



VICTORIAN RIFLE ASSOCIATION INC

ESTABLISHED 1860
Registration Number A13641H
ABN 37 571 868 151

Annual General Meeting 2020 Minutes

Date: Saturday 5th December 2020. Time: 4.07pm

Councillors in Attendance

Name	Position	Club
Garry Kay	Chairman	Yarram
Albert van Wyk	Treasurer	Rosedale
Peter Farley	Councillor	MCC
Frank Connor	Councillor	Robinvale
Trevor Rhodes	Councillor	Maryborough
Alan Wright	Councillor	Lang Lang
Craig Weaire	Councillor	Nagambie
Pettina Love	Councillor	Wangaratta
Nikki Rees	Councillor	Wellsford
Joel Atkinson	Auditor	AASB

Members in Attendance

	First Name	Surname	Club
1	Bruce	Elwood	Bendigo
2	Ken	Reither	Bacchus Marsh
3	Morrie	Jackman	Shep/Nathalia
4	Robyn	Jackman	Shep/Nathalia
5	Carol	Hulett	Geelong
6	Peter	Hulett	Geelong
7	Garry	Rose	Geelong
8	Mike	Evans	Colac
9	Jo	Melbourne	Nagambie
10	Bruce	Serjeant	Werribee
11	Len	Hayes	Shep/Nathalia
12	Kevin	O'Donnell	Maryborough
13	Neil	Draffin	Bendigo
14	John	Hollis	Bendigo
15	Bill	Siegloff	Bendigo



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	First Name	Surname	Club
16	Adam	Moss	Lang Lang
17	Rod	Mahon	Sth Bendigo
18	Markus	Gaebele	Lilydale
19	Liana	Gaebele	Lilydale
20	Don	Laughton	Rosedale
21	Marty	Kelly	Wangaratta
22	Leah	Baklien	Lilydale
23	Robin	Hall	Marong
24	Ian	Gordon	Warr/Drouin
25	Ross	Jackson	Yarram
26	Richard	McRae	Warr/Drouin
27	Fred	Guyatt	Karramomus
28	Kay	Eland	FCG
29	John	Eland	FCG
30	Doug	George	Wangaratta

	First Name	Surname	Club
31	Douw	De Kock	Rosedale
32	Anna	Dyson	North Warrnambool
33	Adam	Haywood	Lang Lang
34	Geoff	Grenfell	Bendigo
35	John	Kiefer	Bendigo
36	Wayne	Boschetti	Bendigo

Apologies: Mick Liston, Callum Zanker, Alan Bandy, Tamara Bandy,Carolynn Nitschke, Chris Trimble, Bill Alford, Terry Gee

Moved: Peter Hulett

Seconded: Trevor Rhodes

2019 AGM Minutes

Moved: Kay Eland

Seconded: Don Laughton

Carried



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Chairman's Report

Chairman and Councillor report to VRA AGM 5th December 2020

I would like to welcome all to the 2020 AGM. We were unsure whether we would get to hold the AGM in 2020 and I expect many of you will all be glad to see the end of 2020. This report is both my Chairman's report as well as a report from the Council. It is a report on issues during the last financial year on June 30, and I will also mention some issues since the end of the financial year.

Albert will provide his Treasurer's report and I thank him for his work in looking after your money.

Last year the Council looked a little different with the resignation of Simon Whatley and Garry Warrender shortly after nominations closed. Although Simon stepped away from Council, he continued with the work on the Pavilion, especially the kitchen and we thank him for this work. I also wish to thank others who have contributed to this work. A special thanks goes to Nikki Rees for her management of the grant project, which took considerable time and commitment, especially the re-classification of the pavilion from a machinery shed to a public building. Thank you, Nikki. Others that need acknowledgement are Ken Reither, Brett Hartnett, Robin Hall, Bruce Ellwood, and others who have contributed to the project, including the builders.

