

41st Annual General Meeting

the Australian Society of Viticulture and Oenology Inc.,

held on the 15th of November 2021

1. Attendance

Brooke Howell (Chair), noted that a quorum was present in accordance with the constitution and declared the Annual General Meeting open at 5:05 pm

Sixteen (16) members, were present in the room as recorded on the registration sheets

Jason Amos	Peter Clingeffer	Markus Herderich	Paul Petrie
Eveline Bartowsky	Paul Grbin	Sue Hodder	Liz Pitcher
Marlize Bekker	Richard Hamilton	Brooke Howell	Tony Robinson
Paul Boss	Peter Hayes	Mardi Longbottom	Alana Seabrook

Seventeen (17) members, were present as reported by webinar ID 914 8962 8613

Rob Bramley	Kerry DeGaris	Peter Leske	Neil Scrimgeour
Nick Bulleid	Katie Dunne	Cath Oates	Amanda Tanga
Wendy Cameron	Patrick Iland	Louisa Rose	Liz Waters
Andy Clarke	Philip Laffer	Alex Sas	David Wollan

Six (6) members submitted proxy forms

Gregory Dedman	Duncan Hamm
Jeremy Dineen	Matt Partridge
Benjamin Gibson	Amanda Tanga

2. Apologies

Fourteen (14) members' apologies were recorded

Allison Blake	Bruce Henderson	Chris Steel	Terence Wong
Melissa Brown	Stuart Hordern	Rob Walker	Richard Fennessy
Di Davidson	Murray Paterson	Nadja Wallington	
Jeremy Dineen	Tony Proffit	Brian Walsh	

3. Confirmation of Minutes

The Chair noted that Nick Bulleid had sent through some minor edits to the published Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on the 12th of November 2019. No other amendments were noted.

MOTION: *That the amended minutes of the 39th AGM are recorded as a true and correct record*

Moved Brooke Howell

Seconded Eveline Bartowsky

The motion was carried.

4. President's report.

The Chair presented the report to the members noting that the 2021 financial year was a tumultuous one with a COVID-19 Pandemic and global trade wars creating more challenges for our members.

Despite the challenges, the ASVO declared a modest \$1834 surplus, which was as a result of the Board carefully managing expenses.

The Board was expecting to see a drop in membership numbers and consequently income from membership fees due to the difficult times facing the industry. The Society offered a 25% discount on membership fees in recognition of this, which was well received. Membership renewals were 9% down on 2019 (which was a high year) with the member retention rate being 71%.

- The Chair shared some of the key highlights of FY21 including; Collaborating with Wine Australia, Australian Grape and Wine and AWRI to facilitate the National Bushfire Conference in May 2021
- Collaborating with Uni of Adelaide, Wine Communicators and Wine Australia to deliver the expanded Wine Industry Mentor Program- showcasing 61 Mentors and Mentees relationships.
- Offering scholarships and student subsidies for early career members to enhance their professional development.
- Updating the Wine Show Best Practice Recommendations chaired by Louisa Rose.
- Signing a 3 year agreement with Wine Australia to deliver services related to extension and adoption of current research.
- Sponsoring prizes at Crush- Grape and Wine Science symposium

A membership survey was conducted to ensure we continue to offer relevant benefits to our members and to gauge members perceptions of our progress against our 5 year strategic plan. The survey results highlighted some areas for improvement which the Board will look at in planning for 2022.

The Chair thanked Senior Editor Dr Terry Lee, Deputy Editors Professor Kerry Wilkinson and Associate Professor Greg Dunn, the journal advisory committee and editorial team for their efforts throughout the last 12 months with respect to the *Australian Journal of Grape and Wine Research*

5. Treasurer's report

The Treasurer presented the audited financial reports for the year ended 30 June 2021 to the members.

The Treasurer summarised the report noting that the total income for FY21 \$179,683, was a decrease of 27% on the FY20 year. However, total operating expenses decreased substantially from \$266,780 in FY20 to \$177,849 this year allowing the ASVO to report a marginal profit of \$1,834 due to careful fiscal management and the reduction in associated event costs.

- Membership Income decreased by 20% with \$101,557 collected in FY21, compared with \$127,238 in FY20 this was a direct result of offering the 25% discount.
- Viticulture Seminar had strong national attendance generating a net surplus of \$17,000.
- Oenology Seminar and Awards were virtual events with low contribution to revenue.
- Publishing royalties increased by 12% to \$22,968
- Sponsorship revenue was down by \$23,926
- No grants were received from AWITC but there was a Cash flow boost of \$10k from the Federal Government.

Jason Amos asked whether the Board on reflection would consider offering the discounted membership rate.

Tony Robinson replied that it was a difficult decision for the Board and one that they had deliberated over but felt strongly about the importance of providing some financial relief in response to the hardships many members were experiencing.

