THE PHILATELIC ASSOCIATION OF NSW INCORPORATED

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting

25 November 2023

20 Egerton Street Silverwater

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1. WELCOME

The President, John Moore, opened the meeting at 9.35 am.

He welcomed all those present, including the delegates of the member clubs and the members of the Executive Council.

He noted the presence of the Immediate Past President, Lionel Savins, whose wife of 64 years, Elsie, had passed away a few days earlier.

2. ATTENDANCE

The attendance of the following club delegates was noted

Mark Alderson (PSA)
Ivan Baza (Penrith)
Andrew Bennett (Castle Hill & Anglicans)
John Bozic (ACCC)
Dee Collins (Parramatta)
Mick Evans (Tamworth)
Barbara Hancock (Postcards)
John Hoppitt (Sutherland)
Darren Jones (Northern Suburbs)
Billy Lau (Epping-Eastwood)
Guy Littler (Newcastle and [proxy] Maitland)
Mike McHugh (Piallaway)
Brian Moore (Parramatta)
Graeme Morriss
Bruce Parker (Newcastle & Wyong)
Michael Nibbs (ACCC & [proxy] Boambee East, Great Lakes & Twin Towns)
Lionel Savins
Gordon Towell (ACCC & [proxy] Richmond River)
Ed Wolf (Manly-Warringah)
Mark Bailey
D Beechey (Postcards)
Mary Bowden (PSA)
Peter Brigden (Turramurra)
Gert Ebbing (Royal Sydney)
P Gunning (Campbelltown)
Sarah Harvey (Postcards)
Wilson Ilbery (Cinderellas)
Geoff Kellow (ACCC
Geoff Lewis (PNSW)
G Maxwell (OP Booklets & St George)
David Miner (Campbelltown)
John Moore [proxy] Orange, Polar & Toronto
Peter Myers (Gosford & Morisset)
D Payne (Illawarra)
George Petridis (Burwood & Smithfield)
James Ross
S Searle (Milton-Ulladulla & Shoalhaven)
Laurent Villoing (Earlwood & Europa)
Rolf Zerbes (Milton/Ulladulla)

It was noted that there were 39 attendees (31 delegates and proxies representing 39 societies).

Richmond (Hawkesbury) Club did not get a proxy vote because its membership was fewer than 10.

G. Maxwell (OP Booklets and St. George) left early and his proxies were exercised by Sarah Harvey).

3. APOLOGIES

Were received from the following:

John Batson (Parramatta), David Benson (PNSW), Bruce Chadderton (Orange), David Collyer (ACCC), Ann Garrick (Richmond), A. Morris (Twin Towns), John Pearson (Bathurst), Peter Simpfendorfer (Wagga Wagga), Paul Storm (Northern Suburbs), Chris van der Kley (Penrith), Geoff Wotherspoon (Richmond River) and Alan Wright (PSA).

4. MINUTES OF THE 2022 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The Minutes of the previous AGM were circulated.

Moved Lionel Savins and seconded Gert Ebbing:
the Minutes of the AGM held on 26 November 2022 be adopted. CARRIED.

5. CORRESPONDENCE

The Secretary noted that no correspondence relevant to this Annual General Meeting had been received.

6. PRESIDENT'S REPORT

John Moore reported that the sale of 17 Brisbane Street Darlinghurst, as reported in the 2022 AGM Minutes, had been completed early in the year. He thanked all the volunteers who had cleared out the building.

John reported on all the activities during the year relating to the purchase of the building at 20 Egerton Street and the steps taken to begin its refurbishment and to get approval for PHILAS to use the building for its core activities.

The previous year had seen the retirements from the Executive Council of:
Barbara Hancock, the Secretary and a volunteer for over 40 years, 27 of them as Secretary;
Peter Myers as Treasurer in March;
John Batson who had served PHILAS for almost 50 years, including as Treasurer; and
Graeme Morriss who had decided not to stand for re-election to the position of Secretary.

