



## British Pensions in Australia Inc.

ABN 42 186 383 389

[www.bpia.org.au](http://www.bpia.org.au)

### Minutes of the 2013 Annual General Meeting Held on Friday, 13<sup>th</sup> December 2013 at 11.00 am At Sydney Mechanics School of Arts, 280 Pitt Street, Sydney

<b>Attending</b>	There were approximately 55 members present at the meeting.
<b>Apologies</b>	Over 15 members sent their apologies and wished the meeting well.
<b>Welcome</b>	The Chairman welcomed those present and introduced the committee members for 2012/2013.
<b>Minutes of Previous AGM</b>	<p>The minutes of the 2012 AGM which was held on 29 November 2012 were confirmed and adopted.</p> <p>Proposed by Geoff and seconded by David Mitchell.</p>
<b>Chairman's Report</b>	<p>Our mission remains dedicated to achieving UK age pension parity worldwide.</p> <p>Our strategy, through the medium of The International Consortium of British Pensioners, who we support at every opportunity, remains to continue to pursue the British Government by way of a political advocacy campaign in the UK and to lobby politicians in both the UK and Australia to support our claim for fair and equal treatment.</p> <p>We also have achieved the support of senior and pensioner organisations here and in the UK.</p> <p>Our political advocacy campaign has included encouraging UK MPs to support Sir Peter Bottomley's EDM 474 and encouraging members to engage in writing letters to their past constituency MPs.</p> <p>We have also promoted the idea to Commonwealth Heads of Government, based on the wording of the March 2013 Commonwealth Charter, of suspending The UK Government from the Commonwealth.</p> <p>A submission has been sent to the UK Pension Bill review committee and interviews have been conducted on ABC TV and on radio in support of our cause as well as stalls by ACT NSW and WA committees at public events. A suitable Christmas card was sent to all UK MPs to promote our cause.</p> <p>During the year, and to comply with Canadian Law, The International Consortium of British Pensioners was incorporated in that country. The ICBP Board has two members each from CABP and BPiA who are Sheila Telford Chairperson from CABP, David Morris CABP Chairman, Brian Leggett ex BPiA committee and now resident in the UK and Jim Tilley BPiA Chairman. John Markham, Parliamentary Affairs, and Bill Avery, Secretary and Treasurer, may attend as non-voting members.</p>

Despite many members passing on our numbers have increased by 2.7% to 11514 with every state except ACT gaining members. The chairman was very happy to quote from the letters of thanks from a sample of the satisfied pensioners who had been assisted with claiming their entitlements.

In closing his report the chairman thanked Brian Leggett for his editing work on Fair Play as well as his considerable work for ICBP in the UK , Tony Jackson for his proof reading and Cheryl for her expert finishing touches to the appearance of Fair Play.

### **Strategy**

The chairman stated that we are approaching a critical time in our organisations campaign, and he stressed the part that all of us can play to increase our membership and hence the funds that we have available.

In the UK, a more active public relations firm has been appointed and this has already resulted in much increased publicity in the press and especially in the specialist newspapers read by other Commonwealth UK residents.

We have been gaining further parliamentary support from Commonwealth born people in both the Lords and Commons and have identified a man of near pension age from an Asian country who may be willing to lead agitation concerning this pension issue.

A plan is being considered for 4 or 5 people from Canada and Australia to travel to the UK to make contact with and influence parliamentarians in the approach to the UK budget in March 2014.

One of the issues that we will endeavour to scotch is any fear that we are seeking retrospective recovery for the unindexed part of our pensions which could amount to as much as £5 billion.

### **Financial Report**

Financial Report for the Year 30<sup>th</sup> June 2013.

The report shows a small decrease in membership fees and donations of \$5,919 after strenuous work last year to bring in overdue fees. With reduced travelling expenses and the transfer of \$77,604 to ICBP our end of year balance available was \$68,008.

The decline in our bank balance of \$6,548 emphasises our need to continually search for new members.

### **Honorary Auditor**

Tony O'Connor advised the meeting that Jennie Smith, the principal of The Ipswich Accounting Practice, had agreed to accept the appointment as auditor and this was recommended as her office was conveniently located close to his own.

This appointment was accepted by the meeting without dissent.

### **Any other business**

Gillian Edwards who was visiting from the ACT enquired if it would be possible for their local committee to have access information for members who are ACT residents. The chairman promised to look into this suggestion provided that no privacy difficulties arose.

### **Closing**

There being no further business the chairman thanked those present for attending and the meeting closed at 12.54 pm