



# **New Zealand Railway & Locomotive Society Inc. Minutes of 2022 Annual General Meeting**

**Held at the NZRLS Silverstream North End preservation facility**

**2.00pm Saturday 15th October 2022**

**GUEST SPEAKER:** Barry O'Donnell, Executive Officer of the Rail Heritage Trust of New Zealand, was introduced by Graeme Carter. Barry gave an interesting illustrated talk on the work of the Rail Heritage Trust. The presentation was enjoyed by those present. Barry was thanked by David Cuthbert.

**PRESENT:**

A total of 28 members & 4 guests were present. The Chair, President Graeme Carter, welcomed all those present and thanked them for attending.

**BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:**

**President:** Graeme Carter.

**Secretary:** Bruce Taylor

**Directors:** David Cuthbert, Bill Prebble, Rob Merrifield and Glen Summers.

**MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Ray Hill, Graeme Clover, Mike Dutton, Noel Maginnity, Dave Stout, John Bovis, Barry O'Donnell, Graeme Jupp, Murray Gowans, Graeme McClare, Tony Arcus, Andrew Salter, Demetrious Christoforou, Chris Benson, Clark Simmonds, Trevor Richardson, Gavin Malcolmson, Alan Smith, Lindsay Gear, Brian Mosen, Bob Bevan Smith, Murray King.

**GUESTS:**

Brenda Carter, Amy Hill, Anne Campbell, Fran Baay.

**APOLOGIES:**

Alan and Kaye Brabender, Colin Barry, John Clayton, Steve Cornwall, Bill Cowan, Ian Wylie, Mark Denne, Ralph Dunham (UK Representative), Hans-Henrik Fentz (Denmark), Warren Jones, Jon Shingleton, Neville Wood, Stu Ingram, Ken Lankshear, Len Chisholm, Ray Thomson, David Rarity, Keith McGavin, Robert John, Keith Wakefield, Ray Randle, Brent Efford, John Vanisselroy, Craig Henderson, Bruce Hermann, Lindsay Benbrook, Ron Hamilton, Bryan Blanchard, Floyd Hulena, Ray Mathewson, David Turner, Bruce Shalders, David Kent.

**Motion:** "That the apologies be accepted" **Moved:** Demetrius Christoforou

**Seconded:** Clark Simmonds

Carried

## **PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS:**

*The President, Graeme Carter, gave a verbal report on the past year. The following is a summary of his address:*

Graeme Carter began by saying that the past year was as challenging as the previous year. The Covid-19 pandemic created challenges, but we have got through them, he said. It was a good year and a steady year.

It was a good year because of the support members gave to the running of the society. The President expressed thanks to the members of the Board for their work, to the Archivist, Graeme McClare, and to other volunteers. There are volunteers behind the scene who don't make headlines, Graeme said, and their work is greatly appreciated. He gave as an example Chris Benson's preparation of a dossier on older members of the NZRLS.

The President also thanked the paid contractors for their work: Ken Lankshear, Sandra Knight and Bill McGavin. We have, he said, a good team of volunteers and contractors which meant the society was a "well oiled machine".

Going forward, he said, there are some headwinds facing the NZRLS, such as the future of the Ava building. This was full and extending it was not practicable. The Board is looking seriously at new premises in the Hutt Valley. Membership has increased 4% on the previous year and compared to other hobby and sports groups we are doing well.

Communication with members is a major issue. Changes to banking mean that some older members are having difficulties making payments to the society. The demise of copper wire will create difficulties for landline users. Finally, a number of members are not opening email attachments so we will be sending out paper flyers advertising new publications starting with the next "Observer".

Changes to the Incorporated Societies Act of 1908 meant that the NZRLS will have to make major changes to its constitution and changes in other areas. So, there is plenty of work on hand but, overall, the society is in good shape, Graeme Carter concluded.

### **Arising from the report:**

1. Demetrius Christoforou suggested that advertisements for new publications could be incorporated in the body of an email instead of using attachments.

**Motion:** "That the Presidents Report be received."

**Moved:** Graeme Carter **Seconded:** Murray King.

Carried

### **MINUTES OF THE 2021 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING held on 16 October 2021:**

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

**Moved:** David Cuthbert **Seconded:** Glen Summers

Minutes of the NZRLS Inc AGM held on 15 October 2022

Carried.

**Discussion of the minutes:**

1. Demetrius Christoforou pointed out that the reason for his opposition to “membership subscription creep” had been omitted from the minutes on p.5. The reason is that donations can be claimed for a tax refund.