7. VICE-PRESIDENT (COUNTRY) REPORT

Mark Bailey tabled his written report (attached) and his written report as the Publicity Officer (attached).

He noted especially:
"It is my pleasure to present my final (for now) report"
"I will keep it brief"
"The chaos at Silverwater needs no commentary from me"
"It has been my great pleasure to have visited 18 different clubs over the past year"
"In visiting those clubs, especially the regional clubs, I note they are asking for:

- access to meetings via Zoom;
- greater investment by PHILAS at club level; and
- better communication – although many acknowledged that they had received more from me than had been the norm" and

"I wish the current Executive the very best for the future and I wish the new Executive all wishes and good luck."

8. VICE-PRESIDENT (PHILATELIC DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL) REPORT

Ed Wolf tabled his written report (attached). Noted he also had reported to the APF AGM in September.

There had been no meetings of the PDC in 2023.

Entrants in exhibitions had been supported, as outlined in David Collyer's 'Exhibitions Report', with high awards frequently being received.

The Youth Group had met twice at the Dougherty Centre in Chatswood.

Planning for the National Exhibition Sydney in 2025, coordinated by Geoff Lewis, could not yet establish a date. The planners of the International Exhibition planned for Melbourne would have to announce its date before Sydney could do so.

Ed followed his report with a statement entitled 'Facts Rather than Myths' (attached), in which he outlined in detail all the dates, meetings, engagement of professionals and work undertaken in the process of selling 17 Brisbane Street and the purchase and refurbishment of 20 Egerton Street.

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9. LIBRARY REPORT

Geoff Kellow noted that because the books, journals and other reference material were in storage, no formal library work had been undertaken this year. Library staff continued to receive journals which they were keeping at their homes.

Draft library floor plans had been drawn up to provide for 700 linear metres of shelving and a study area. The previous library had 560 linear metres.

Geoff thanked the library volunteers who had packed up the library. It had been a huge job.

10. HOUSE COMMITTEE REPORT

Darren Jones presented his written report (attached) which detailed the physical work required in clearing out the Brisbane Street premises and moving and storing property brought from there. At Egerton Street, shelves and equipment were dismantled, the building cleaned and refurbishment begun. Darren thanked all the volunteers involved at every stage of this process.

11. TREASURER'S REPORT

Peter Brigden tabled his written reports for Philatelic Association of NSW Incorporated and Philas Library Incorporated (attached).

Both entities are now classed as 'Tier 1' in accordance with the Associations Incorporation Act (NSW) 2009 due to the quantum of assets held, and therefore are required to be audited by a registered company auditor. Nexia Sydney Pty Limited has been engaged to perform this work.

With the sale of the Surry Hills property both entities were in receipt of substantial capital gains and incurred rent and removal costs that impacted their financial results for the year.

A summary of the key figures are:

	Philatelic Association	PHILAS Library
Capital gain	$4,478,489	$1,607,234
Actual disclosed surplus for the year	$4,356,201	$1,600,070
Normalised surplus (excluding capital gain, rent and removal costs)	$100,082	$10,669
Total equity at year end	$5,983,566	$1,602,002

12. EXHIBITIONS REPORT

David Collyer was absent but he had delivered his written report for November 2023 (attached).

He noted good awards obtained by NSW collectors at exhibitions in Bangladesh, Ontario and Perth. He foreshadowed exhibitions to be held in Canberra and Auckland in 2024. The 2025 Sydney National exhibition date could not be fixed until the Melbourne International 2025 date is fixed.

13. 'PHILAS NEWS', WEBSITE AND IT REPORT

Graeme Morriss tabled the written report that he and James Ross had drafted.

They reported on the acquisition and deployment of equipment to run the two online auctions held in September and November 2022 at Brisbane Street and the roughing in of IT cabling at 20 Egerton Street.

IT matters in general were being updated by 'Wolf Tracks' in Lismore.

James was reviewing the draft website pages prepared by 'Wolf Tracks' and would request amendments to the pages. After that, the website would go live and PHILAS volunteer staff could be trained on how to update it.

