

31st Annual General Meeting of the Australian Society of Viticulture and Oenology Inc

Tuesday 22nd November 2011

5:30pm-6:30pm

at

SARDI Auditorium, Plant Research Centre, Waite Campus

2b Hartley Grove, Urrbrae

1. **Attendance** 31 members were in attendance as recorded on sheets at door of meeting;
Two members submitted proxy forms.
2. **Apologies** 13 member's apologies were recorded.
3. **Confirmation of the Minutes of the 30th AGM**
The President called for any amendments to the minutes. None were proffered.

MOTION: That the minutes are recorded as a true and correct record of the 30th AGM.

Moved NIGEL BLIESCHKE; **Seconded** ROB BRAMLEY

4. **Business arising from the minutes of the 30th AGM –**
Recommendation by PETER HAYES that in future the costs of the journal be explained by a footnote. Whilst this action had not been fully carried out the President made note of the matter and gave a verbal explanation during presentation of the financial report (see Treasurer's report below)
5. **President's report.**
The President presented his report to the members.
The President called for any questions relating to the President's report.

LUKE JOHNSTON asked what percentage of ASVO members attended AWITC and if membership is a draw card?

MARK KRSTIC responded that approximately 400 members attend AWITC; 30-40% of all registrations.

LUKE JOHNSTON asked is there the possibility of discounted registration for ASVO members at AWITC events.

MARK KRSTIC responded that membership in ASVO does not currently give a discount, however ASVO were working towards ways to achieve some benefit in this and other ways. MARK KRSTIC noted that the grant that was provided by AWITC in 2009/10 as a contribution towards printing costs of the AJGWR was one such example.

MARKUS HERDERICH responded that Members registered at AWITC had opportunity to advertise services to non members, and that is a benefit for ASVO.

KATHY EVANS asked about considering different membership fee for regional areas such as Tasmania and Western Australia which were less well serviced in terms of events.

MARK KRSTIC responded that changing the fee structure would require constitutional change, but would be examined by the new ASVO Board.

GREG DUNN responded that the only service that is different is the discounted cost of attending two seminars for ASVO members annually.

KATHY EVANS asked that ASVO considers using webinar technology.

MARK KRSTIC responded that Webinars had been discussed at strategy planning days and had been considered to be currently too expensive and unreliable to be feasible, but would look into technology developments in this area for the future.

PETER LESKE asked, given AWITC is such a big part of what ASVO does every three years that ASVO should go back to the AWITC committee and try to achieve some sort of benefit, if discount wouldn't work he suggested preferential attendance to workshops as an example.

No further questions were proffered.

MOTION: That the President's report is accepted.

Moved PAUL GRBIN; **Seconded** GARY BALDWIN

6. Treasurer's report

The President presented the audited financial reports for the year ended 30.6.2010 to the members. He noted that that ASVO has been operating with large deficits for several years and that changes made by the board regarding the structure and careful watch of all expenditure particularly travel and ITC has meant that ASVO can report a return a modest surplus this year. The President made note that expenses for the Journal were not cut because it represented the jewel in the ASVO crown. The president advised that more changes were required and hard decision still to be made to ensure the Society remained viable and successful for the future.

The President called for any questions relating to the Treasurer's report.

GARY BALDWIN noted the amount of depreciation on balance sheet and asked what it was for. MARK KRSTIC responded it was for the ongoing deprecation of equipment and IT at scheduled rates.

GARY BALDWIN asked why the event income was so much lower this year compared to last year.

MARK KRSTIC responded that ASVO previously ran events for GWRDC. The board had decided to no longer run the events as they were distracting resources from the core business of servicing ASVO members.

LOUISA ROSE asked about the numbers of copies of the AJGWR that were printed, was it excessive?

MARK KRSTIC responded that ASVO is contractually tied to the number of copies printed (approx 1000) and the contract provided online availability as well. MARK KRSTIC advised that

the contract was up for renewal and that the board was going out to market to determine if there was a better deal and to look at ways of raising funds through advertising.

ALAN HOEY asked if the board could comfortably expect to operate in the same position in this financial year.

MARK KRSTIC responded, yes, the aim was to be cost neutral for events and with membership benefits and services maintained. ASVO would try to make small surplus from events to build a buffer and as a risk management strategy to minimize the chance of losing money on events.

MARK KRSTIC responded to PETER HAYES suggestion from the minutes of the 30th AGM giving a verbal breakdown of the costs associated with AJGWR

Contract publishing with Wiley Blackwell	approx ~\$50k
Editors remuneration	~\$25K
License for Software (Manuscript Central)	~\$1.2k
Administration (Waters & Waters)	~\$7k
	~\$85k

MARK KRSTIC advised that 1/3 to 1/2 of total ASVO expenses are Journal related.

PETER LESKE commented that relying so much on subscription was risky (75% of income is membership) and asked if falling membership numbers was due to the cost increases in membership?

MARK KRSTIC agreed that ASVO had increased the cost of membership by approx \$50 in 2010-11 and that the increase may have resulted in some members not renewing. MARK KRSTIC said there was some price sensitivity but the last increase for 2011-12 was just CPI and that comparable societies had similar price structures.

ROB BRAMLEY queried if the subscriptions included non member subscriptions to the AJGWR. RUSSELL JOHNSTONE advised that income from AJGWR subscriptions were accounted for under royalties.

MOTION: That the financial report is accepted.

Moved RUSSELL JOHNSTONE; **Seconded** PETER LESKE

Russell Johnstone left at 6:15

7. Board elections

The President thanked the outgoing members for their contributions over the past year and advised that there were 13 nominations for the vacating positions and congratulated the newly elected members.

Patrick Iland left at 6:20

8. Other business

GARY BALDWIN stated that he was on many occasions asked "what does ASVO Wine Show Committee say about this?" and encouraged the Society to reconvene this committee.

MARK KRSTIC responded that this was one of the committees that would be elected at the first meeting of new board.

With reference to the AWITC and other events, PETER HAYES stated that he prefers to consider the benefits back to members as 'sponsorship' not 'subsidy'.

PETER HAYES made comment that he felt that we were at the crossroads with the Society and professionally, he stated that there was in his opinion failure at the Executive level, a lack of understanding of leadership, R&D, and the role of Science. Scientist were seen not as guides but to come in after event and save the skin of the CEO

PETER HAYES asked how could the Society increase their role and be better put to get CEO's to engage with developing the industry better.

MARK KRSTIC agreed with comments made by Peter Hayes, and indicated that in having the ASVO co-located within the National Wine Centre with WFA, WGGA, Wine Australia and GWRDC that hopefully ASVO might be able to influence the strategic thinking in this area.

PETER HAYES commented on the WFA submission 5 yr R&D he stated that he thought it was excellent but focused on problem solving, he asked where the innovation is? We should be outcomes-designing, not simply discovering.

PAUL VAN DER LEE responded to PETER HAYES stating that the Winery and vineyard of future showed inspiration and innovation to be used as a framework.

Di Davidson left 6:26

No further questions were proffered.

MARK KRSTIC declared the meeting closed at 6.28pm