

Public Transport Users Association Inc., Org No A-6256L
Minutes of Annual General Meeting: Thursday 2 December 2010
Ground Floor Back Meeting Room, Ross House

Attendance: Approximately 30 members of the Association were present, including all current Office Bearers.

Apologies: Apologies were received from Nola Martin, Rob Watson, Charles Sowerwine and Jason King.

The meeting commenced at 6:35pm. President Daniel Bowen assumed the Chair.

Minutes of 2009 AGM

The minutes of the PTUA Annual General Meeting on 9 November 2009 were carried (moved Tony Morton, seconded Darren Room). There was no dissent.

President's Address

President Daniel Bowen gave a report to the meeting covering highlights of the Association's activities for the year, leading up to the State election and change of government. A series of television news reports relating to public transport were screened.

Secretary's Report

Secretary Tony Morton presented a brief report summarising the activities of the Association. The organisation's membership remains stable at 800–900 members. The PTUA has maintained a focus on engaging the membership through bimonthly members' meetings, which included presentations from the CEO of Metro Trains and the Chairman of Yarra Trams.

Financial Reports

Treasurer Kerry Wilmot presented the 2009–10 financial statements which revealed a reasonable surplus. The financial statements were carried without dissent. It was noted that due to spending on the election campaign, expenditure would be somewhat greater for the next financial year.

Branch Reports

Branch convenors Paul Westcott (Geelong) and Jeremy Lunn (Eastern Suburbs) gave presentations on the activities of their respective branches over the year.

Election of 2010/11 Committee

Secretary Tony Morton noted that one nomination had been received for each Office Bearer position and nine nominations for ordinary Committee positions, which is equal to the number of positions available for election. In accordance with the Association's election rules, no ballot was required for Committee this year and all nominees were declared elected. The Committee elected for 2010/11 is as follows:

President: Daniel Bowen

Secretary: Tony Morton

Treasurer: Kerry Wilmot

Ordinary Committee members: Michael Galea, Tim Hoffmann, Ian Hundley, Mark Johnson, Jason King, Tim Long, Rob Meredith, Tim Petersen and David Robertson.

It was also noted that branch convenors Paul Westcott and Jeremy Lunn would continue on the committee as *ex officio* members.

Secretary-elect Tony Morton and President-elect Daniel Bowen welcomed new Committee member Tim Hoffmann, and thanked retiring Committee members Myles Green and Vaughan Williams for their contributions.

Noting Vaughan's retirement from the Committee after many years, including four years as secretary, and his likely retirement from Victorian public transport advocacy due to overseas travel, the Secretary recommended that Vaughan be granted life membership in recognition of his substantial contribution to the Association. A motion to approve Vaughan Williams' life membership was moved by Hugh Waldron and seconded by David Eccles. It was carried by acclamation.

Discussion: Hospitality from Stakeholder Organisations

President-elect Daniel Bowen led a discussion with the membership on the ethics and criteria for accepting hospitality from government and industry stakeholders. This was prompted by the PTUA's increasing public profile which has led to increased contact with industry figures, and has led to disagreement within the Committee on the appropriate conditions for acceptance.

Discussion revealed a diversity of views reflecting those found earlier within the Committee. There was general consensus on the principle that acceptance of hospitality must be fully disclosed and in public view, including being publicised in advance and reported on afterward to the Committee and the general membership where appropriate.

There was also a general feeling that the perception of conflict of interest is a paramount consideration. Some thought that this ought to preclude the PTUA appearing on a Metro table at a Press Club lunch but not preclude attending a Metro corporate box at the football, while others considered the reverse to be the case.

Another common theme to discussion was that an ethical breach may arise where the personal benefit to an individual from hospitality exceeds the benefit to the PTUA. However it is often difficult to quantify the benefit at all.

A straw poll of those present indicated that the higher the value of the hospitality, the greater the presumption against accepting it. (Sponsored travel to Hong Kong recorded approximately 10 votes against, the corporate box 6 against, and the Press Club lunch 3 against.)

Other Business

A period of general discussion followed in which the Committee answered questions from members on a broad range of topics.

Close

There being no other business, the meeting closed at 8:30pm. Drinks, finger food and general discussion followed the meeting.