**Motion:** “That the Minutes be taken as a true and correct record of the meeting”.

**Moved:** Alan Smith **Seconded:** David Cuthbert

Carried

**MATTERS ARISING FROM THE 2020 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING MINUTES:**

There were no matters arising.

**ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDING 30 JUNE 2022**

**Moment of Silence:** The President read the names of those lost to the society over the last twelve months as recorded on p. 3-4 of the report. All present stood in silence as a mark of respect to those members who have passed away. Graeme Carter made particular mention of Ron Grant who was the oldest continuous serving member of the NZRLS

The annual report was opened for discussion.

**Administration and Membership:**

David Cuthbert said he had nothing to add to what the President had said to the AGM in relation to administration and membership in the President’s report.

**Publications:**

Bill Prebble thanked members for their support of society publications. The newest publication *My Life As a Locomotive Engineer* by Kevin Tasker is on its way to New Zealand. Costs of publishing books have increased significantly. In the process of writing and production are books on the rebuilt G class by Jon Singleton and *New Zealand Railways at Night* by Bill Prebble. These publications will be available in 2023.

**The President:**

Alan Smith asked if the Silverstream North End premises were part of the review of NZRLS property at Ava by the Board. Is there an issue with the future of Silverstream? Graeme Carter said the answer was no, they were separate issues. There was no problem with neighbours at Silverstream as we did not have an operating locomotive and there was no zoning pressure.

**Silverstream Preservation:**

Graeme Carter unveiled a prototype of the kerosene lamps for WMRC car 48 made by Bruce Shadbolt. Rob Merrifield expressed thanks to Bruce for his tremendous work on the prototype. “It is a spectacular advance”, Rob said. He described other advances in the work on car 48, such as metal castings, and future work. He concluded by saying that the preservation work needs a flow of funds asking members to donate if they can.

**Motion:** “That the Annual Report be received”

**Moved:** Graeme Carter **Seconded:** Bill Prebble  
Carried

## **FINANCIAL REPORT (In the form of the “Performance Report for the year ended 30 June 2022”)**

The treasurer, Ken Lankshear, was unable to attend the AGM. Copies of the report were distributed at the meeting, placed in the members section of the NZRLS website and sent to members with email as an email attachment. It was noted that the report is still to be audited.

### **Discussion:**

- David Cuthbert explained that with changes to the society’s year NZRLS now has a tighter time frame to get audited accounts ready by an October AGM.
- The President said NZRLS made a huge profit in the past financial year due to bequests being considered as income. But there was a small loss on day to day operations. There was the continual challenge of rising costs.
- Demetrius Christoforou stated that other societies are reviewing their insurance cover. Are we looking at our insurance for the future, he asked? The President replied that the society trawled over its insurance asking do we need this?
- Tony Arcus pointed out errors in the dates for the tables of Accounts Payable and Income in Advance on p.15. Graeme Carter assured the meeting that these would be corrected in the final version of the Performance Report.

**Motion:** “That the unaudited Performance Report be received.”

**Moved:** David Cuthbert **Seconded:** Murray Gowans  
Carried

## **SUBSCRIPTIONS 2023**

The Board had already set the rate of subscriptions for 2023. The President reminded the meeting that the Board was authorized at the 2021 AGM to increase subscriptions annually by the rate of inflation in the previous year. This will continue to be done in future looking at the rate of inflation, he said.

## **APPOINTMENT OF AUDITOR**

**Motion:** “That Keith McGavin be reappointed as Auditor”

**Moved:** Clark Simmonds **Seconded:** Graeme Jupp  
Carried

## **NOTICES OF MOTION**

There were no notices of motion received.

## **ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE 2023 AGM**

In the recent past the Board has been given power to decide on these arrangements and there was general approval that this continue. There was also strong approval of having a guest speaker.

## GENERAL BUSINESS

- **Work of the Digitisation Working Group (DWG):**

Bob Bevan Smith, the Convenor of the DWG, described to the meeting the work of the group, including the number of scans completed (in excess of 30,000) by a small group of volunteers and the “Trainfinda” database of scanned images which has been constructed by Len Chisholm. Bob appealed for volunteers to help write descriptions of the scanned images.

The President thanked everyone for their attendance and the organising group of David Cuthbert, Bruce Taylor and Rob Merrifield for making the arrangements for the gathering. He declared the meeting closed at 3.27pm.

These minutes are duly signed as a true and accurate record of the proceedings:

Signed : G.T.Carter (President) .....

.....2023