



## **New Zealand Railway & Locomotive Society Inc. Minutes of 2019 Annual General Meeting**

**Held at Johnsonville Community Centre**

**2.00pm Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> October 2019.**

### **PRESENT:**

A total of 33 members & 3 guests were present.

### **BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:**

**President:** Graeme Carter.

**Directors:** Colin Barry, David Cuthbert, Graeme Jupp, Rob Merrifield & Bill Prebble.

### **MEMBERS PRESENT:**

**Hutt Valley:** Bill Anthony, Chris Benson, Stephen Brabender, Sarah Burney, Brian Pearce, Alan Smith, Philip Smith & Glen Summers.

**Porirua/Paraparaumu:** David Barnes, John Bovis, Graeme Brown, Len Chisholm, Bill McGavin, Rod Murgatroyd & Bruce Taylor.

**Wairarapa:** Alan Brabender, Kay Brabender, Noel Maginnity & Russell Roberts.

**Wellington:** Rob Martin, Mike Mellor, David Rarity & Ray Thomson.

**Other Region/s:** Nil

### **APOLOGIES:**

A Arcus, G Bennett, W Cowan, M Cole, G Craig, K Crosado, T Dawber, M Denne, R Dunham, B Efford, J Fitzgerald, A Hans-Henrick, F Hans-Henrik, H Hans-Henrik, C Henderson, J Holmes, S Ingram, R John, K Lankshear, G McClare, K McGavin, R Randle, B Shalders, J Shingleton, C Simmonds, D Taylor, I Tibbles, N Tobin, D Turner, G Watt, N Wood, & I Wylie.

The Chairman welcomed all those present and thanked them for attending.

**MOMENT OF SILENCE:** All present stood in silence for a moment In respect of those members who had passed away over the last twelve months.

**MINUTES OF THE 2018 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING:**

**Motion:** That the Minutes be taken as read.

**Moved:** Graeme Jupp

**Seconded:** Len Chisholm

The motion was put and carried.

**Motion:** That the Minutes are true & correct.

**Moved:** Colin Barry

**Seconded:** Graeme Carter

The motion was put and carried.

**Matters Arising From the 2018 AGM Minutes:**

**Selling Books on Kiwi Rail Services.**

Len Chisholm asked if there had been any success with this. Bill Prebble advised that he has tried and tried using a number of different channels with no success. Largely due to the fact that there is not a lot of room or a suitable facility for Kiwi Rail staff to undertake this. Bill advised that he has not given up.

**PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS:**

The President Graeme Carter reported as follows on the past year:

It has been a good year with steady progress by the Board. It has also been challenging and at times disappointing, especially as this is our 75<sup>th</sup> year and we were not able to put plans in place to celebrate this milestone. We have tried to organise an excursion but due to NZTA requirements and preservation railways difficulties with rolling stock certification no trips could be committed to at this time. Additionally Kiwi Rail was not able to confirm that the suburban network would be operating this weekend.

Membership is hovering around 800. We have concern at the age of our members and are fully aware that we need to attract younger members. It is noted that this is a worldwide problem.

The same difficulties arise with the lack of and aging of volunteers. We desperately need more volunteers but we also are very grateful for all the help that is received from the present volunteer force. When we recently advertised in Turntable for an administration assistant there were no responses but the same advertisement in the local area newspaper produced eleven replies. Sandra Knight has been appointed to this position and she is proving to be very useful and capable.

Our publications are running very well with excellent publications being produced. Observer sales via bookshops are continuing to keep up with national sales figures but it is noted that these national magazine sales fell by 8% for all publications in the last twelve months.

Finances for largely the reasons commented on above continue to be a challenge. Last year's deficit has been driven down but we also acknowledge that more work needs to be done in this area.

Our premises at Ava are "bulging at the seams" with more and more material, the majority of which is of high quality. This material continues to arrive on a regular basis. The Board is actively looking at options including extending the existing premises or even moving. A fund has been established to assist with whatever path the society decides to follow in the future.

We are facing the future with confidence and the society in good heart. Next year will be a good year.

**Motion:** That the Presidents Report be accepted.

**Moved:** Graeme Carter

**Seconded:** Bill Prebble

The motion was put and carried.

## **ANNUAL REPORT**

The report was opened for discussion.

