



British Pensions in Australia Inc.

ABN 42 186 383 389

Minutes of the 2017 Annual General Meeting

Held at Sydney Mechanics School of Arts, 28 Pitt Street Sydney
on Wednesday 13th December 2017 at 11:00 AM

- Attending:** Approximately 22 members.
- Apologies:** Committee member John Edelsten (Treasurer) and various members via email.
- Minutes of 2016 AGM:** Accepted and confirmed
- Chairman's Report:**
- Introduced 2016-17 Committee members
- Special thanks to Tony O'Connor (Treasurer) who resigned during the year due to ill health. He has been replaced by John Edelsten.
- Special thanks to Geoff Dunsford (Membership Officer) for coordinating volunteers every week to help with member admin
- Invitation for additional volunteers to assist with member admin and database maintenance – MS Access skills an advantage.
- Noted ongoing difficulties with various members who continue to stir and be counter productive
- Noted BPiA has 3,500 financial members, and membership has increased over recent months following some good publicity
- BPiA continues to work with CABP and other Commonwealth pension groups in a united effort to overcome frozen pensions
- ICBP continues to employ PHA Media in London to assist with lobbying & media
- ICBP sent a small group to Westminster in November for meetings with the APPG, 28 MPs, and various media. Meetings were all positive – separate report available.
- Strategy now is to get the frozen pension issue raised at CHOGM in April. ICBP is sending letters to all Commonwealth heads of government with this suggestion. BPiA is seeking a meeting with Malcolm Turnbull on this subject
- Treasurer's Report:**
- Accepted and approved.
- As at 30 June 2017 showed a small deficit of \$2,576 after all costs associated with ICBP accounted for.
- Current funds at 30 November 2017 amounted to \$14,811
- Membership fees will remain "frozen" \$20 pa (\$30 for couples) but donations at the time of renewal are much appreciated.
- Special Resolution:** To amend the Constitution & Rules to comply with the Department of Fair Trading model constitution (no changes to Objects or Member qualification).

Passed unanimously.

Election of Officers

The committee for 2017-18: Brian Owles (President), Jim Tilley (Vice President), Cheryl Harvey (Secretary), John Edelsten (Treasurer), Francis Keegan, David Rumball (to be confirmed 8/1/18).

This leaves 1 or 2 vacancies as there were no nominations from the floor.

A formal vote of thanks was given.

Jim Tilley's Address

Confirmed that our mission is unchanged and we continue to fight for full pension parity for all

Promoted our Advocacy Campaign and encouraged members to write to their local MP citing the potential \$1Billion savings to Australia over 4 years

Put a few things in perspective:

- The UK will have more interest in the Commonwealth again because of Brexit
- Every budget period (March) the UK government votes to continue freezing pensions in certain countries (Reg 3). Advised of an EDM to pray that Reg 3 is no longer voted on.
- The National Insurance Account pays pensions, and every year it collects more in contributions than is paid out in pensions
- £600 million is needed to unfreeze our pensions, 0.7% of the £80B pension budget. An increase in National Insurance contributions of 40p/week would cover it.

Any other business

Nil.

Closing

The meeting closed at 1.00 pm.