

BURGHER ASSOCIATION (AUSTRALIA) INC.

The Minutes of the 2015 AGM, held at the BAA Centre on Tuesday, 24th November 2015 with Bevill Jansz presiding

The President declared the meeting open at 7.02pm after it was announced that the attendance of eligible Members (26 Members) had exceeded the quorum. He welcomed those present and noted apologies from, Mrs Marlene Caspersz, Mr & Mrs David & Carolyn Van Dort, Mrs Shirley Fernando, Mrs Dorrit Blaze, Mrs Annette Blaze, Mr & Mrs Phil & Louise Lobendhan, Mrs April Tambimuttu, Mr Tracey Hamlett, Mr Keith Bennett and Mr & Mrs Wijay & Marcia Bandara.

He then addressed the items on the agenda.

ITEM 1 *To confirm the minutes of the 2014 AGM.*

Since the minutes were circulated to the Members in the AGM Notice dated 30th October 2015, they were considered read. Members were invited to raise any matters they wished to query concerning the minutes; however, there was no response. The silence was assumed to be a unanimous acceptance of the minutes, which were received and adopted on a motion proposed by Hermann Loos and seconded by Fred Clarke.

ITEM 2 *To confirm from the Committee of Management reports of the transactions of the Association over the preceding financial year (2014-2015).*

Again since the Annual Report addressing this topic was sent to the Members in the Notice dated 30th October 2015, it was taken as read. In the absence of any queries on the contents of this report, it was approved on proposed by Rowena Hamlett and seconded by Rosemary Quyn.

ITEM 3 *To receive and adopt the Audited Financial Statement for year ending 30th June 2015 pursuant to Section 30 (3) of the Associations Incorporation Act.*

This report was also made available to the Members in the AGM Notice dated 30th October 2015. The Treasurer Hermann Loos inquired if there were any questions on the contents of this report, However, Rowena (Hamlett) simultaneously made the observation that the report was difficult (putting it mildly) to read. Instantly prompted by her observation, Hermann distributed excellent copies of this report to all those present and reiterated his invitation for any questions. The only inquiry was from Fred Clarke who queried the discrepancy on the size of the Term Deposit Investments over the last two financial years. Hermann explained the size of our investments diminished due to the expenditure we incurred in respect of the new BAA Centre. This figure now stands at \$95,000, which we hope will remain steady or proceed north. Fred also inquired about the decline in the total amount we received towards grants. Stafford responded by explaining that this item will always be subject to fluctuation in amounts due to the various Governments (Commonwealth, State & Local) we rely on and the competitive nature of the pursuit for this mode of funding. As an example to fluctuation, Doyne made the observation that we did not qualify for a grant in the previous Volunteer Grants Program. This could change the next time around. Since there were no more questions Stafford invited a proposer and seconder to confirm the acceptance of this report. Fred Clarke and Leslie Fernando promptly endorsed the acceptance of the report.

ITEM 4 *To elect an Honorary Auditor for the ensuing financial year.*

Doyne advised the meeting that BA (A) did not now require a qualified Accountant of any description to Audit its finances and that this is because our annual revenue is less than \$250,000 (thus saving \$250). He

also said that any person who has the ability, such as the Treasurer of the Organisation, can carry out this audit.. However, Stafford felt this “Big Brother” involvement injects confidence to the Membership and therefore the expenses incurred to maintain the status-co maybe money well spent. Hermann had similar views; however, he suggested that this matter be considered by the new Committee. The Membership, by its silence, appeared to agree with this suggestion. However, should we maintain the same protocol; it is recommended that Ms Desyana Wijaya be reappointed to the position for the usual reasons and due to her high level of competency.

ITEM 5 To discuss proposed resolutions/amendments to the rules as proposed by Special Resolution.

There were a total of three (3) amendments to the rules that were proposed as Special Resolutions. The first two (2) were proposed by the Committee of Management of the Burgher Association and the third was proposed on a personal basis by Doyne Caspersz and Stafford Tambimuttu.

The Committee proposals were:-

- Eligibility to Ordinary Membership: Citizens and non-restrictive Permanent Residents; and,
- Increase in the annual subscriptions: from \$15 to \$20.

Doyne, who was the composer of these changes made a presentation to the Membership to justify their adoption. He stressed on the continuous evolution of the Burgher Community as we know it, due to its dilution with other communities. From a personal point of view, he highlighted developments within his own family. Consequently, he was of the strong view that it would be unrealistic to try to impede this progress but rather to join the flow and support the progression, but still retain the identity of our antecedents.

The above proposals (by Special Resolution) were then put to a vote, by the show of hands, to the eligible Members present and were **unanimously accepted**. Therefore the amendments carried, subject to their ratification by the Registrar and will be implemented immediately thereafter.

(The paperwork relating to these Special Resolutions have to be included in the Public Officers statement to the CAV)

The personal proposal by Special Resolution from Doyne Caspersz and Stafford Tambimuttu was:-

- To increase the current Committee of Management by 2 more Office bearers, one to manage the entertainment of the Organisation and the other the Premises Manager who will also be responsible for the management of the BAA Centre. Both positions will have the ability to engage a team of 3 more persons. Additionally, it proposed the increase of the number of Committee Members from 7 to 9.

Once again Doyne expressed his views in support for this change. He stressed that having access to this strength in the Committee of Management will stand in good stead should the need arises. In fact he was of the view that the need for the extra Office Bearer positions was already here in view of the vigorous activities in these areas. Concerning the entertainment aspect, he pointed out that in addition to the increase in social events, the Organisation has also secured a permit to hold events such as Bingo nights. He also spoke about the upcoming Cultural (genealogy) Exhibition of the Burghers to be held in December next year, which will give the Association the right kind of exposure as the premium Organisation of the Burghers in Australia. Stafford also endorsed his views and made the observation that the responsibilities that goes with the position of Premises Manager is worthy of the Office Bearer ranking, particularly in view of the income the hiring of the premises is expected to earn, not to mention the other extensive work that goes into managing such a complex/property which is now somewhat large.

