



WINE GUILD VICTORIA INCORPORATED

62ND ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Tuesday 14th September 2021

Via Zoom

At the home of Vice President Graeme Lofts and Secretary Dianne Lofts

MINUTES

Meeting opened by President Bob Bailey at 7.39pm

Present: Bob Bailey (President), Graeme Lofts (Vice President), Dianne Lofts (Secretary), Lavinia Byron (Treasurer), John Gillies (Committee), Kandy Xu (Committee), Helen Bailey, Tom Bendistinto, Wol Borkut, Barbara Corkeron, Adrian Corkeron, Geoff Dennehy, Anne Fellows-Smith, Douglas Fellows-Smith, Elizabeth Foster, Margaret Barwell, Graham Gallop, Maree Gloag, Robyn Hyatt, Don Hyatt, Judith King, Dale King, Michael Scott, Joan Shepherdley, Ian Shepherdley, Jill Storey, Brian Storey, Patricia Tinsley, Ian Tinsley. **(29)**

Apologies: Graeme Hall (Committee), Ashleigh Millar (Committee), Brian Fogarty, Anthony Bernstein, Paul Byron, Margaret Clay, Geoffrey Clough, Jenny Dennehy, Ann Ferguson, Peter Ferguson, Peter Gloag, Jenny Jordan, Greg Jordan, Christopher Keeton, Helen Keeton, Glynis Madder, Maureen Muzeen, Peter Muzeen, Tony Pastore, Gail Reid, John Schultz, Jeanne Strong, Vanna Walsh. **(23)**

Proxies: Renate Ellis (held by Dianne Lofts), Pam Loeliger (held by Dianne Lofts), Joyce Reyment (held by Dianne Lofts), Donald Reyment (held by Dianne Lofts), Ellen White (held by Dianne Lofts). **(5)**

Minutes: Minutes of the 2020 Annual General Meeting held on Thursday 17th September 2020 Via Zoom at the home of Vice President Graeme Lofts and Secretary Dianne Lofts were circulated. No Business arising from the 2020 AGM Minutes. Moved: Dianne Lofts, Seconded: Lavinia Byron. Carried.

Correspondence: There was no correspondence relating to the Annual General Meeting.

Treasurer's Report: Treasurer Lavinia Byron summarized the incomings and outgoings, noting there is a profit of \$2,110.44 for the 2020 – 2021 financial year and the Balance Sheet shows a balance of \$22,335.11 which includes the money that has been paid up to the 30th of June 2021 for the Tasmanian Tour.

Moved: Lavinia Byron, Seconded Brian Storey. Carried.

Cellar Master's Report: Graeme Lofts advised the floor that due to the resignation of Brian Fogarty, and for the time being, he is temporarily looking after the Cellar. At the end of the 2020 – 2021 financial year there were 28 bottles to the value of \$450.50. Moved: Graeme Lofts, Seconded: Jill Storey. Carried.

President's Report: The President's report by Bob Bailey was distributed by email to all Members prior to the Annual General Meeting. It included a report on all activities of Wine Guild Victoria for the 2020 - 2021 financial year. Bob Bailey thanked the current committee for their work during a difficult year. Moved: Bob Bailey, Seconded: Lavinia Byron. Carried.

General Business:

Regularity of future Functions – Graeme Lofts advised that Committee discussed the possibility of having functions bi-monthly instead of every month. One reason is because we do not have enough members on the Committee to organize functions each month (11 per year). The other reason is to put less stress on members financially by running functions bi-monthly. The Annual Membership fees cover the administration costs enabling us to continue having functions running at cost. It is also an indirect appeal to get more members on the Committee to lighten the workload.

Brian Storey agreed the suggestion be looked at further by Committee, not sure how the TNT Would fit. Ian Tinsley said it is a good point about the TNT they would probably be reduced to enable the more elaborate functions. Graeme Lofts suggested there could be a cold weather recess, so all face-to-face events happen during weather that is warmer. Geoff Dennehy suggested having a function every 6 wks.

Tom Bendistinto suggested with his previous experience on various Committees, the Zoom TNT functions are quite informative and provide people with an opportunity not to drive and stay in the comfort of their home. They do not take quite so much organizing and enables us to get good speakers from anywhere. The onus is then on the members to purchase their own wine. It is important to maintain the level of contact. Perhaps 6 functions over 10 months and then zoom meetings to cover in between. Tom Bendistinto is happy to help with organizing the zoom meetings. It gives an option to have guest speakers from overseas. Could get speakers who distribute their wine through retailers.

Bob Bailey agreed to keep regular functions. Tom Bendistinto thinks it is important to continue to have regular functions to keep members in touch, or we could face members dropping off. Don Hyatt agrees, from experience as soon as functions start reducing, the members will drop. He sees this as a cry for help from Graeme Lofts, Bob Bailey and Dianne Lofts. Don Hyatt likes the idea of the home-based TNT but would like to see it broader, speakers from other parts of the country. He feels that if functions are reduced the variety will not exist.