MOTION

Moved Barbara Hancock and seconded Ivan Baza:
that all reports received be adopted. CARRIED.

14. QUESTIONS RECEIVED FROM THE FLOOR ARISING FROM THE REPORTS

George Petridis:
What interest was being received on the term deposits?
Treasurer:
From 3.5% to 4.86%.

David Miner:
A Google search brings up links to old Philas websites.
James Ross:
This will happen less often as the new website becomes established.

Gordon Towell:
Once the Building Committee discovered that approval for core PHILAS activities at Silverwater might not be forthcoming, why was the purchase not rescinded?
Darren Jones:
At the time, the Town Planning advice was that community group activities were acceptable.

Guy Littler:
According to the Parramatta Council LEP 'Community Use' was not permitted as of March 2023. Did the Agent A. Cook fail Philas?
Ed Wolf and Darren Jones:
The LEP seen by the Building Committee allowed community use. A. Cook had two relevant university degrees and had worked in commercial real estate since the late 1980s.

Gordon Towell:
Perhaps the accounts should mention the possibility of a future revaluation of the Egerton Street building if the DA is rejected by Parramatta Council?
Treasurer:
Agreed.

P. Gunning:
The Building Committee was given nine criteria on which to base a purchase decision but the Egerton Street property seemed to satisfy only four of them.
Darren Jones:
Bus route, more floor area, more car parking and a financial surplus.

Laurent Villoing:
Noted that the local bus timetable does not indicate a frequent service.

Michael Nibbs:
Emphasised that no more than four of the building selection criteria were met.

David Miner:
Would the Library as the property owner comply with the Charities Commission legislative requirements?
J Moore:
It will once the transfer to incorporation under the Commonwealth legislation is completed.

15. SOCIETY REPORTS

Parramatta

Dee Collins reported there still is a strong membership and attendance at meetings. The Open Day in May had been well attended. John Batson had retired as Treasurer and Bill Mair had retired as President. Brian Moore is the new President.

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Moved Dee Collins and seconded S. Searle that PHILAS appropriately recognize Bill Mair's many years of service to philately. CARRIED.

Sydney Youth Group
Graeme Morriss read a written report (attached) from A. Tham on the latest youth workshop held in October.

Northern Suburbs
Darren Jones noted that the July 'Winter's Day with Stamps' had been well attended. The Sydney Youth Group had been able to book meeting rooms at Chatswood under the auspices of the NSPS to obtain the lower 'local group' rental charge.

Campbelltown
P. Gunning) noted the club has 53 members. The 'Fisher's Ghost' stamp fair had gone ahead at the beginning of November with a good attendance.

Illawarra
P. Gunning reported the club is growing and has a good meeting venue and an active Committee.

Philatelic Society of Australia
Mark Alderson reported the Society now is meeting in premises close to central Sydney as this was more convenient.

Sydney Anglicans
Andrew Bennett noted the club celebrated its 50th anniversary in December 2022. Attendance at meetings was 35 to 40 members. $35,000 had been raised during the year and donated to the Church Mission Society.

Europa
Laurent Villoing noted that the club had been active for four years and has 28 members. In October the members had displayed to a local group of about 20 Girl Guides.

Smithfield
George Petridis reported that long-time club executive officer Fred Grech had died unexpectedly. The club was trying to keep up his work, particularly with inter-club competitions. Several new officers were appointed to fulfill Fred's roles. Michael Nibbs commented further about Fred's role in organising inter-club visits and competitions.

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16. GENERAL BUSINESS:

Lionel Savins thanked those attending for their condolences on the death of his wife of 63 years Elsie.

Lionel Savins queried why House Committee and PDC members were being elected when the practice had been for those committees to run their own affairs and to appoint Executive members from their ranks. It was noted that this previous practice was not in accordance with the Constitution.

Sarah Harvey asked if PHILAS has a Code of Conduct. John Moore responded that one was being drafted.

Sarah Harvey asked that PHILAS develop a policy to encourage more women to serve in executive positions.