As you know we made a decision to postpone the Queens from April to December, but then had to make the difficult decision to cancel the event for 2020. This, as well as the closure of the shop and the shutdown of the Metro Area, has had a negative effect on our budget, but we have managed to navigate our way through this trying time.

Last year the AGM made a number of changes to our Rules. One was to preferentially favour female Councillors, to bring a higher level of diversity to the management of the VRA and address a Government direction relating to membership of Boards. We have two outstanding nominations, and both were elected to Council in positions 2 and 3 in the election. So, I formally welcome Nikki Rees and Pettina Love to the Council. I am sure you will join me in wishing them well in their role as a VRA Councillor. Unsuccessful retiring Council were Frank Connor and Perter Farley and I thank both for their years of service to you association. Albert will mention the person who will join Council for the coming year and likely become the new VRA Treasurer.

Another change was to the way the VRA provides notice to members concerning the AGM. Notice this year and in future years will be by email, unless the member does not have an email address and request advice on AGM in writing. Some clubs may not have held their own AGM and therefore have not had an opportunity to advise the VRA that certain members require notice of the VRA AGM in writing, but this will be resolved as we move forward.

Nikki has forwarded details of the current grants through Vic Sport to club contacts and I encourage clubs to consider these fairly generous grants opportunities. The VRA will also be developing an application. Allied, but separate is an application being developed by Peter Farley to gain approval through the Australia Sports Foundation.

This body is a Statutory Body where anyone can donate to a sporting organisation and receive a Tax-deductible receipt.

I usually mention the passing of former Councillors of our Association but will also acknowledge a couple of other members who have recently passed on. Firstly, Keith Hay passed away on 5 April 2020. Keith was a Councillor for one term from 1980 and we awarded a 50+ year badge to him in



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2017 to acknowledge his 74 years of membership of the VRA. He, along with Bill Astill, were the then longest continuous members of the Association. A couple of other members who passed away during the year were Max Hedges, Paul Gustafson, Bob Hannah, Robert Chaffe and a couple of others.

There have been concerns expressed in the past that there are not enough events at Wellsford. This year we attempted to hold more. One such event was the training day arranged by Peter Farley in March and I thank Peter, Trevor Rhodes, Geoff Grenfell and the Bendigo club from their work in running a successful day. Although not part of the reporting period, I also than Nikki and Trevor for the shoot arranged to celebrate the relaxation of restrictions in the metro area held in November.

As I have mentioned before, we need to thank Robin Hall for his work on the range. Robin is a very regular worker on the range and his contribution is greatly appreciated. I also wish to acknowledge the work by Terry Gee for stepping in when Robin was unwell.

And in closing, I would also like to advise that this will be my last AGM, as Chairman. I am caught by the 10-year rule, have severed on Council on the roles of Deputy Chairman and Chairman since 2002. It has been an honour to serve as an administrator of this wonderful sport and I wish the next Council all the success as our sport moves forward.

Garry Kay VRA Chairman

Treasurer's Report: Albert van Wyk

Mr. Chairman, Honorable Life Members Honorable Guests, Fellow Councilors, ladies, and gentlemen.

What an incredible year we have had, and might I please take this opportunity to thank each of you for joining us at the AGM today and most importantly, for the continuous work that you have put in at club level to retain members, build and improve our sport.

2020 by all possible measures has not been a normal year. I can still vividly recall the initial reports of a virus, fast spreading through globe and hoping above all that we would be spared the same fate.... Little did I think then that the COVID-19 pandemic would not only decimate any chance of regular shooting activities but fundamentally change the way in which we now consider doing business and interacting with one another...

2020 had all the hallmarks of totally destroying all the progress the VRA have made in the betterment of shooting in Victoria and the financial progress of the Association.... I am therefore ecstatic to report that with the new member renewals in June, that the VRA have not only grown membership by 7% (from 698 to 747 members compared to last financial year), but that we have done so ahead of any other state or territory in Australia.

