved by staff and volunteers alike. He has helped the RHSV also by funnelling RMIT Library cast-offs our way – we have a fleet of trolleys thanks to Guy.

Guy often works more than 1 day a week so he works with different teams of volunteers. He is a quietly focussed presence and simply having Guy in the building is a good feeling.

Guy Wilson has provided exceptional service to the RHSV during his short period at the RHSV. His passion and energy for the collection, the RHSV's greatest asset, is truly deserving of the Barbara Nixon Award and we have no hesitation in nominating him for this very special award.

Rosemary Cameron, Executive Officer

Jillian Hiscock, Collections Manager & Volunteer Co-ordinator

20th April 2023

LIST OF ATTENDEES:

In person attendees at AGM:

Alia Porter

Alison Cameron

Alissa Duke

Allan Willingham

Andrew Lemon

Andrew Mackenzie

Bart Ziino

Bill Russell

Brad Underhill

Bronwyn Hughes

Carole Woods

Cathy Butcher

Cheryl Griffin

Chris Bate

Daniel Clements

David Davies

David Thompson

Deborah Towns

Dr Anthea Hyslop

Elisabeth Jackson

Elizabeth Triarico

Fiona Gatt

Gary Sheehan

Glenda Beckley

Gordon Hope

Graeme Speers

Graham Marshall

Heather Arnold

Isaac Hermann

James Nixon

Janet Long- behalf of Williamstown HS

Janice Bate

Janine Rizzetti

Jenn Burgess

Jenny O'Donnell

Joan Errington Beaumont

Joel Becker OAM

John Schauble

John Torpey

John Virgona

Judith Smart

Julia Jackson

Julie Hogan

Justine Speers

Lance Pritchard

Liz Aird

Lois Comeadow

Luke Savage

Margaret Flemming

Margaret Pagone

Marilyn Blizzard -Moore Coburg

Marilyn Bowler

Marilyn Moore

Mary Sheehan

Matthew ETTY-Leal

Matthew Moore

Pat Tippett

Paul Fearon

Pauline Georgelin

Peter HOGAN

Peter Williams

Peter Yule

Richard Broome

Riya Daniel

Robert Buntine

Robert Porter

Rod Mackenzie

Rosalie Triolo

Rosemary Cameron

Rosemary McConnell

Rosemary Nixon

Sandra Torpey

Sharon Betridge

Sue Lack

John Lack

Sue Leong

Tim Gatehouse

Tristan Bate

Virginia Noonan

Attendance via Zoom:

Anne Wallace

Birute Don

Bob Lambell

Chris Norton & Susie McGrath

Chris Zisis

Craige Proctor

Geoffrey Paterson

Janice Haynes

Jill Barnard

Maree Belyea

Margaret Anderson

Marian Quartly

Marilyn Bowler

Ron Leslie

Nikita Vanderbyl

Peter Moylan

Portland Family History Group Inc.

Secretary, Portland Family History Group Inc.

Stephen Shelmerdine

Steve Pentreath

Susan Priestley

Terri Mackenzie

Walter Karl Scharley

Zoe Henderson