This proposal was then put to a vote, as in the previous case. The numbers were 16 for and 10 against adopting the change. Since the support for the change was less than 75%, it did not carry.

Hermann acknowledged the merits in the arguments for the change and confirmed that it would be pencilled in for future consideration.

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

It was now time for the old guard to move on and the new to take over. However prior to doing so the President, Bevill Jansz had one more task and that is to deliver his farewell speech, which is as follows:
Dear Members of the BAA.

It is with some sadness but also with a sense of achievement that I say farewell to my most recent year of being the President of this outstanding organization that I have had the pleasure of leading. I have had the support of many dedicated members of the Burgher Association who also shared the same ideas as I did and if you look around you it would be evident what we have been able to achieve working as a team. I must at this moment in time acknowledge the vision of the founder members of the organisation, who purchased the property and that gave us the springboard to achieve what we have today. However let us not dwell on the past it is the future that we should concentrate on and that is to keep the Burgher Heritage alive and interesting so that our grand children will enjoy what we have tried to do. We are currently renting this hall out most weekends and that is helping with meeting our monthly fiscal commitments. I also like to say thank you to all those who advertise this place through word of mouth. It does not cost the club any money. So as we bid farewell from the committee to some of the old stalwarts Doyne Caspersz, Leslie Fernando and Stafford and April Tambimuttu and David Van Dort, I know that some of them will still be on committees already actioning certain commitments and I do hope that they will be willing to share their experience from time to time with the new committee when called upon to do so. I believe that Hermann Loos will be an outstanding leader of our organisation and that the people he has chosen to assist him will cooperate with him in every way. I thank Elaine for supporting me all these years with our club activities, but my skeleton is telling me that it's time to take a back seat and enjoy the next few years of my life. May God Bless the BAA. Bevill Jansz

Bevill then vacated the Chair which was accepted by the incoming President, Hermann Loos who advised the Membership that the nominations listed below were **uncontested** and therefore deemed appointed as the next Committee of Management of the Burgher Association. They are as follows:

OFFICE BEARERS

PRESIDENT: HERMANN LOOS
VICE PRESIDENT: TAMARIS LOURENSZ
HON. SECRETARY: EVERTON LA BROOY
HON. ASS. SECRETARY: ROSEMARY QUYN
HON. TREASURER: VACANT
HON. ASS. TREASURER: TYRONE PEREIRA
PUBLIC RELATIONS MANAGER: ELAINE JANSZ
HON. EDITOR: VACANT

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

CAROL LOOS
KELVIN SPELDEWINDE
TYRONE QUYN
BEVILL JANSZ
VACANT
VACANT
VACANT

As you will note, there are a few vacancies, which we hope to progressively fill.

Hermann then addressed the Membership as follows:

I would like to firstly introduce myself, I am Hermann Loos formerly the treasurer of the BA(A) for the past four (4) years and now I would like to take on this challenge with my new team. Although we have not as yet formed a full team, I will introduce the new BA(A) Secretary and part of the team that is present today. After my introduction of the team, the new secretary went on to say a few words, after his speech, I again spoke to the members present and went on to thank individually the committee members who were leaving the committee in 2015/16, I also would like to thank Mrs Cynthia Plunkett for her continued support of the BA (A) up to now, long after she left the committee back in 2013/14

Everton, who is now the Secretary also spoke to the Membership, it is a pleasure and a privilege to address the membership. Firstly on behalf the Association and as a committee member acknowledge the special efforts by all individuals in the general committee, in particular our outgoing Vice President Mr Doyne Caspersz in the commitment and passion in maintaining the Associations values with respect to its statement of purpose. We thank Mr Caspersz for all the innovative changes implemented in his tenure in various roles for the Burgher Association (Australia) Inc .His commitment to our sustainability will always be acknowledged and appreciated. Acknowledged the enthusiasm & energy displayed by all committee members in the current year which has been nothing short of amazing. As a community organisation advised the membership, what we have achieved and acquired today is because of the awesome effort and smart administration of our peers. Yes our precious asset is our building which is, as I consider being the “Jewel in The Crown” Acknowledged that with “TEAM” togetherness, we will strategise our master plan for 2015/2016 year. I like to emphasise the importance in understanding our roles as committee members. This embraces working together with honesty, trust and mostly with respect for each other. Accepting these core values will give us incredible confidence in the sustainability of our valued organisation.

ITEM 7 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. There was no other business that required discussion; however, Fred Clarke wished the new Committee all the very best and most importantly he wished them peace and harmony.

Hermann then thanked Doyne, Leslie, Stafford & April, Bevill (although he is still their) for their.....(ask Hermann to fill this in)

ITEM 8 Enrol New Members:

Applications for Ordinary Membership Mr Adrian and Mrs Deanna Sansoni, Mr Wilfred and Mrs Daphne Jacobs, Mr Mark and Mrs Suzzane Ireland, Mr Bernard and Mrs Chandanie Atapattu and an amendment to an existing member profile in that Mr Bert Van Geyzel wrote to be included with his wife Mrs Rita Van Geyzel as part of their BAA membership, were approved by the Committee.

Since there was no other business to discuss, the meeting was closed at 7.45pm and Herman invited everyone present to the short eats, soft drinks, tea and coffee.

Stafford Tambimuttu
OUTGOING SECRETARY

Everton La’Brooy
INCOMING SECRETARY

Bevill Jansz
OUTGOING PRESIDENT

Hermann Loos
INCOMINGPRESIDENT