



British Pensions in Australia Inc.

ABN 42 186 383 389

www.bpia.org.au

Minutes of the 2012 Annual General Meeting Held on Thursday 29th November 2012 at 11.00 am At Sydney Mechanics School of Arts, 280 Pitt Street, Sydney

Attending	There were approximately 55 Members present at the meeting.
Apologies	None
Welcome	The Chairman welcomed those present and introduced the committee members for 2011/2012.
Minutes of Previous AGM	Minutes of the 2011 AGM which was held on 24 November 2011 were confirmed and adopted. Proposed by Tony Jackson and seconded by David Rumble.
Chairman's Report	<p>Our campaign to pursue the UK Government by way of a political advocacy campaign was continued as was our policy of lobbying politicians in both UK and Australian Governments seeking support for our claims as well as from senior and pensioner organisations here and in the UK.</p> <p>We have increased our membership, and this has enabled us to finance visits by members of the International Consortium of British Pensioners to lobby UK politicians in both Houses and to finance a report by Oxford Economics on the long-term effects of frozen pensions on the UK economy.</p> <p>Our cause has had considerable exposure in the Australian press and pensioner publications and in the UK national, local and international publications.</p> <p>We have been successful in obtaining pensions for many people who believed they were unobtainable and have had many letters of thanks for our efforts.</p> <p>It is important that our thanks are recorded for the work done by members of our national and local committees and for our volunteers. The successful work by all state committees has resulted in a net increase in our membership of 559 or 5.2% and the volunteers in our office keep the wheels turning and manage our membership and records and collection of subscriptions and donations.</p>
Strategy	We are approaching a critical period in our campaign and we believe that we need to focus the hearts and minds of the British public so that they in turn focus on their parliamentarians who will eventually resolve our issue. We have been advised by a member of the House of Lords to show more aggression in our campaign and to achieve this we need more funds and hence more members

To achieve this aim it is likely that a visit to the UK of around six members from Canada and Australia will be arranged before the March 2013 budget to lobby parliamentarians and to seek to achieve media exposure.

Significantly, we have achieved support from the Indian MP for Southport Mr Virendra Sharma MP and from a Trinidadian Baroness Florella Benjamin. It is significant that should pensions have been indexed in all the Caribbean countries a further 13,960 people might well have left the UK.

Mr David Jagoe from the floor asked if Mr Sharma might be encouraged to promote a Private Members Bill on our behalf.

Committee All last year's committee members have agreed to continue to hold office and as there are no other nominees for committee positions, our current members are declared reappointed.

Financial Report Financial Report for the Year 30th June 2012.
The report showed an increase in membership fees and donations of \$10,684 and a decrease in expenditure of \$22,739. However, the transfer of \$110,451 to the International Consortium of British Pensions for expenditure of our work in the UK resulted in a net reduction in our local bank balances of \$56,094 to a current balance of \$74,656.

Honorary Auditor The chairman advised that Mr Walter Edgar FCPA, FCMA, had agreed to continue as Honorary Auditor. Mr Edgar's offer is, as always, very much appreciated by the committee.

Any other business Concerns were expressed on behalf of the Canberra local committee that local committees were not involved in management decisions of BPiA.
How to involve local committees had been discussed on several occasions by the BPiA committee and to date no fair and economical decision on how this could be achieved had been reached without excessive expenditure. However, this suggestion will be examined again.

Closing The chairman thanked the members for attending.