Today I am also pleased to introduce you to Joel Atkinson from AASB, our new auditors who was chosen during the last AGM to complete our financial review. Joel will be available following my report to respond to any questions you might have on the VRA's financial reports and their findings.

Revenues from ordinary activities, declined by approximately \$154,000 for the financial period 1 July 2019 – 30 June 2020. The primary areas impacting revenue were trading sales, down \$107,000 and our cancelled State Championships with expected revenues of roughly \$48,000. We were fortunate



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to be able to offset some of these declines by successfully applying for and receiving nearly \$25,000 in Job Keeper.

Due to the nature of the lockdowns and closure of the shop for a significant amount of time, as expected we have additionally seen a reduction operational expenses, of \$65,856, down from \$94,911 the previous fiscal period. Other notable reductions on expenses were total employee expenses of \$66,514, down from \$90,077 the year prior.

Total cash on hand reduced from \$509,774 the year before to \$268,168 currently following the completion of the Major Grants funding project and settling all due invoices.

Net surplus for the year of \$200,565 was marginally down from the year before by \$14,300.

Following a revaluation of Freehold land, Property, Plant and Equipment, now total \$881,001, up from \$614,334 the year before and had a positive effect on total equity, increasing approximately \$50,000 to \$1,195,649.

I spoke earlier of the tremendous effort from all clubs that enabled net member growth of 7% as of 1 July 2020 but Mr. Chairman I have even better news. As an association we continue to grow, and more than 110 new members have joined since July of this year. Now admittedly, some of the 110 members were existing members who renewed late, taking the initial 7% growth to almost 15% from the year prior. In addition to these, we have welcomed just over 50 new full members and 6 juniors.

There is no doubt that the efforts from the VRA, combined with the exceptional work by local clubs to attract, nurture and retain shooters alike is the receipt for our future success. As such it is the right time for the VRA to leverage its position as the peak full-bore shooting association in Victoria to further advance this cause.

Ladies and gentlemen the VRA council is in the process of applying for an \$300,000 grant for the improvement of not only the Wellsford range but for what will hopefully have benefits to many clubs within Victoria. The grant will see the purchase of 28 new Hexa Targets that will be leased to clubs to help improve their infrastructure and deliver more opportunities to attract new members. Although some of the finer details are yet to be finalized, funds received from clubs will go towards paying back to VRA contribution to the grant, ensuring robust maintenance on these assets and will provide us with the ability to host a Queens, DRA teams or Champion of Champion event on arguably the most accurate electronic targeting system available.

As a continuation of the focus on improving our shop with greater access to our members, initially thought the DEPOT system and focusing on item relevant to our members, I am excited to announce that the VRA will, from early next year have an Online Shop. The primary purpose of the shop will be to service our members first and foremost and in addition to try and attract some of the spending currently going to SARA, Q-Store and BRT to name but three.

Connected to our new online shop we are in the process of revamping our website to modernize the look and the content. The VRA website aim will be to be another mechanism to keep members updates on events, competitions and to be a central point for full bore shooting in Victoria. The website will allow new members to join, exciting members to renew safety and range officer accreditation and courses to be completed online and will give our clubs the ability to manage their own members. Therefore, connected to the website, will be a membership management system



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that will provide not only the VRA but also our club administrators greater access and information on members.

As this is my last AGM report as Treasurer, I would like to thank each of you for the significant support over the last few years and with that I also thank Douw de Kock who have agreed to step into the role to take our association forward. Douw brings to council significant years of experience not only as a business owner but as Chief Operating Officer. Thank you, Douw !!

During my first AGM as Treasurer I closed my report with words that I believe signals the intent of council and of those who love our sport and want to see it succeed... I feel that these words are more relevant now than ever before and therefore, leave you with them again...

Only through unity will we succeed and only through maintained focus on a common goal, will we reach that which we so desperately desire. Only through friendship, mate ship and collaboration will the journey be tolerable, and will the outcomes be meaningful.

