

**Minutes of the Nelson Civic Choir Annual General Meeting  
Held at NCMA, 6.30 - 7.05pm on 28 March 2023**

**Present:**

**Sopranos:** Elena Camisani West, Frances Coleman, Helen McDonnell, Helen Tapper, Janet Galloway, Jill Seeney, Linda Wareing, Lucy Rainey, Rosemary Amos, Rosemary Shaw, Sarah Holmes, Steph Hoffman, Tracy McCrenor, Ulrike Meissner,

**Altos:** Claire Bywater, Delyth Logan, Elizabeth Williams, Eve Ward, Gillian Hendrick, Faith Fraser, Helen Bywater, Jan Brayshaw, Janet Mercer, Jeni Bell, Kay Hunter, Lyndal Howley, Mary Bronsteter, Mila Hofberg, Monika Edwards, Penelope Kempthorne, Rita Joy, Shona Idle, Suzie Peacock, Sunmi Kang,

**Tenor:** Ann Briggs, Christine Burn, David Featherstone, Gretchen Howard, John Foes-Lamb, Tomonori Mitsui

**Bass:** Dan Griffin, Graeme North, Jack Hamley, Peter Field, Richard Talbot, Shirley McEwan, Todd Padgett

**Apologies:**

Megan Thomas, Jane Morrison, Inga Lane, Anne Doyle, Patti Martin, Liz Coulter, Helen Tyson, Roderick Joyce, Liivi James, Robert Holmes, Alison Wallace, Karen Gibson, Noel Stephens, Alouise Pope, Eva Virtue, Helen Bywater

**Welcome**

Elizabeth Williams (Chair) welcomed the members and proposed that her report which had been previously circulated be accepted. Rosemary Shaw seconded. All accepted the report.

**Minutes of the previous AGM, 26 April 2022**

These were previously circulated and taken as read.

Moved: Elizabeth Williams

Seconded: Todd Padgett

Kay Hunter apologised for a spelling error in the minutes and will ensure the error is corrected. The minutes were accepted as a true record of the meeting.

**Chairperson's Report**

This was previously circulated and taken as read.

Moved: Elizabeth Williams

Seconded: Rosemary Shaw

Accepted by all with no matters arising

**Treasurer's Report**

This was previously circulated and taken as read.

Mary Bronsteter, retiring treasurer, spoke to the report.

She explained the reasons why the cash balance had dropped so dramatically, namely, that the agreed grant from the Nelson Regional Cultural Development Authority (NCRDA) had not come in, and that the payment of \$6000 to NCMA for the trial employment of the Community Music Manager, Lucy Davies. However, the profit from the CHORAL PASSION concert (\$8500) and JOY TO THE WORLD

concert (\$2000) helped, and is extremely encouraging. Mary added that inflation is making it increasingly difficult to put on concerts, and said that we need to be vigilant about applying for grants and obtaining sponsorship.

Sarah Holmes queried whether we pay GST on our subscriptions. Mary answered that unfortunately, we do.

Mary spoke about the huge relief of having Lucy Davies take over many of the day to day tasks of the NCC Treasurer and introduced Lucy to the meeting. Lucy spoke, briefly describing her role and how it had taken a while to set it up. But she has now settled in and is jointly working with NCC as well as several other musical groups, helping them with their daily proceedings and productions.

Mary emphasised that our subscriptions do not pay for all the costs of weekly rehearsals and running concerts.

Mary proposed that her report be accepted. Ann Briggs seconded. All accepted.

Elizabeth presented Mary with flowers and a framed certificate stating that Mary, in appreciation for her long commitment to her work as treasurer, is now a life member of Nelson Civic Choir. The choir showed their appreciation with a long and enthusiastic show of applause.

### **Election of Officers**

Elizabeth made special mention of the wonderful assistance given by many of our volunteers and explained how crucial the work of these volunteers is to the smooth running of the choir.

Elizabeth explained how her husband, Roger Williams has become a temporary minutes secretary, in that he attends Committee meetings, takes the minutes, but has no voting rights. It will be wonderful when someone from Choir can take over that role.

Ann Briggs took over the role of chairing the election of officers to the Committee.

The following nominations were read out to the meeting

Chairperson: Elizabeth Williams. Nominated, Rosemary Shaw. Seconded, Ann Briggs

Treasurer: Jill Seeney. Nominated, Elizabeth Williams. Seconded, Suzie Peacock

Secretary: Kay Hunter. Nominated, Mila Hofberg. Seconded Lyndal Howley

Committee Member: Todd Padgett. Nominated Graeme North. Seconded Lyndal Howley

Committee Member: Jan Brayshaw. Nominated, Kay Hunter. Seconded Emma Hamley

Committee Member: Richard Talbot. Nominated Peter Field. Seconded, Gretchen Howard.

As there was only one nomination for each of the officer positions, and just three members to Committee, a verbal vote was taken. Passed unanimously.

As the chairperson of the choir had not changed there was no need for a change of guard at the meeting.

### **Subscriptions for the 2024 year**

Elizabeth explained the history of how during the Covid pandemic, members were given the opportunity to pay per concert due to the uncertainty of whether or not concerts could be performed. Some members have learnt to appreciate this option.

Elizabeth proposed that subscriptions be set for \$200 per annum, and could be paid either as, \$75 per concert, \$150 for two concerts, or \$200 for three. With a further option of setting up an automatic payment of \$17 per month from AGM to AGM. Kay Hunter commented that although \$200 is a lot of money, if divided by the 30 rehearsals we have per year, plus 3 concerts, the cost per session is only around \$5.

Rosemarie Amos queried whether or not these options are available for the current financial year and proposed the motion that *“From this point onwards, the choir will accept payment per concert.”* Seconded Lucy Rainey. Carried.

Rosemarie also queried whether a part payment per annum would permit voting on constitutional matters. It was confirmed that any financial member’s payment will guarantee a vote.

### **Constitution development**

Elizabeth explained how the current constitution is being redeveloped in order to fulfil the new legislative requirements. A sub-committee consisting of Robert Holmes, Ann Briggs and Elizabeth Williams will continue to work through the year to complete the constitution

Elizabeth proposed *“That we continue to work on the Constitution, and feed information through the year to the Choir.”* Seconded by Tracy McCrenor. Passed.

Elizabeth thanked the members for their attendance and the meeting closed at 7.03pm.