

## **2014 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

Wednesday 22 October 2014 @ 10.00 am  
BCC Community Library Meeting Room, Ground Floor  
Brisbane Square, 266 George Street, Brisbane

### **1) Welcome**

Merv Hazell opened the meeting at 10.00 am. He acknowledged the Traditional Owners of the Land being the Turrbal People in the North and the Jagera People in the south and invited the President to the podium.

#### *a) Adoption of Agenda*

Annette Barbetti thanked everybody for attending the Annual General Meeting, in particular acknowledging the presence of Life Members Garnet Foley, Joe Johnston and Gil Porter. This was greeted with applause by those present.

The draft agenda was agreed to.

### **2) Minutes of Annual General Meeting held 16 April 2014**

The Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held in Adelaide on 16 April 2014 had been distributed prior to the meeting. The Minutes were accepted as a true and accurate record of that meeting.

Moved Anne Willenborg  
Seconded Annette Barbetti  
Carried unanimously.

### **3) President's report**

The SCOA Australia Incorporated 2013/2014 Annual Report had been distributed prior to the meeting. Annette Barbetti went through some of the highlights in the report. She said at the end of June 2014, the membership stood at just fewer than 2,500.

A mail out in June (to members who had not renewed since 2012 and 2013) had resulted in some 80 renewals and had been an opportunity to update the database.

Annette then referred to the problem which had been identified at the Annual General Meeting held in Adelaide in April. The existing Rules limit the number of proxies any one member can hold to five. For the AGM in Adelaide, we had received quite a few proxies which were invalid. This is why the committee was now recommending an amendment to the Rules which would see the chair of the meeting holding an unlimited number of proxies, whilst still limiting to five the number of proxies any other member of the association can hold.

#### *Financial arrangements*

Annette Barbetti said that SCOA Australia had paid capitation fees to Federal Council to the tune of some \$42,000. SCOA Australia also pays part of the cost of the paid Federal Office part time staff. SCOA Australia does not pay honoraria to anyone of its

volunteers. SCOA Australia's financial arrangements are maintained separate from those of Federal Council.

### *Financial results*

Annette Barbetti explained that the loss shown in the statements was recorded as a loss only because of the way the money had been transferred (as a donation) from the QLD branch when it joined SCOA Australia. It had been reported this way as recommended by the auditor. Indeed, the association posted up a cash surplus of some \$5,000. Annette said that next year's budget has been approved but may need to be adjusted, depending on a number of developments.

One of those, said the President, is that the Victorian Branch is now considering winding up and joining SCOA Australia. An initial meeting between the Victorian Branch and SCOA Australia was held in Canberra on 29 September 2014. The Victorian Branch is now considering how to take the proposed merger to their members, including the financial arrangements.

A recommendation will be taken to the Victorian Branch membership in early December. If members vote in favour of joining SCOA Australia, it is envisaged that this will occur on or after 1 July 2015.

The President's report was accepted.

Moved Garnet Foley  
Seconded Brian Rowe  
Carried unanimously.

#### **4) Treasurer's report**

The Treasurer had authorized the President to deliver the Treasurer's report on his behalf.

Annette Barbetti tabled the audited financial statements. Annette said it had been a pleasure getting SCOA Australia established and up and running and that the association was now running so smoothly. She made special thanks to Tom Dent, Peter Hocking and Anne Willenborg for achieving this.

Annette Barbetti referred to the challenge of managing inflows with the membership year being the same as a calendar year, but the financial year running from 1 July to 30 June. She informed the meeting that Federal Office is now starting to give serious consideration to bringing the two into line. The problem becomes apparent for example when the Victorian Branch joins SCOA Australia at the end or beginning of a financial year (30 June or 1 July), however this is in the middle of a membership year.

The President also mentioned the overwhelming response SCOA had following an item in ComSuper's July 2014 issue of their pensioner newsletter about the Bereavement Book. Not only did SCOA Australia collect money from the sale of the publication, but we also secured around 30 new members in the process.

Finally, Annette said that SCOA Australia had looked into the option of offering an online credit card payment facility; however it had been deemed too expensive and would not be pursued further. On a question from the floor, Annette said that members

could use direct deposit to pay their fees. She reminded them to include their membership number and last name as a reference if they used this method.

A member asked why there had been two Annual General Meetings held in the same year. Annette Barbetti explained that the AGM held in Adelaide in April had been held within the 18 months limit for a new association, and that in future there would only be one AGM, usually in the period from 1 July to 31 December.

A member asked about public liability insurance. Annette said that SCOA Australia was covered under the policy taken out by Federal Council (at no extra cost to Federal Council).

The Treasurer's report and audited financial statements were accepted.

Moved Neville Carnegie  
Seconded Mervyn Pullinger  
Carried unanimously.

## **5) Special Resolutions and Election of committee members**

### *a) Appointment of Returning Officer*

Garnet Foley was elected as the Returning Officer.

Moved Gil Porter  
Seconded David Paxton  
Carried unanimously.