It was noted that the Sutherland Shire Philatelic Society has nominated Doug Grinter for the 'Stanley Griffith Award' for service at club level. This had been granted and the framed certificate was awarded.

Peter Myers asked if he could address the candidates before voting began. He spoke of his role as an Executive member in the decisions leading to the purchase of the property at Silverwater. He asked if candidates would speak of their plans to ensure that PHILAS had accommodation for its activities, particularly the auctions.

Brian Moore read a statement he had circulated to clubs in relation to the same issue.

John Moore declined to respond to Peter Myers' statement.

17. ELECTION OF THE EXECUTIVE COLUNCIL FOR 2023–2024

Moved Wilson Ilbery and seconded Mak Bailey that Standing Orders be suspended. CARRIED.

The President vacated the Chair which was taken by Geoff Kellow, who thanked the outgoing Executive members for their work during the previous year.

Geoff reported that he had studied the PHILAS Constitution in relation to the identify of those people entitled to vote at the election, and had concluded that the Constitution authorised only club delegates and authorized proxies to do so.

Moved Mark Bailey and seconded Ed Wolf that voting be exercised by club delegates and authorized proxies only. CARRIED**.**

Nominations received and the results of ballots held were as set out below.

President	Brian Moore	**Elected**
	John Moore	
	Michael Nibbs	Nomination withdrawn
Vice-President Country	Bruce Chadderton	**Elected**
	Michael McHugh	
Vice-President Philatelic Development Council	Dee Collins	Nomination withdrawn
	Sarah Harvey	**Elected**
	Brian Moore	Ineligible as previously elected
	Gordon Towell	Nomination withdrawn
	Ed Wolf	Nomination withdrawn
Vice-President House Committee	Dee Collins	**Elected**
	Sarah Harvey	Ineligible as previously elected
	Darren Jones	Nomination withdrawn
	Michael McHugh	
	Brian Moore	Ineligible as previously elected
	Gordon Towell	Nomination withdrawn
Vice-President Library	Geoff Kellow	**Deemed elected**
Treasurer	Peter Brigden	**Deemed elected**
Secretary	Gordon Towell	**Deemed elected**
Executive Council (six positions)	Mark Alderson	
	Michael Nibbs	**Elected**
	David Benson	
	James Ross	Nomination withdrawn
	Dee Collins	Ineligible as previously elected
	Lionel Savins	
	David Collyer	
	Gordon Towell	Nomination withdrawn
	Sarah Harvey	Ineligible as previously elected
	Chris Van Der Kley	**Elected**
	Michael Hirschhorn	**Elected**
	Laurent Villoing	
	Wilson Ilbery	
	Billy Lau	**Elected**
	Guy Littler	**Elected**
	Michael McHugh	**Elected**

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Philatelic Development Council (seven positions)	Sarah Harvey	Ineligible as previously elected
	Dee Collins	**Deemed elected**
	Yung Benson	**Deemed elected**
	Geoffrey Lewis	**Deemed elected**
	Mark Bailey	**Deemed elected**
	Paul Storm	**Deemed elected**
	Andrew Tham	**Deemed elected**
House Committee (four positions)	Dee Collins	Ineligible as previously elected
	Sarah Harvey	**Deemed elected**
	Mary Bowden	**Deemed elected**
	Michael Nibbs	**Deemed elected**
	Alan Wright	**Deemed elected**

18. RESUMPTION OF BUSINESS

Moved Ed Wolf and seconded David Miner that Standing Orders be resumed. CARRIED.

The incoming President Brian Moore took the Chair and the incoming Secretary Gordon Towell took the Secretary's position.

Brian Moore thanked the outgoing Executive Council members for their services to PHILAS during the last year and noted that he looked forward to working with them.

On behalf of the outgoing Executive members, Darren Jones thanked John Moore for his services as President during the last year.

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19. APPOINTMENT TO HONORARY POSITIONS

Brian Moore advised that the appointment of people to honorary positions would be assessed and approved by the incoming members of the Executive Council.

20. CLOSURE

Brian Moore closed the meeting at 2 pm.