MOTION: *That the Audited Financial Statements as at the 30th June 2021 are received and adopted.*

Moved Anthony Robinson

Seconded Paul Petrie

The motion was carried.

6. Auditor

After 10 years with Dean Newbury & Partners the Finance, Remuneration and Sponsorship Subcommittee recommended that the ASVO appoint a new Auditor.

The board agreed with the Subcommittees recommendation that DW Johns & Co is appointed for the FY22.

Board elections

The Chair thanked outgoing Directors Dr Mardi Longbottom and Dr Tony Robinson.

Dr Mardi Longbottom joined the Board in November 2013 and served as President for 3 years and Vice President for 2 years. She was instrumental in implementing the scholarship programs and student bursaries and was the Chair of the first ASVO event to go completely online in 2020.

Dr Tony Robinson was seconded to the Board in May 2014, and has been an influential Director, President 2 years, Vice President 2 years, Treasurer one year. Tony was key in instigating good governance policies and driving strategic direction. He played an important role in the updating of the Wine Show Best Practice Recommendations and shaping the Journal to what it is today.

Both Tony and Mardi have left their mark on the ASVO with their long-standing commitment to ensuring the ASVO continues to serve its members in the best way possible and their attention to detail and I thank them for all their efforts over the last 8 years.

The Chair reported the outcomes of the General election, announcing that Dr Katie Dunne, and Dr Vanessa Stockdale had been newly-elected and that Dr Eveline Bartowsky, Mike Hayes & Brooke Howell had been re elected.

The Chair thanked all candidates for their participation and acknowledged the other candidates for their desire and willingness to play a greater role in the Society.

7. Admission of Fellows of the Society

The Chair stated the ASVO Board of Directors had decided that two members be granted honorary membership as Fellows of the Society.

The Chair announced that The Fellow Selection Advisory Committee had recommended Peter Clingeffer be invited to become a Fellow of the ASVO.

Peter is highly recognised and respected nationally and internationally, he has made an outstanding contribution to industry over a long period of time in a number of areas of viticulture and was a very worthy of the invitation of Fellow to ASVO.

The Chair invited Peter to the stage to accept the honour.

The Chair announced that the second member recommended by the Fellow Selection Advisory Committee to be invited to become a Fellow of the ASVO was Sue Hodder, commenting that Sue is a quiet achiever, often putting others before herself. She is still very active in industry and for ASVO and has contributed across both winemaking and viticulture and is a very worthy recipient of Fellow of the Society.

The Chair invited Sue to the stage to accept the honour.

8. Other business

The Chair discussed the dramatic and rapid transformation of the scientific research Publishing landscape and the challenges of open access for not for profit associations.

The Chair informed members that the current contract with Wiley was due for renewal and as part of the due diligence the ASVO Board had prepared and discussed lengthy and detailed position papers comparing various options and had conducted a survey to establish the importance of the Journal and how switching to open access would affect membership.

The Chair stated that the Board had unanimously agreed to advise Wiley that the ASVO would not be renewing a publishing contract and would commence transition to Ubiquity Press.

The Chair opened the meeting to questions or comments from members.

Paul Grbin commented that agreements with CAUL will soon be in place and asked if Ubiquity had the similar agreements?

The Chair responded that Ubiquity had brought forward negotiations with CAUL.

Marcus Herderich asked if there would be a two tiered APC for members and non members.

The Chair replied currently looking at one APC for both Members and Non members.

Peter Hayes commended the committee and the Board for making a difficult decision.

David Wollan asked "What happens in 2022? Would we still publish for twelve months with Wiley"?

The Chair responded that the ASVO is contracted with Wiley until the end of 2022. It is likely that we will publish 2 issues with Wiley and then papers would be submitted to Ubiquity.

Paul Grbin raised his concern that Wiley had a large commitment to marketing the Journal and asked if Ubiquity had the resources and contacts to continue to promote the Journal.

The Chair responded that Ubiquity had a portfolio of Journals and was equally placed to ensure that the Journal was well placed in online searches. In addition Ubiquity had assigned a dedicated person to work with the Editorial team to promote the Journal.

Rob Bramley asked "Will we be a Ubiquity "hosted journal" or will AJGWR become a Ubiquity "published journal"?

The Chair responded that the AJGWR would be Ubiquity published journal.

Rob Bramley asked, "Is the Board confident that Ubiquity is in no way involved in so-called predatory publishing ?"

The Chair responded that the Board were extremely confident that Ubiquity was not involved in predatory publishing and that their values aligned with those of ASVO.

The Chair invited all those present to raise any further matters that have not been dealt with on the agenda.

There being no further business the Chair declared the meeting closed at 6:12pm