

Comunn Gàidhlig Astràilia

(The Scottish Gaelic Association of Australia)

Coinneamh Choitcheann Bhliadhnail

(Annual General Meeting)

Di-Sathairne 5mh An t-Sultainn, 2009, 7.30 pm

(Saturday, 5th September, 2009, 7.30 pm)

An Geàrr-chunntas

(The Minutes)

The meeting opened at 8.10pm at University House, Australian National University, Canberra

Present: Rod McInnes, Barbara Crighton, James Cameron, John Rankin, Alasdair Shearer, Jane McNeil, Maurice Fowler, Joan Mitchell, Iain Clement, Tom Charnock, Orin Chisholm, Ruth Lee Martin, Mary Hamilton (non member).

Apology: Rob Willis

Our Convenor, Rod McInnes welcomed everyone to the AGM.

A copy of the minutes of the previous AGM was posted on our website, and circulated at the meeting. It was pointed out that some words were missing from a sentence in the minutes.

Moved Alasdair Shearer, seconded Iain Clement that the minutes be accepted.
Carried.

Reports

Convenor

Rod said that the past year has been one of consolidation during which we have maintained our membership. Thanks are due to Pamela O'Neill, our previous Convenor. The Sgoil we held at Collaroy was a great learning experience, but we made a financial loss, however our finances are sound. Our failure during the past year has been that we have not produced any issues of our newsletter, ATG, at all and we apologise for this. Our editor Sarah Arnold lost contact with us and we have not yet been able to recruit another editor. We have, however, sent a regular e-newsletter to members. We continue to maintain our website and a number of people contact us through this in any given week. We run our regular Cearcall Còmhraidh and this is profitable. The committee meets monthly by Skype.

We now have a committee which includes members from other states besides NSW. We have always had a coordinating role with societies and groups in other states. The

groups in WA and SA sent good wishes for our sgoil in Canberra. We have contacts in Tasmania and a good relationship with the Gaelic Society of Victoria We provide network and support roles for Gaelic learners.

During the past year CGA became incorporated in NSW.

Moved John Rankin, seconded Joan Mitchell that the report be accepted. Carried.

Secretary

Barbara Crighton reported that she has been Minutes Secretary for the past year, and Rod McInnes has been acting as Correspondence secretary. Barbara has also been liaison person between the committee and our webmaster Kerry Taylor. Kerry is very enthusiastic and helpful, and has a lot of suggestions about how we can improve our website. James Cameron did a lot of work during the year to check our links page and as a result, the links page has been brought up to date.

Moved John Rankin, seconded Orin Chisholm that the report be accepted. Carried.

Treasurer

Rod handed out a printed Treasurer's report and then spoke to it.

Our situation is sustainable as long as we maintain our services to members.

The history of the past few years is that in 2007 we undertook to run a Sgoil in conjunction with the Irish Winter School, and some expenses were covered by them, so the figures shown on the printed report for that year are not representative of our usual expenses. The figures for the 2006 Sgoil are more relevant. A sgoil is a significant cost and undertaking. This year we will probably make a small loss. We needed two more registrations to break even.

Moved John Rankin, seconded James Cameron that the report be accepted. Carried.

Editor

There was no editor's report, but the situation was covered in other reports.

Election of Committee

Rod stood aside and Tom Charnock took the chair to receive the nominations for committee positions.

Nominations were received as follows:-

Convenor – Rod McInnes

Secretary – Barbara Crighton

Treasurer – no nomination

Editor – James Cameron

Three Ordinary Committee Members – John Rankin, Sally McPhee

There being no other nominations, the above people were duly elected, and the Treasurer's position, and one Ordinary Committee Member's position were declared vacant.

Non committee positions

Auditor – Alex Stewart

Webmaster – Kerry Taylor

Gaelic Editor – Katie Graham

Public Officer – Rod McInnes

General Business

Motion: That Pamela O'Neill and Ronald McCoy be removed as signatories to CGA's bank account because they are no longer on the committee, and that we register Rod McInnes, Barbara Crighton, James Cameron and John Rankin as signatories for the coming year.

Moved Alasdair Shearer, seconded Orin Chisholm. Carried.

There was some discussion about An Teachdaire Gaidhealach. Ruth Lee Martin asked whether we deposit copies in the National Library of Australia. She said there are copies in the Library's collection, but Rod said we have not been sending them. We send copies to the State Library of NSW. This is a legal requirement, and it is also legally required to deposit a copy in the National Library, but we were not aware of that. From now on we will send copies to the National Library as well as the State Library.

Alasdair Shearer asked about the possibility of having fewer issues of ATG, but having more content in the issues eg 6 monthly instead of quarterly. Rod said that it is difficult to get enough Gaelic material. James said that it is not difficult to put an issue together as long as material is coming in. He suggested we could contact Ruaridh MacIlleathain about some Cothrom articles.

John Rankin said that the original ATG was a broadsheet, and could we consider going back to this format?

To save costs we could send many of the ATG copies in email format, but we would still need some printed copies for members who don't have email and for legal deposit copies.

Membership was discussed. Jane McNeil asked whether we could have a recruitment campaign to regain lapsed members.

Perhaps we could contact other organisations and ask them to promote CGA to their members.

Lifetime memberships which were suggested at our last AGM are felt to be not practical, but we could consider 2- or 3-year memberships.

First we have to demonstrate the benefits of membership.

Joan Mitchell said we have to keep the association under the nose of members.

Rod McInnes declared the meeting closed at 9.10pm.
