

SA SUPERANNUANTS - MINUTES OF GENERAL MEETING

1:00 pm Monday 28 June 2021

1. Welcome

President James Vandenberg welcomed 35 members to the meeting.

2. Apologies

Peter Fleming, Graham Gibbons, Bob Carmichael, Lindsay Oxlad, Phil Dutschke, Paul Pamment, John Earle, Colin Brookes

3. Reports

James reported from the Committee meeting held on 21 June that:

- The Committee agreed on a job description for members of the Superannuation Advisory Group being formed to bolster the technical skills of the Committee. James advised that the description would be circulated to members shortly.
- Committee members were looking forward to receiving advice, hopefully in July, of approval of the Association's new name.
- The Association's latest membership report showed 1,695 financial members.
- Members' responses to the request for donations have exceeded \$4,000 so far, accompanied by some very nice letters.
- On 29 June Committee members are meeting to talk about succession planning, to make sure the organization continues to operate, and to come up with descriptions of their roles and an indication of the time involved, to be circulated to Association members by email and available at meetings.

James encouraged everyone to seriously consider finding some time in our busy lives to contribute to the Association.

- The superannuation and retirement income issues surveyed in January were being considered by the Committee, and would also go to the Superannuation Advisory Group for its advice.
- The 2021 membership brochure was being prepared, staying with black and white, for distribution in September.
- Given the good level of interest at the general meeting in May, the members' lunch in the city will go ahead in October or November, possibly at a venue with a capacity of 40 people.

Treasurer Michael Evans also expressed his and the Committee's appreciation of the very pleasing volume of donations. Michael commented that it was questionable whether lunch would be feasible at the end of year November general meeting given the Covid situation.

4. Guest Speaker: Geoff Penhall JP, Vice President, Royal Association of Justices of South Australia

Ian Beckingham welcomed and introduced Geoff Penhall, noting the important role of Justices of the Peace in the community, and the Association's special appreciation of Geoff's availability to speak, given two recent family bereavements.

Geoff took the meeting through the role of a Justice of the Peace, defining what a JP is, the need for JPs, how JPs are appointed, the powers assigned to them and their limitations, jurisdictional boundaries, appropriate behaviour for a JP, and the function of the Royal Association of Justices of SA Inc. in supporting the 2,500 JPs in South Australia.

Geoff explained the need for confidence that documents have been certified by a person who is competent, objective and not conflicted, and noted how JPs cannot give legal advice, even on simple matters, and are careful not to get drawn into potentially fraudulent situations.

Geoff outlined some of the difficult situations a Justice of the Peace can encounter, where documents are complex, incomplete, or the deponent or declarant does not seem to understand them, perhaps because of illness, or there may appear to be an element of undue influence or duress. In these cases the JP needs to decide whether to decline to witness, and may be obliged to say "your parent is not ready for this" after speaking privately to an older person who seemed doubtful about granting enduring power of attorney.

Geoff Penhall's illuminating presentation concluded with a discussion of the work of some JPs rostered to sit as Special Justices at SA Magistrates Courts, followed by answers to questions touching on JPs' indemnity for honest mistakes or omissions, how to distinguish a copy from an original, and the role of JPs in regional areas in relation to search and arrest warrants.

Ian led members in thanking Geoff Penhall for his very interesting talk, bringing out the sometimes difficult and delicate matters that a Justice of the Peace must deal with, and presented Geoff with a bottle of wine to mark the Association's appreciation.

5. Next Meeting

Ian advised that the next general meeting would be on 26 July, with a guest speaker from Health Partners discussing private health insurance.

Meeting Closed: 2:15 pm approximately
