



## British Pensions in Australia Inc.

ABN 42 186 383 389

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

### Minutes of the 2020 Annual General Meeting Held by Zoom on Thursday, 18th November 2020

<b>Attending</b>	Patrick Edwards, Tony Gribben, Brian Owles, David Rumball, Jackie Shaw, Phil Summerfield, Jim Tilley, Tony Walsh
<b>Welcome</b>	Welcome by the Chairman and introduction of Committee Members 2009/10.
<b>Minutes of 2019 AGM</b>	Accepted and confirmed
<b>Chairman's Report</b>	<p>Thanked Committee members for their hard work and efforts over the last 12 months</p> <p>Special thanks to Geoff Dunsford (Membership Officer) for coordinating volunteers every week to help with member admin, particularly during the COVID pandemic circumstances where he has been handling the membership input and date from his home.</p> <p>A further thanks to the implementation team of Patrick Edwards, Cheryl Harvey, Phil Summerfield and Geoff Nadin who have been responsible for setting up the new website and membership system that went live at the end of September.</p> <p>Also, thanks to all volunteers for their ongoing help.</p> <p>Plea for additional computer-literate volunteers to assist with member admin and database maintenance.</p> <p>Reaffirmed our objective is to attain full pension parity (with UK pensioners resident in UK and many other counties) by annually indexing our UK pensions.</p> <p>Through our joint organisation ICBP, BPiA continues to work with CABP and other Commonwealth pension groups in a united effort to overcome frozen pensions.</p> <p>Tendo Consulting Limited, our specialist Public Affairs and Campaigning Agency in London has worked hard to promote our cause however a number of ventures have been minimised by the COVID crisis in the last 6 months.</p> <p>The publication of a booklet named "Broken Faith" which gives examples of over 25 veterans from the Commonwealth who suffer from frozen pensions was launched in time for 75th Anniversary of VE Day.</p> <p>A Public Relations company, Fifty Acres, in Canberra had been tried during the year but unfortunately little was achieved</p> <p>Fifty Acres did arrange for representatives of BPiA to meet in Canberra with representatives of the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trading. This has enabled BPiA to communicate directly with this Department.</p>

BPIA made a formal submission to the AUS-UK Free Trade Agreement negotiations that were taking place in Canberra.

Letters had also been written to Senator Birmingham in relation to these negotiations

The new website and membership system will enable the committee to communicate more easily with members, hopefully provide a tool to increase membership and improve our ability to promote our message to cease the unfair treatment of British pensioners living in Australia

**Financial Report**

Accepted and approved.

Membership fees remain “frozen” \$20 pa (\$30 for couples) but donations at the time of renewal are very much appreciated.

**Election of Officers**

The committee for 2020-21: Patrick Edwards (President), Jim Tilley (Vice President), Cheryl Harvey (Secretary), Brian Owles (Treasurer), David Rumball, Tony Walsh.

This leaves at least one further vacant position.

**Jim Tilley's Address**

Encouraged members to continue to draw the attention of their local MP to the unfair treatment and the discrimination by UK government against UK pensioners who live in Australia

Reiterated the frozen pension issue particularly affected Commonwealth countries and particularly Australia.

Once again drew attention to the Commonwealth Charter “The Charter expresses the commitment of member states to the development of free and democratic societies and the promotion of peace and prosperity to improve the lives of all peoples of the Commonwealth. ....We are implacably opposed to all forms of discrimination, whether rooted in gender, race, colour, creed, political belief or other grounds.

All members were encouraged to attempt to persuade friends and relatives to join our cause and fight the UK government on this matter

**Any other business**

Nil.

**Closing**

There being no further business the meeting closed at 3.45 pm.