

Volunteer Fire Fighters Association

"The Voice of Volunteer Firefighters in NSW"

293 Kauthi Road Brettli NSW 2422



MINUTES OF VFFA ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2020 HELD ON SATURDAY 8 AUGUST 2019 The Friendly Inn Kangaroo Valley NSW

Meeting commenced 1100 hours.

Attendees as per the attendance list.

ZOOM: Michael and Andrew Scholz

1. **Welcome by chairman** President Mr Mick Holton welcomed all present and thank them for taking the time to attend the meeting. Thank you to Mike Gorman for your hospitality to hold this meeting at Kangaroo Valley.

2. **Apologies:** Peter Cannon, Jeanette Holton, Rod Young, Neil Crawley, Adam Perry.

Moved J. Russell

Second Jeremy Braithwaite

Carried

3. **Previous minutes of 2019 AGM:** The president read through the minutes of the 2019 AGM discussing major points throughout the minutes.

Brian Williams moved that the minutes of the 2018 AGM were a true and accurate copy of the meeting. Second Shane Bryant **Carried**

4. **Business arising:**

- No change to Honorariums payments.

5. **Correspondence: IN.**

Numerous emails.

8 Dec 2019 – Melanie Gibbons – Parliamentary Secretary (MR. David Elliott) Re; Oliver Maruda.

20 January 2020 – VFFA Insurance Quote Aon.

2 Feb 2020 – Fortem Australia – Mick Holton – Mental health and wellbeing of national security, first responders and law enforcement.

25 Feb 2020 – Book – Predicting Storms – Robert Ellis

4 April 2020 – Submission to the Royal Commission into National Natural Disaster Arrangements – The Bushfire Front Western Australia.

4 April 2020 – Letters of support – Scouts USA. Samantha Palmer.

2 June 2020 – Submission – Tim Malseed – The Royal Commission into National Natural Disaster Arrangements.

Out.

Numerous emails – of note

18 Aug 2020 – Email – Jon Russell – Jodie McKay MP

10 Feb 2020 – Mick Holton – reply Fortem Australia.

4 April 2020 – VFFA submission to The NSW Independent Bushfire Enquiry.

1 June 2020 – Letter to Commissioner Rob Rogers – Mick Holton

2 June 2020 – VFFA Media Release – RFS Volunteer Benevolent Fund

1 August 2020 – email Mick Holton – meeting with RFS Commissioner Tuesday 18 August 20.

A big thanks to Jon Russell, media officer for his constant search across the newspapers and internet for stories and issues that affect volunteer and paid emergency services workers (first responders).

Greg Godde moved that the correspondence be accepted.

Second Jeremy Braithwaite

Carried

6. **Financial Report:** The president presented the financial report for the 2019/2020 financial year on behalf of the treasurer detailing the income and expenditure details. All accounts have been audited for the past 12 months. This report represents a true and fair view of the VFFA financial performance and position.

Shane Bryant moved that the financial report for the 2019/2020 financial year be accepted. Second Paul Rogers

Carried

7. **Payment of Honorariums:** Mick Holton spoke on the current honorariums for 2020. Honorariums will remain the same as last year.

President/Chairman \$1500.00

Treasurer \$500.00

Secretary \$1000.00

Web manger \$1,000.00

Media Officer \$1,000.00

Moved Paul Rogers 2nd Peter Pankhurst

Carried

8. **Election of Office Bearers:** The President Mr Mick Holton invited Mr Mike Gorman to take the chair and conduct the election of office bearers.

President – Mick Holton nominated by Brian Williams - 2nd Jon Russell

Accepted

Duly elected.

Senior Vice President – Brian Williams nominated by Mick Holton - 2nd

Jeremy Braithwaite

Accepted

Duly elected

Vice President – No nominations received – position to remain vacant.

Treasurer – Jeanette Holton nominated by Greg Godde - 2nd Jon Russell

Accepted

Duly elected

Secretary - Greg Godde nominated by Brian Williams - 2nd Jeremy Braithwaite

Accepted

Duly elected

Media Officer - Jon Russell nominated by Jeremy Braithwaite - 2nd Greg Godde

Accepted

Duly elected

There be no objections to the nominated positions all nominated persons were accepted to their role of office bearers.

9. **VFFA Constitution review.** Due to media misinterpretation of the current wording in section 4. Industrial Activity that the following motions be put for adoption.

Motion 1: That the current wording of “non-party political” be changed to **“is not political party aligned”**.

Moved Greg Godde 2nd Pat Smith **Carried**

Motion 2: That the sentence ‘To ensure these principles are achieved it may be required to seek advice and guidance from registered union organization’s be changed to **“To ensure these principles are achieved it may be required to seek advice, guidance and support from political parties and registered union organization’s”**

After discussion across the floor it was agreed to change the motion to **“To ensure these principles are achieved it may be required to seek advice and consult with political parties, registered union organization’s and other 3rd parties”**

Moved Pat Smith 2nd Greg Green **Carried**

10. **Discretionary Payment Policy.** Following on from last years AGM this policy has been developed to assist with the payment of funds to volunteers who may assist at VFFA approved events.

Moved Greg Godde 2nd Peter Pankhurst **Carried**

11. Item without notice:

- Mick Holton spoke on the proposal to appoint a CEO to the VFFA organisation. M. Holton explain the reasons for this move and what the position will be responsible for.
- Michael Scholz spoke about the recruiting process and to ensure the VFFA follows the recruiting guidelines. Michael to forward this information to the President to be examined to ensure we have an open and transparent procedure.
- EOI and Position Description to be formulated and advertised.
- Remuneration package will be on a contract basis for 12 months. \$1,000.00 per month plus 10% commission on the gross income paid monthly.

12. General Meeting / Executive meeting 2021.

As agreed in previous meetings that locations for future meeting could be at any location without notice.

13. Next AGM Sat 7th August 2021. Location to be advised.

14. There being no further business meeting closed at 1218 hours.

Greg Godde
Secretary
VFFA

Mick Holton
Chairman / President
VFFA

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