

**MINUTES of the GENERAL MEETING OF THE FRIENDSHIP FORCE of the SUNSHINE COAST** held at Millwell Road Community Centre, Maroochydore, 31 January 2016

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**Commenced:** 9.35

**Welcome** President Jim Macready welcomed members, and two visitors, Ron and Carol Usher. He announced that, as a result of the inclement weather, the proposed picnic at Wirreanda Park would now take place in the Millwell Hall at the conclusion of the General Meeting

**Pledge:** Jean Ledwidge led members in reciting the Friendship Force Pledge

**Apologies:** Bernie Treston, Helen Treston, Robyn Stewart, Jan bell, Otto Klaus, Fiona Simpson

**Side Tables:** President Jim Macready introduced the operators of the side tables:

Raffles (Helen Kwong)

Maggie Overend – Salisbury and Christchurch exchanges

Tony Sayer – Albany exchange

**Minutes of the meeting held on 29 November 2015:** Accepted, proposed by John Gosney, seconded by Jim Haxton. No matters arising.

**Explanation of the new governance processes:** John Gosney explained that the question raised by Tony Barry at the 2015 AGM in relation to the donations from Escape Travel had prompted an examination of the club's governance processes. This had resulted in the following Board decisions:

- Publication of an agenda two weeks before each General Meeting
- A motion at all General Meetings to ratify Board decisions since the last General Meeting
- Non-acceptance of any motions at General Meetings not included in the published agenda
- A review of the current club Constitution to be conducted by the Secretary with the assistance of Ray Troyahn and Bernie Treston

In response to a question from Pat Richardson President Jim Macready said that the Board would review the question of acceptance of motions without notice at General Meetings

**Ratification of Board decisions:** John Gosney announced the following decisions taken at the Board meetings on 11 December and 15 January:

- To transfer \$3000 from the ING investment account to the general account to meet expenses
- To not accept the proposed tennis-themed exchange from Japan in February 2017 but to offer to host it in 2018
- To adopt two proposed policies arising from the recent member survey, one to make the appointment of Exchange Directors open and transparent and one to encourage the welcoming of new members
- To close the ING investment account and to deposit the funds in an interest-bearing account with the National Australia Bank
- To adopt the Secretary's recommendations for improved governance processes as described above

Carol Harman suggested that the club might involve a local tennis club in a future tennis-themed exchange

Moved Jim Macready, Seconded Pat Richardson that the meeting ratify these decisions - carried

**Financial Report:** Presented by Tony Linedale. Current balances are:

- General Account – \$2775.74
- Exchange Inward account – \$636.52
- Exchange Outward account - \$1965.00
- ING Investment account - \$8885.38

Moved by Tony Linedale, seconded by Jim Haxton that the financial report be accepted, carried

**Exchange Reports:** President Jim Macready mentioned that there had been a suggestion to add an exchange to Taiwan to the Rostov-on-Don exchange planned for 2017

**Albany:** Tony Sayer announced that there were 14 ambassadors, paid up and ready to leave for Albany in March

**Salisbury:** Maggie Overend reported that the dates for this exchange were settled – 13 – 20 July and that there were 12 ambassadors coming. Maggie needs 3 hosts and 5 cohosts

**Austin, Texas:** Gayle Macready reported that she had at last heard from the Austin ED

**Christchurch:** Maggie Overend reported that 18 ambassadors are coming and she needs more cohosts to help host couples.

**Newsletter:** Tony Sayer reported that Jim Haxton would edit the March Sunseeker while Tony was on exchange in Albany – the deadline for the February edition is 19<sup>th</sup>. President Jim Macready said that there was a need for someone to take over the role, currently performed by Jim Haxton, of E-flyer co-ordinator

**2017 Conference Report:** Jim Haxton reported that the Maroochydore RSL had been booked for 3 days, including a gala dinner and that the Maroochydore Surf Club had been booked for an additional buffet dinner. The design of the conference program is well in hand. A presentation has been prepared for the 2016 conference in the Blue Mountains. The conference will be offered to Sunshine Coast members at \$200.

## **General Business**

- **Publicity** – Anne Derksen volunteered to perform the Publicity role
- **Membership list** – President Jim Macready said that the Board would be considering new procedures for maintaining and distributing accurate and up-to-date lists of members' contact details
- **Activities** – Merylyn Rundle and Nellie Rogers reported that the preferred venue for the 2016 Christmas lunch was the Parklands Tavern and the preferred date was 6 December. The picnic meeting on 28 February would be at Nellie's home – attendance would be limited to 20 on a first come first served basis – there would be an Italian theme. Nellie read a poem.
- **Dine-outs** – Pam Ferguson announced that the February dine-out would be at the Parklands Tavern on 11<sup>th</sup> at 12 noon
- **Banners** – the club banners will be managed by Margaret Williams while Glenn Gordon is away

- **Exchange experiences** – the following members spoke about exchange experiences – Gayle Macready (Canada in winter, 2011), Maggie Overend (Russia in 2013), Judy Hill (Canada and USA, 2015)
- **Gloria McEwan** thanked Glenn and Judy Gordon for a lift to the meeting and explained that Daphne Leach hadn't been able to do it because she had fallen and broken her leg
- **Raffle:** Helen Kwong conducted the raffle which raised \$73

**Meeting closed:** 11.30 am