



Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of the Ballarat Mechanics' Institute, held Online (via Zoom), on Monday, 27 September 2021, at 4.00 pm

1. **Welcome:** President Mike offered an Acknowledgment of Country and acknowledged the Wadawurrung people as the first inhabitants and Traditional Custodians of the lands on which the BMI building stands. He then welcomed all those participating, including the special guest, our Civic Patron and Mayor, Councilor Daniel Moloney.
2. **In Attendance:** David Berry, Peter Dowling, Ross Furness, Robert Hook, Terry Lloyd, Sue Lloyd, Geraldine Roberts, Phil Roberts, Mike Stephens, Sam McColl, Colin Jackson, Paula Nicholson, Jane Valpied, Prue Bentley, Pauline Barton, Frank Hurley, Garry Snowden, Hilary Pope, Rex Bridges, Trina Jones and Helen McKnight
Apologies: Rosemary McInerney and Graham Gooding. Apologies were accepted on the motion of Jane Valpied, seconded by Paula Nicholson – carried.
3. **Minutes:** Minutes of 29 June 2020 AGM were confirmed: moved Peter Dowling, seconded Jane Valpied – carried
4. **Matters Arising from Minutes:** Nil
5. **Correspondence:** Nil
6. **Reports:**
 - 6.1. **Annual Report:** President Mike referred to his report that had been circulated to members prior to the meeting and offered heartfelt thanks on behalf of the Board to the following:
 1. Terry Lloyd for his work in bringing the Institute into the 21st century with the development of the new Constitution and By-Laws – a lengthy and challenging task;
 2. Venue and Events Manager Sam McColl, for his supervision of the upgrading of the lighting and sound in the Minerva Space to concert standard, following a generous grant from the State Government;
 3. Rosemary McInerney for her tireless work in the library and in particular for managing the “click and collect” book lending process during lockdowns, ensuring members had access to reading material;
 4. the State Government for the generous grants for the upgrading of the basement and for restoration of works in the collection;
 5. Paula Nicholson and her team on the extensive upgrading of the Institute’s strategic plan;
 6. Peter Dowling, Finance Officer Kevin Murnane and the Finance Committee for managing the Institute’s finances through extremely challenging times, resulting in a surplus of \$30,000;
 7. The staff, Colin, Mark, Sam and Katrina, for their continuing focus on seeing the Institute through tough times and doing it in such a positive way; and,
 8. to our merry band of volunteers who continue to provide amazing service.

Mike finished his report by reflecting on the significance of the work undertaken by the Board in the past year. He is well pleased with their achievements.

6.2. Financial Report: Treasurer Peter Dowling reported the annual Audited Financial Statements had been circulated prior to the meeting. He mentioned how difficult the year had been from a financial perspective and is well pleased with the outcome. He mentioned how significant the Government financial assistance has been together with the generous donations from members, in the financial results. He was pleased with the support from Executive Manager Colin, Kevin and the Finance Committee.

Peter moved that the Annual Report and Financial Statements be adopted - seconded Paula Nicholson and carried

7. General Business:

7.1. Appointment of Auditors: That Countpro be appointed as auditors for 2021-22: moved Peter Dowling, seconded Paula Nicholson – Carried

8. Other Business:

8.1. Notice of Motion

This AGM of the Ballarat Mechanics' Institute notes with deep appreciation the remarkable record of service to the Institute by Dr Phil Roberts OAM who is retiring from the Board. Phil has been a Board member for around 30 years. He has filled the offices of President and Secretary for multiple terms. He has been a tireless contributor to the activities and management of the Board. He has been a leader in many Institute initiatives and programs. He has used his involvement in numerous regional cultural and educational networks and service clubs to the great benefit of the Institute. Phil's wife Geraldine has greatly assisted and supported Phil in his work for the Institute as well as being a significant contributor to Institute activities in her own right. Phil is already a Life Member. This AGM notes with pleasure that he will continue a formal association with the BMI in the honored role of Patron of the Institute.

Moved: Dr Frank Hurley OAM, Past President and Life Member

Seconded: Ross Furness, Secretary to the Board

This motion was carried with acclamation.

9. Appointment of Directors and Election of Office Bearers

9.1. The Institute's Civic Patron and Mayor of the City of Ballarat, Councilor Daniel Moloney took the chair and declared the following Board appointments:

Directors elected for a 2 year term from 27 September 2021: Prue Bentley and Pauline Barton

Director elected for a 1 year term from 27 September 2021: Mike Stephens

9.2. Appointment of Office Bearers for 2021/22

In line with the BMI's Constitution, the Directors, at their first meeting after the AGM, shall elect from their number a Chairperson and Deputy Chairperson.

10. Closing remarks

President Mike commented that we will continue to be flexible and determined during the continuing Covid period. We will look back in a year or two and wonder how we coped so well. We are extremely lucky to have such a positive group of Board members, staff and volunteers who seem to be able to cope with whatever occurs. He finished up by saying he trusted everyone will stay safe and well.

Ross Furness
Secretary