

CGA AGM minutes 7 June 2008

Salvation Army Centre Collaroy

Meeting opened at 7.35 pm

Present : Pamela O'Neill, Rod McInnes, Barbara Crighton, Alasdair Shearer, Christine Van de Leeuw, Angus MacLeod, Orin Chisholm, Iain Clement, James Cameron, Joan Mitchell, Rob Willis.

Apologies : Katie Graham, John Coombs, Patsy Rees, Graeme MacLennan, Frank Davidson, Alex Stewart, Lorna Scott, John McIntyre, Graham Aubrey (Australian Institute of Celtic Studies), Pat Wallace, David Hill.

Minutes of previous meeting.

Moved Orin Chisholm, seconded Alasdair Shearer that the minutes of the previous AGM be accepted. Carried.

Reports

Convenor

Pamela O'Neill reported that the past year had been a difficult one and very busy, but our Sgoil Gheamhraidh had been achieved despite the short notice given to us by the Irish group that we could not be accommodated at their winter school this year. An Teachdaire Gaidhealach had been up to date recently, but is now behind again, although hard work has been done to try to stay ahead. This was all there was to report, but any questions would be welcome.

Secretary.

We had no secretary for the past year. The work was shared by Rod McInnes (correspondence) and Barbara Crighton (minutes).

Treasurer

Rod McInnes distributed a printed report and then spoke further to it.

The report was brought up to the 31st March which is the end of our financial year. We had a small surplus. The fees have been increased to \$30 p.a. We are also trying to keep the costs of ATG down, and eliminating Sgoil costs by joining with the Irish for their winter school.

At the end of the year we had a healthy balance of \$1800, but there are still a few bills owing to bring this down.

We need to work at keeping current members and recruiting new ones. A letter to lapsed members was sent out and we expect to pick up some members as a result of this.

Our current balance is more than \$3000, mostly related to the sgoil. When the sgoil costs are finalised we will have a small loss.

At the end of next year (2009) we should be financially sustainable with a larger member base.

An Teachdaire Gaidhealach. The issues are lagging behind again. Angus MacLeod suggested beginning fresh next month rather than trying to publish the back issue.

Rod McInnes said that the costs associated with ATG are not a financial problem.

Acting Webmaster.

Rod filled this position till the beginning of this calendar year when Kerry Taylor offered to take on this position. Some work has been done on the website – bugs have been removed, committee listing is up to date, AGM notice displayed, and sgoil booking forms available. Kerry is prepared to continue as webmaster.

Correspondence.

Rod McInnes gave a verbal report. We received a Christmas card from Angus MacLeod's sister Catriona.

As mentioned in our last ATG we are in touch with some Gaelic organisations who are involved in a tourist promotion of Gaelic culture.

We exchanged correspondence with the Gaelic Society of Victoria re being partner organisations and exchanging newsletters. A couple of members of GSV have become members of Comunn Gaidhlig Astrailia.

Moved Iain Clement, seconded Christine Van der Leeuw that the reports be accepted. Carried.

Election for Committee Positions

Pamela O'Neill not standing for re election as Convenor, she continued in the chair for the.

Convenor

Rod McInnes was nominated by Barbara Crighton and seconded by Iain Clement. Elected.

Secretary

No nominations

Treasurer

No nominations

Ordinary Committee member positions

Nominations were Barbara Crighton, Sally McPhee, James Cameron and John Rankin.

There being only three ordinary committee member positions, Barbara Crighton agreed to take the position of Secretary (minutes).

Editor.

No nominations. Approaches will be made to Sarah who expressed interest in this position previously, or other possible people.

The above people were elected unanimously.

Rod McInnes thanked the members for electing him to the position of convenor.

The three non committee positions are

Auditor Alex Stewart

Webmaster Kerry Taylor

Gaelic Editor Katie Graham

These current incumbents are willing to continue in these positions.

General Business

A motion to incorporate the association was considered. Rod McInnes explained the reasons for incorporation, the main ones being the possibility of liability, and that incorporation inspires the confidence of members when we have model rules or constitution according to the Act. There was some discussion regarding incorporation generally. It involves the association having a Public Officer. Public Liability Insurance is not mandatory, but will be investigated. The current committee has been investigating insuring through Scottish House.

Motions

1) "That Comunn Gaidhlig Astrailia will seek incorporation in NSW."

Moved Rod McInnes, seconded Alasdair Shearer. Carried unanimously.

The second motion is that the CGA adopt the rules of association (draft constitution) tabled at the meeting. These were based on the model rules of the NSW Department of Fair Trading, incorporating amendments appropriate to CGA.

2) "That Comunn Gaidhlig Astrailia adopt rules as tabled at the meeting"

Moved Rod McInnes, seconded Alasdair Shearer.

Rod asked if anyone wanted to speak for or against the motion.

Carried unanimously.

Rod thanked Pamela O'Neill, as previous convenor, for working to achieve this outcome, and Barbara Crighton for working on the Draft Constitution.

Public Officer

Appointment of a Public Officer, who will need to keep the records required by the Act and lodge annual report was discussed. There being no other nominations for this position, the meeting appointed the Convenor as the Public Officer.

No further business.

Rod thanked all for attending and for their confidence in him and hopes to do a good job for them in the coming year.

Joan Mitchell said that we should not be afraid to share jobs if some jobs are too much for one person. Rod said that we need to ask people to each do just a small amount to help, and that we can help them to do it.

James Cameron asked about the possibility of instituting lifetime memberships and Rod commented that these are not as common in associations like ours as they used to be. Another suggestion was the possibility of sending email newsletters instead of having them printed. Rod replied that there would not be a great saving here because once you have a few printed, extras do not add a great deal to the cost. However this can be investigated.

The meeting closed at 8.30 pm.