### **Society Administration**

Graeme Carter advised that since David Cuthbert took over the running of the Administration Committee the Society has working very well. He formally thanked David for his work. David added that in the last few days a Facebook site has been set up with links to the Society website.

### **Digitisation Working Group**

Alan Smith on behalf of Bob Bevan-Smith stated that the Digitisation Group wished to thank both Graeme McClare and Mark Cole, the Board and all the members who have assisted in the past twelve months in backing up, scanning and generally helping with scanning of what are now 25,500 images on file. He also commented that the NZRLS archive of images is a major asset to NZRLS and to New Zealand history. This group is still very short of volunteers and with more and more collections coming in we will need more volunteers to scan and record the acquisitions. The group needs members to help with this alone.

### **Publications**

Bill Prebble advised that sales had been high and that major thanks are due to John Dwyer for the work that he carries out on a voluntary basis packing and shipping orders. Our books are being well accepted by mainstream sales outlets with many sales outside of our membership.

Unfortunately the Hong Kong printer that we have used for many years recently closed its doors and a replacement is being sought. At this date a new Hong Kong printer is being evaluated.

### **WMR Carriages and Open Day at North End**

Rob Merrifield commented that the small regular team is doing a very good job with some working on parts at their homes. The seats for WMR#48 have been upholstered, sign writing and pin striping started and a full set of axle box covers cast. We are always on the lookout for more volunteers with varied skills.

**Motion:** That the Annual Report be accepted.

**Moved:** Graeme Carter

**Seconded:** Alan Smith

The motion was put and carried.

### **FINANCIAL REPORT (In the form of a Performance Report)**

Graeme Carter distributed copies of the report including the auditor's certificate. In the absence of our treasurer (Ken Lankshear) Graeme advised that subscriptions are now being correctly accounted for. The wrong accounting in the past year had led to a large accounting loss in that previous year. This loss has now been reduced to \$15,139- not a cash loss but largely due to depreciation and stock write-down. The Board is working very hard to further reduce or eliminate this loss.

**Motion:** That the Financial Performance Report be accepted.

**Moved:** Ray Thomson

**Seconded:** Graeme Carter

The motion was put and carried.

### **SUBSCRIPTION RATES**

The Board has recommended that the subscriptions for the 2020 year be aligned with the accounting year i.e. 30<sup>th</sup> June. The recommendation is that the subscription to 30<sup>th</sup> June next remain as at present with the subscription from 1<sup>st</sup> July 2020 be increased by \$5 p.a. and the prompt payment discount be dispensed with..

**Motion:** That the annual subscription be increased by \$5 to \$90 p.a. from 1<sup>st</sup> July 2020, with no discount for prompt payment.

**Moved:** Graeme Carter

**Seconded:** Bruce Taylor

The motion was put and carried.

(For clarity from 1<sup>st</sup> July 2020:

- New Zealand Members: \$90.00
- United Kingdom Members: (to be set at an exchange rate on 1<sup>st</sup> April 2020 of NZ\$100 rounded up to nearest NZ\$) \$100.00 (approximately)
- Rest of the World. \$100.00

### **AUDITOR**

Keith McGavin was appointed unopposed as auditor on the motion of Graeme Carter and Ray Thomson. It was suggested from the floor that if the constitution allows the auditor be elected for a three years term aligned with the election of the officers.

## **GENERAL BUSINESS**

### **Membership:**

Bill McGavin advised that he supports the change of membership year but also advised that around 25 to 30% pay late each year. He suggested that a notice be placed in Turntable reminding members to pay before 30<sup>th</sup> June each year.

Brian Pearce asked if a table of membership numbers over the last few years could be published, as had been done some years back.

Bill McGavin advised that we need around 50 new members each year to replace those that die or otherwise drift away. He freely stated that the Society needs a plan to address this but he also does not have the answer.

### **Advice to Members:**

David Barnes advised that he found the highlighted items in Turntable were very successful in drawing them to his attention.

### **Trips:**

David Barnes advised that the four recent "Around the Block" trips run by Steam Incorporated were sold out and he wondered if there could be any membership opportunities for NZRLS from these.

### **Premises:**

Alan Smith expressed pleasure with the Boards actions regarding the future of both Society sites.

### **Next AGM:**

A member from the floor requested that the next AGM be held in Masterton which would ensure that members from a larger area may attend.

There being no further business the President declared the meeting closed at 3.05pm.

*Ends.*