



SPC 8th Annual General Meeting

14 November 2013
34 Bedford Street Box Hill

Minutes

Welcome

The President of SPC, Mr Peter Whiting, declared the meeting open, and welcomed all those present.

Apologies

Kevin and Margaret Burke, Louise Cleary, Bob Dixon, Gary Harkin, Brenda Hubber, Audra Kuncionas, Jim Penna, Anne Schmid, John Uren, Stancea Vichie, Bernadette Wallis, Jeff Wild.

Minutes of the 2012 AGM

Accepted unanimously by those attending the meeting as a fair and accurate record of proceedings were the minutes of the 7th Annual General Meeting of Social Policy Connections, held 21 November 2012. Moved Bruce Duncan; seconded Tony French.

Presidents Report

The President, Mr Peter Whiting, delivered his annual report on the activity of the association.

During the last 12 months, Social Policy Connections has focused on presenting topics of interest to the broad community via the full range of conventional, digital, and social media. Over 1,400,000 pages were opened on SPCs website during the year, with nearly 65,000 unique visitors, more than double the year before.

A number of books were published during the year, including Bruce Duncan's *Social Justice: Fuller Life in a Fairer World*.

Regular forums continued in 2013:

- March 2013 Bishop Vincent Long launched Bruce Duncan's *Social justice: fuller life in a fairer world*.
- April 2013 Bishop Pat Power spoke on *The Churches and public policy*.
- May 2013 Ged Kearney and Professor Brian Howe addressed The future of work.
- August 2013 Caz Coleman and Misha Coleman tackled *What now for asylum seekers?*
- September 2013 Denis Fitzgerald spoke on *Reducing Poverty in Australia*.
- October 2013 One-day conference during Anti-Poverty Week in collaboration with St Vincent de Paul and others.
- November 2013 Brian Costar presented on *Electoral Reform and Social Justice*.
SPC supported the Yarra Institute for Religion & Social Policy in organising a conference on *Christian Social Thinking for Australia: making a difference?*

Members were again invited to contribute in writing or in person to SPC's presentations.

Thanks were offered to the many SPC members for their financial contributions, as well as to all those who support the organisation by attending functions. The Redemptorist Order was recognised in particular for its

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significant funding support. Also acknowledged were Board members for their ideas and involvement, and Susy Herlihy in the office.

Annual Financial Statements

The annual audited accounts were presented by the Treasurer, Mr Peter Whiting, who pointed out that copies of the full report were available for those present.

During the financial year 2012-2013, expenditure exceeded income by approximately \$8,000, due in large part to maintaining the role of Executive Officer. Finance being the greatest challenge to SPC, fundraising skills and efforts continue to require development.

Brian Smiddy commented that the National Charities Commission may be disbanded, and Peter Whiting responded that the matter is in the hands of the accountants in consultation with the Australian Tax Office.

Acceptance of the audited accounts to 30 June 2013 was moved by Peter Whiting, seconded by Brian Smiddy. Carried.

Appointment of Auditor

Peter Whiting proposed that J L Collyer & Partners be appointed auditors for the financial years 2013-2014; seconded Bruce Duncan. Carried.

Statement in Accordance with the Associations Incorporation Reform Act (2012)

The President drew the attention of the meeting to the Approved form attached to the annual accounts, and advised that this was a new requirement arising from the recent 2012 Act. The form relates to Sections 94(3), 97(3), 100(3), 102(4)(a) and (b).

Election of The Board of Governance

In accordance with SPCs Rules of Association, the following members presented themselves for election or re-election to the Board, to serve until the 9th Annual General Meeting in 2014 :

- Rev Brendan Byrne
- Bruce Duncan
- Tony French
- Michael Liddy
- Jamie Pearce
- Peter Whiting

All those named above were declared unopposed as elected or re-elected.

Discussions continue to take place to engage additional Board members.

Meeting Close

No other general business matters being raised, the President declared the 8th Annual General Meeting closed at 7:25pm.



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