Albert van Wyk, VRA Treasurer

WB addressed the audience and thanked AvW for the result. He mentioned that the working documents were not included on the website and were only just supplied. He could not understand what transpired. AvW acknowledged the mistake and mentioned that it was rectified immediately after being informed of the mistake. WB believes it is important that the members are informed and where the surplus reported has come from. WB disputed the figures reported on the major grant money and asked why the full allocation of grant money was not spent four years after the process started. WB asked why the money was not fully spent and that the machinery shed was finished however no power was supplied to the shed, however the office purchased new desks and computers.

The auditor commented that perhaps WB was not accounting for the GST in the grant and AvW said that the grants process is rigorous, and that all money was fully allocated and acquitted.

WB spoke about the \$2500 spent on auditors' fees and why the figure was so low. AvW said that at the last AGM the previous auditors were replaced and that it was deemed not appropriate that we spend \$12,000 on auditing fees. This was included in last year's minutes.

WB then questioned the application of AASP 105A and asked why six items in the VRA budget were not completed and why were they not journaled or placed into the accounts. The auditor answered the questions posed by WB regarding the new accounting standards and the recognition of capital expenditure. AvW agreed that a new set of documents be developed for next year's AGM so that members can understand them at an operational level.

Moved: Ken Reither

Seconded: Peter Farley

Appointment of Auditors

AvW recommended that we continue with the current auditors (Accounting and Audit Solutions Bendigo) with some changes made to the documents produced.

Moved: Albert van Wyk

Seconded: Bill Seigloff **Carried**

Election of a Patron

Council has not formally considered this position.



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Special Business: Life Memberships

Robin Hall – presented by Robyn Jackman

It is a great honor for me to talk about the incredible contribution that this person has made to the VRA and in particular the Wellsford Rifle Range. First impressions are important. Anyone who visits Wellsford can't help but be impressed by the way that the Range is always so beautifully presented. It is mostly due to the hard work of just one man that it always looks so good.

According to the VRA database Robin Hall joined the VRA on 13th February 1967, although I have it on good authority that it may have been before then. Robin is a quiet achiever, and it was a bit hard for me to find details of all his achievements. This is what I did find. He is a Life Member of Bendigo Rifle Club. He is currently a member of Marong Rifle Club. He served as a VRA Councillor in 2017. He was a valuable member of the Victorian Veterans Team from 2013-18

For more than 50 years he has worked tirelessly for his Club and the VRA. With his sound mechanical skills Robin managed to keep all the old, tired, worn out equipment operating well past its use by date so that he could maintain the Range in tip top condition. Since the purchase of the new tractor, Robin has been able to do even more. He keeps the whole range mown, without having to hire a Contractor anymore, as well as undertaking lots of other jobs around the place.

Until his recent illness, Robin has spent many hours every week at the Range. He lives quite a distance from the Range, but willingly travelled back and forth. As soon as he's well enough I know that he will be back hard at work. Robin is also on call for the Security people, should there be a problem at the Range out of hours.

When I was working in the VRA Office, I found Robin extremely friendly, helpful, and good to work with. He was my go-to person. He could fix most things or knew where to go if we had to get in a tradesman. If you ask Robin to do something, you know it will be done.

For example, a few years ago the day before the Queens we discovered that the washing machine had died. A call to Robin had a new one installed within a couple of hours. An even bigger disaster was averted when the bar fridge broke down just before the Champion of Champions weekend. I could not get anyone to look at it, but he knew who to contact. We had a loan fridge for the event and the bar fridge was fixed and going for next time.

I know that all Members will join me in congratulating Robyn on a very well-deserved Life Membership of the VRA.

Frank Conner presented by Garry Kay.

