



**FRIENDS OF THE ACADEMY INCORPORATED
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2022 MINUTES**

Sunday 26 June 2022 at 4.30 pm Via
ZOOM

- 1. WELCOME:** The meeting commenced at 4.35 pm, via Zoom.
- 2. ATTENDANCE LIST:** Twenty (20) financial Members attended the Zoom meeting.
- 3. APOLOGIES:** Twelve (12) apologies were received.
- 4. PROXY VOTES:** Nil.
- 5. ACCEPTANCE OF THE MINUTES OF THE FoA AGM OF 3 OCTOBER 2021:**
Ms Jacqui Macliver moved that the Minutes be accepted. Seconded Ms Carol Schembri. Carried by a show of hands.
- 6. BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES:** Nil.
- 7. TREASURER'S REPORT:** Available on request.
- 8. ELECTION OF COMMITTEE FOR 2021/22:**
The Chair thanked the Committee for the past year's contribution and those who have given their time to assist, including Ms Susie Lim, Mr Saxon Neate, Ms Jessica Hodges and Ms Judy Lukowiak.

There were two Committee members who retired during the year. Mr Warren Mitchell (Treasurer) and Ms Virginia Withers (General Committee). Thanks were extended to both. Mr Mitchell introduced a new accounting system which resulted in a substantially discounted auditing fee. Ms Withers, employed by ECU was the conduit for the Friends between the University and WAAPA. She has since resigned from ECU and the committee and taken up a new position with Black Swan Theatre as Development Manager.

The Chair handed over to Ms Susie Lim to conduct the election of the Committee.

The three new nominees are Ms Jacqui Macliver, (General Committee), nominated by K Button, formerly from the WA Teachers Union, Ms Cassey Smith (Treasurer), nominated by K Button, a lawyer with trust accounting experience and Ms Sue Scrutton, (General Committee), nominated by K Button, a former Marketing Manager at WAAPA.

The following Committee members are reapplying:

Mr Kevin Button, Chair, nominated by A Bromfield
Ms Angela Bromfield, Secretary, nominated by K Button
Ms Donna McFetridge, Grants Administrator nominated by K Button
Ms Lyn Cuthbert, Tours Co-ordinator nominated by K Button
Ms Tanya Tsirigotis, General Committee nominated by K Button

All of the above eight (8) nominees were elected by a unanimous show of hands.

9. APPOINTMENT OF AUDITOR FOR 2022:

Shreeve & Carslake were nominated by Ms Donna McFetridge. Seconded by Ms Irene Froyland.

10. GENERAL BUSINESS: During the meeting various videos, supplied by WAAPA, were played for the attendees.

The Chair gave a general overview regarding the topics listed below.

Finance:

- ECU withdrew \$28K annual funding to the Friends;
- Student numbers are similar to 2021;

- Currently forecasting student Grant expenditure of approximately \$60K;
- The Friends have gifted to WAAPA \$20K for mounting the opera (Hansel and Gretel) in 2022;
- Investments with Beyond Bank and Bellwether.

Membership:

- Membership numbers remain static. Ideally a 10% increase would enable funding to advantage more students;
- Use of advertorials in local newspapers;
- We have an aging membership and need to attract younger members. This has proven to be a perennial dilemma;
- All current members need to actively promote the Friends and assist in increasing the membership;
- Friends' supper functions are currently on hold due to Covid;
- Post-performance Q&A's at each of the six Friends' Functions have proven to be extremely well received. Performances advertised in the WAAPA Program.

Academy Tours:

- Four tours are available per year each with twenty guests. A sum of \$3,800 is raised annually. Thanks to Ms Lyn Cuthbert and all her helpers for arranging the tours and providing morning tea. Currently maintaining a waiting list for 2023.

Committee performance:

- The Committee meets each month via Zoom;
- Distributes around 120 Grants to the approximate value of \$60K;
- Provide Aboriginal Performance with an annual grant of \$3,200 per year; to assist with a production and including Coles cards of \$2K for incidental needs;
- Organises four Tours of the Academy and raises \$3,800;
- Conducted an online Survey of lapsed members.

Website:

- The Friends Web Page carries news and videos advertising WAAPA productions;
- Memberships and renewals are available on line;
- Applications for Student Grants;
- Bookings for WAAPA productions;
- Bookings for WAAPA Tours;
- Contact Us
- Last minute changes to the WAAPA Program

Questions:

Q: Ms A Bromfield extended a vote of thanks to both Ms Carol Schembri and Ms Sylvia Horner for their assistance with the morning teas for the Tours.

A: The Chair extended a general vote of thanks to all those ex-committee members and friends who have provided invaluable assistance when requested.

Q: Ms Carol Schembri inquired if a Treasurer's Report and Auditors Report were available.

A: The Chair advised if any member requires a copy please ask and it will be forwarded. Not included due to electronic issues.

Q: Mr Adrian de Graaf asked why hard copy of Programs were not mailed to members in 2022.

A: WAAPA discontinued a general mail-out of hard copies in order to reduce costs. The Program is available online to anyone and can be updated throughout the year. Hard copies are available upon request to WAAPA.

Q: With any major changes could the Friends be involved in the discussion?

A: No, the Friends are not part of WAAPA and as such are not generally included in day-to-day financial discussions or program changes unless they directly impact on the Friends.

Q and Comments to the Meeting from Ms Donna McFetridge, FoA Committee Member:

It might be helpful to give feedback of the involvement of the Friends in the move to the city. The committee is aware of the excitement and concerns and as soon as we know about changes will that information be passed on to all members?

A: Not much information up to now as it is still in the planning stage; construction has not begun; site chosen at Yagan Square. Email from WAAPA about progress will be sent to K Button and that will be forwarded to the membership. It's worth noting that about 50% of the ticket sales are purchased by the Friends. That figure will probably remain the same when WAAPA transfers to the city. Perhaps the number of matinees will be increased as there are concerns by some members about night travel to the city.

11. NEXT AGM DATE TO BE FIXED: A date in March 2023 will be advised at a future time.

As there was no further business the meeting closed at 5.08 pm

Signature: *Kevin Button*

Date: 23 April 2023