### *b) Tabling of proxies*

Garnet Foley tabled the 64 proxies received. He said it was encouraging that so many had been received. Garnet informed the meeting that all the proxies had indicated that they were in favour of the Special Resolutions to be put to the meeting.

### *c) Special Resolutions*

Special Resolutions to amend the SCOA Australia Rules had been circulated prior to the meeting. They were tabled and voted on individually.

#### *i) The number of proxies that can be held by the chair of the meeting;*

Motion: That the meeting agree to Amend Sections 29 and 30 by inserting words to the effect that the chair of a meeting (General Meeting or Annual General Meeting or any adjourned meetings) may hold an indefinite number of proxies.

Moved Anne Willenborg  
Seconded Gil Porter  
Carried unanimously.

#### *ii) Increasing the number of members of the committee;*

Motion: That the meeting agree to amend Section 12(b) of the Rules to change the number of committee members to up to nine.

Moved Bruce Dymock  
Seconded Garnet Foley  
Carried unanimously.

*iii) Amending the time for payment of capitation fees based on the number of financial members;*

Motion: That the meeting agree to Amend Rule 39.2 to reflect the new timing of the calculation and payment of capitation fees.

Moved Brian Sullivan  
Seconded Brian Rowe  
Carried unanimously.

*iv) Insert a paragraph under Section 41 to allow members of SCOA Australia to approve (or reject as it were) proposed alterations of the Rules before such proposed amendments are put to Federal Council for its endorsement.*

Motion: That the meeting agree to insert a paragraph under Section 41 to allow members of SCOA Australia to approve (or reject as it were) proposed alterations of the Rules before such proposed amendments are put to Federal Council for its endorsement.

Moved John Hill  
Seconded Wayne Jacobson  
Carried unanimously.

*d) Election of committee members*

The Returning Officer read out the list of the nominations for election to the committee for the next twelve months.

There being only 7 nominations for 7 committee positions, all candidates were declared to have been elected unopposed. The elected committee is as follows:

- Annette Barbetti, President
- Ewan Hazell, Vice President
- Tom Dent, Treasurer
- Anne Willenborg, Secretary
- Alan Raftery, Member
- Merv Hazell, Member
- Peter Hocking, Member

Garnet Foley thanked Annette Barbetti and Anne Willenborg for having made the trip to Brisbane. He also thanked Merv Hazell for his long standing contribution to and involvement with SCOA.

## **6) Other business**

Annette Barbetti provided a brief summary of some of the measures announced in the May federal budget, some of which have now been passed by Parliament. She made special reference to people who receive a part Age Pension and referred to a letter the

Prime Minister has recently sent to all those, promising a continuing increase of their pensions. However, Annette said that the government might, in a quest to save money, consider cutting the indexation of the Age Pension from twice a year to only once a year. She also said that over the last twelve months, the CPI had actually increased at a higher rate than the MTAW, whereas the pension indexation tool continues to run below the CPI.

The proposed increase in the retirement age up to 70 would of course also save the government some money. This measure, as others, has not yet gone through Parliament. Annette said it was difficult to read what might happen; we would just have to wait and see.

She mentioned the issue of the changed treatment of account based pensions in relation to the Age Pension and the Commonwealth Seniors Health Card. The new rules do not apply to CSS or PSS pensions or for members of the 1922 Scheme. Annette said an item is included in the upcoming issue of SuperTime explaining the new rules which will come into effect from 1 January 2015.

Annette finally mentioned the increase from 6 to 19 weeks people can stay overseas without losing their Centrelink benefits (and having to reapply for them). The measure is currently before Parliament, but SCOA had been informed that it was expected it would pass in the sitting week at the end of October. She said we would put information up on the website when this has occurred.

Merv Hazell took the floor and brought up some of the issues that had been raised at a members' meeting held in July

One of the issues that had been raised was to include the names in SuperTime of those members who had attended meetings. The general feeling was that this was probably not a good idea, however, it was suggested that we could include the names of the government departments where members used to work; this might inspire others in the department(s) to find out about SCOA.

Merv said that he and George Szykarski meet regularly and he invited members to give either of them a call and join them. Merv said he is in the process of arranging another members' meeting probably sometime in March 2015.

#### **7) Close of meeting (new President)**

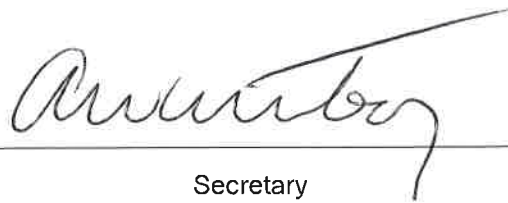
Annette Barbetti thanked Anne Willenborg and Merv Hazell for organizing the Annual General Meeting, and thanked George Szykarski for his work as a Federal Councillor.

Annette thanked all the members who had attended, saying "it shows there is still life in SCOA yet".

The meeting closed at 11.22 am.



President  
25 November 2015



Secretary  
25 November 2015