Maree Glog mentioned some older people may not understand Zoom and how it works. Graeme Lofts commented that while we have been in lockdown, those members have not been able to visit another household, but when not in lockdown, members can visit another member or a committee person to take part. Ian Tinsley mentioned there are not actually many people who do not have access to a computer and those who do not, can have access via a phone. Elizabeth Foster mentioned that when she was on a Committee, they gradually changed to online banking and zoom meetings, and over time their members adapted to using the online methods. Graeme Lofts suggested the possibility of education for those members who do not know how to use Zoom or computers or their phones. Ian Tinsley mentioned it is probably very important to have the Zoom TNT's to prevent any drink driving.

Adrian Corkeron commented that the hardest part is to get new members onto the Committee, all the current Committee members have been in their positions for several years. Robyn Hyatt mentioned she is happy to help at functions and it might help to have a group put together who are prepared to help at functions. Bob Bailey said he has been making noises for some time for a person to organize a sub-committee to help. Dianne Lofts said she did start putting together a Committee Support Team. The problem is not having help at the functions, because that has been happening a lot, of late, which has been really appreciated, but the problem is actually organizing the functions.

Adrian Corkeron said part of the fun of being on the Committee is the fun of organizing a function. A Committee member who has the experience could tap a member on the shoulder to assist and join in with the organizing and learn that it is fun and is not difficult to do. It does include a day out, tastings, and after experiencing this, it may be a way to encourage more people to be on the Committee and help with the task of setting up a function.

Ian Tinsley mentioned WGV is very good at having these functions with great wine speakers but what do we do for the wine industry? Graeme Lofts said WGV did sponsor a Best Chardonnay trophy for about 29 years at the Yarra Valley Wine Show, until they were wanting more sponsors and more money which took WGV out of the picture. Bob Bailey said when we visit wineries to organize speakers we are very well received, most having some knowledge about WGV. Ian Tinsley said the point is how do we help them, right now they are in a very deep hole with a bumper crop this year. A question pointed to Kandy Xu what does she think? Kandy said it is a hard question, it is what we are facing with the Chinese market which has hit all wineries. There is nothing we can do for the moment; it is up to the governments. An alternative market needs to be found. Going to a different country / market it takes a long time because of the language, and culture differences.

Graeme Lofts said as the WGV, we could help promote Victorian wines which he is already doing via the website but needs an assistant to help with this to take it further. WGV comes up high with Google for wine clubs. He would like to set up a link with Wine Victoria. Tom Bendistinto mentioned that with his experience it is the same with all clubs, how do we get new members, how do we get help etc. A call out to members is needed, addressing the areas that needs help. Just need one or two people to help take some of the burden off current committee.

Business from The Floor:

Bob opened the floor to any general business. Wol asked what is the future of the wine bottling function? Bob said it has not been eliminated for future functions having good contacts with Balgownie and with not having many people assisting, it became unviable, but it could change in the near future, not to mention needing a new venue.

Wol mentioned that he can see no choice but to have the 6 instead of 11 functions yearly unless we can find an apprentice for Graeme Lofts. Graeme liked the earlier suggestion of taking a member with us to learn and experience doing the research. The tours are a lot of work, but the other functions like the TNT, dinners etc., do not take so much to organize. People do not need to be on the committee to help organize functions. One of the benefits we do give winemakers is we help them sell their wine and it is not just on the night, it is also people buying again, visiting the winery, and spreading the word. Bob Bailey thanked everyone for their input tonight.

Geoff Dennehy asked how the QLD and SA Guilds are going, not heard anything from them for months. Graeme Lofts said the SA Guild are still functioning as normal, but the regarding QLD Guild, we have heard that they are not doing so well. SA have a traditional newsletter whereas ours is really a direction to the website.

If we had someone who would like to do a newsletter, that would help. The Cellar Master position is hardly any work at all, it is a small job. We have 28 bottles in the cellar atm, but we don't need there to be any. Most are left over from functions and occasionally there is a donation. All nonprofit groups are having trouble keeping Committee and members, but we think we are doing ok.

Election of Office Bearers: The Committee of 2020 – 2021 stood down while Bob Bailey relinquished the Chair in favor of Adrian Corkeron who declared all positions vacant and conducted the election of Office Bearers for the financial year 2021 – 2022. Adrian paid tribute to the Committee for their hard work during a very difficult year. The TNT's via Zoom were very successful. No new nominations have been received for President, Secretary or Treasurer.

The current members have re-stood and are re-elected:

President: Bob Bailey

Vice President: Graeme Lofts

Secretary/Public Officer: Dianne Lofts

Treasurer: Lavinia Byron

Cellar Master:

Committee: Graeme Hall

Committee: John Gillies

Committee: Kandy Xu

Committee: Ashleigh Millar

There are 4 vacant positions on the Committee for which there have not been any nominations received. Adrian mentioned to the floor it is not so onerous to be on the Committee, and you can get a lot out of it, including free wines etc. when setting up a wine tour.

Adrian Corkeron advised the floor that the vacant positions can be filled by Committee during the year.

Adrian declared the committee for 2021 – 2022 and handed the chair back to Bob Bailey.

Bob said he looks forward to working with the 2021 – 2022 committee and thanked them for volunteering again. **Meeting closed at 9:00pm.**