



## British Pensions in Australia Inc.

ABN 42 186 383 389

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

### Minutes of the 2010 Annual General Meeting

Held on Thursday, 18th November 2010

At Sydney Mechanics School of Arts, 280 Pitt Street, Sydney

<b>Attending</b>	There were approximately 100 members at the meeting.
<b>Welcome</b>	Welcome by the Chairman and introduction of Committee Members 2009/10.
<b>Minutes of Previous AGM</b>	Confirm and adopt the Minutes of the 2009 AGM held on 27th November 2009. Proposed by David Rumball and seconded by David Jagoe.
<b>Chairman's Report</b>	<p>BPIA's mission continues to remain dedicated to achieving UK age pension parity Worldwide. The gap between Age Pension Parity had widened to 600,000 with parity and 530,000 with no parity.</p> <p>Our Strategies to achieve this aim include:</p> <p>Continuing to pursue the UK Government by way of a political campaign in the UK.</p> <p>Build up our membership to accumulate funds.</p> <p>Lobby politicians in the UK and Australia with reasons to support our claim for fair treatment.</p> <p>Lobby Federal Government together with Canada to take this issue to the next CHOGM in Perth 2011.</p> <p>Seek support from seniors and pensioners organisations here and in the UK.</p> <p>Support the International Consortium of British Pensioners (ICBP). The success of the "Medals Campaign" and the media attention achieved in The UK which included the photograph of Members with David Cameron outside No10 was a mark of the attention now being achieved in the UK.</p> <p>Our membership grew during this year from 9,629 to 10,320 a gain of 7.2%</p> <p>An Adverse judgement 11 – 6 was handed down by The Grand Chamber at our ECHR appeal in March 2010 as "We were not seen as analogous to British Pensioners resident in UK, Israel, EEC, Jamaica etc., because Australia, Canada etc have no bilateral agreement with The UK.</p> <p>Many expats approaching pension age have been assisted in achieving their pension claims and many have been assisted to have their pensions indexed and their travel costs reduced when visiting indexed countries overseas.</p> <p>Several members have been assisted to reduce their Australian tax costs and many more potential members are now being helped to understand the new UK pension rules which were introduced in April 2010.</p>

Of course, very great thanks to all members who have renewed their subs, many of whom have made magnificent donations in recognition of the hard work that has been achieved to build the original nine founder members to over 10,300 today.

We cannot also forget the wives of the committee who have assisted and put up with their husbands spending so much time on an activity with which they must wonder when we will see a positive outcome. Not too far away we hope.

After the disappointing 11 – 6 ECHR result we commenced our agreed political strategy.

Before the UK General Election every candidate was sent a letter outlining our cause. Then after the election each successful candidate was sent a congratulatory letter with a further reminder of our cause.

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During the last two months ICBP helped by the PR team from Champolion has manned a stall at each party political conference to promote our cause.

Meetings have been attended by ICPB with various pensioner and similar organisations in the UK to spread the message about our unfair and discriminatory treatment.

An ICBP representative has been charged with the responsibility to scour The UK to identify, meet with and educate appropriate Union and pensioner organisations about our cause.

#### **Medals Campaign**

Veteran members were solicited to provide photographs of themselves with their medals displayed, and suitable comments about the process of freezing their pensions.

An album of these photos and comments was prepared to hand-over to a political dignitary in front of “No 10”

This will be done with the media in attendance and each attendee will be provided with a copy of the album.

#### **CHOGM Perth October 2010**

It is our intention to be at CHOGM next year, inside with a stand if possible.

Outside with banners if necessary.

Both PM Julia Gillard and the Foreign Minister Kevin Rudd will be sent briefing notes about our cause.

CHOGM 1971 Singapore Declaration, and in 1991 Harare “We will use all our efforts to foster human equality and dignity everywhere.”

The CHOGM issue is:

The 7 Commonwealth Countries – Bermuda, Barbados, Jamaica, Malta, Cyprus, Mauritius and the UK - in which the British Pension is indexed are more equal than 47 others.

Just as in Animal Farm.

#### **Financial Report**

Financial Report for the Year 30<sup>th</sup> June 2010.

There had been a fall in income during the year.

Mail costs had been reduced due to the increasing use of email.

The increased travel costs were due to the attendance at the ECHR at Strasburg.

\$70,000 had been sent to ICBP towards the costs of the UK activities.

Tony Jackson proposed that the Treasurers report be accepted and Brian Leggett seconded the motion. Carried .

**Honorary Auditor**

Mr Walter Edgar ACMA agreed to continue as Honorary Auditor.

**Any other business**

Tony Jackson raised the need for more volunteers for the Edgecliff office.

Bob Kassen the Co-ordinator for Canberra informed the meeting of the success of the Seniors Week stand. He also raised the matter of video conferencing and the possibility of rotating the AGM through other States

Tony Jackson suggested that we might have "Bumper Stickers".

Bob Klassen suggested that we invited the British High Commissioner to a tea party.

Various names were mentioned as possibilities for a celebrity to assist our cause.

**Closing**

The meeting closed at 12.19pm.