Council has also recommended a Life Membership be awarded to Frank Conner. As may will know Frank is the person responsible for get our Queens results together and a long term VRA Councillor. My checking on the Councillors listed in the Queens booklet has Frank joining Council in September 1987, that is 33 years ago, and he has been on Council with a few short breaks since. He had a two-year break between 2011 -2013, before being re-elected or asked to return to Council to fill vacancies when people resigned from Council.



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Prior to Frank joining Council, he was helping the Melbourne University RC with the Queens Stats at Williamstown. MURC were developing a Computer based stats program as a project in the 1980's. This program replaced the manual process where you had a final range card that was about 40 cm long with three cut-off sections for Daily Agg, Queens Agg and Grand Agg, as well as your final range score.

When the VRA moved to Bendigo in the 1991, Frank took over running the program and the Queens stats. Melbourne University RC transferred or gave Frank the rights to the computer program and this was used until we changed to the NRAA program a few years ago. Of course, there have been changes to the program over the years, with the inclusion of the F Class disciplines.

The development of the NRAA 4 or 5 years ago saw the end of the Frank Conner / MURC program, but the NRAA program still does not do all the things the older program did, as the older program evolved with the changes to our shooting because Frank also learnt the program language that it was written in. One disconcerting thing, when working in the stats office with Frank was his frequent comments – "Shut down the program and re-start as I made a few changes". But on starting up again everything continued to work.

Frank continues to be NRAA program coordinator, a go to person for putting things on the Web and will be a person to call about issues with using the new office software as it is the same system he uses at work. And he will still be in the stats office. Thank you, Frank, for your work for the VRA and it is a privilege to issue you with a certificate of Life Membership.

[Presentation to Garry Kay from VRA Council](#)

Albert thanked GK for his years of dedication to the VRA and his willingness to give to the organisation and is a quiet achiever. GK has been involved with the VRA since 2002 and has been the Chairman, Deputy Chairman and a Councillor. GK was presented with a framed plaque to thank him for his substantial contribution to the VRA.

Open Discussion

WB said that he has concerns regarding the governance of the VRA. He said that the council election ballot paper was not issued in accordance with the rules. This needs to be addressed immediately. They need to make decisions with the full backing of the members. If this election is not valid it will create doubt among members. The second issue is the appointment of the new treasurer Douw De Kock. WB said that it was akin to Donald Trump appointing his daughter the week before the US elections.

GK said that at the last Council meeting a recommendation was put forward by AvW appointing DdK as the honorary treasurer. The vote was taken without the outgoing Councilors of FC and PF voting. PF said that this decision was made unanimously, and that PF and FC did not speak on the issue.



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AvW mentioned that one of the key things missing on the Council was someone who has the suitable skills to perform the role of Treasurer. AvW mentioned that the rules changed last year was to give the Council the ability to appoint members who had appropriate skills or gender specific.

WB spoke about his objections to the Executive Officer having the right to vote on Council. He said the association rules are quite clear in regard to the Executive Officer being on Council and that a remunerated Executive Officer cannot vote on Council.

GK said that she as the Executive Officer is entitled to speak but does not have a vote. As an elected Councillor she is entitled to vote. Advice was sought from the VRA Council from the member who was involved in drafting the rules. WB stated he believes that it is incorrect and legal advice should be sought. PH said that the only thing that will drive a wedge between members is that an elected member of Council is then questioned regarding her right to vote.

RJ asked if the Champion of Champions weekend was being reviewed in light of the 2019 event? CW said that we need feedback from members for this.

AvW mentioned that RJ could bring it up as a motion for next year's AGM as the decision to separate the DRA Teams and Champion of Champions was decided at the AGM two years ago.

M.E. mentioned that it was unanimously passed with the Champion of Champions now a separate event.

GG asked if the pennant dates had been reserved. GK said that they are generally the last Saturday of the month.

GG said it has been an honour to know both Robin and Frank and that they were well deserving of the life membership.

BS asked if the VRA can put dirt at the back of the zero range as it has no taper to it.

GK mentioned that the new VRA Council can look into it.

Meeting Closed: 7.07pm