



**HARTLEY COLLEGE PAST PUPILS' ASSOCIATION INC.
NSW BRANCH, SYDNEY AUSTRALIA**

MINUTES OF THE TWENTY EIGHT (28th) ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING (AGM)

held on Sunday 20th October 2019

At the Main Hall, West Pennant Hills Community Centre, George Thornton Reserve, 42a Hill Road, West Pennant Hills NSW2125

ATTENDANCE

The President Mr G Vaseeharan chaired the meeting with a recorded attendance of 41 members.

1. Welcome Address by the President

The President opened the AGM at 2:15pm and welcomed the Hartleyites who were present.

A minute silence was observed remembering the people who sacrificed their lives in our motherland.

The President thanked all the members for their continuous support to the association and activities throughout the year.

Further, the President requested the members to listen with open mind and stay on the point of discussion during the AGM proceedings.

A member (Selva) asked if there was cooperation within the outgoing management committee. The president advised that it was no different to any previous committees that he was part of.

Selva also asked why the attendance of committee members to the AGM was poor. President suggested that the question to be raised with the individuals and advised that no one can force anyone to attend a meeting. A member (John) also replied reminding Selva of old days when the PPA struggled to get attendees to these meetings.

When the AGM agenda was presented, a member (D Rajasingham) sought clarification on agenda item 10: Election of the new management committee. The President clarified that the term 'Election' is commonly used to refer to the process of appointing/selecting a new official, even if there is only one nomination to a position.

Members D Rajasingham, K Selvarajah and B Kuganesan encouraged Hartleyites to avoid any election by voting.

2. Presentation and Adoption of the Minutes of the 2018 AGM and matters arising from the minutes.

Members adopted the minutes of the 27th AGM held on Sunday 28th October 2018 at the Andrew Cooke Room, Toongabbie Community Centre, 244 Targo Rd, Toongabbie NSW 2146.



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Proposed by Mr Yoganathan Sivanathan and seconded by Thinesh Fredrick



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3. Presentation of the Annual Report by the President detailing the Key activities of the Committee of Management during the year.

The President made a presentation highlighting the key activities carried out by the current committee of management during the year

- The life membership of the association is now 172 (excluding 2, pending approval)
- Vice Patron Mr N Karunakaran resigned from the role and the Management Committee appointed Mr K Paskarajothy & Dr S Thavaseelan as new Vice Patrons
- Mr N Karunakaran agreed to function as the Public Officer throughout the year
- Members and their families Xmas gathering held on 16 December 2018, Fagan Park
- Annual Cricket match between HCPPA -Victoria vs HCPPA-NSW held in Melbourne on the 26th January, and HCPPA –NSW won the Eliezer-Ratnavel Trophy

[A member(Michael) asked why NSW team had a strong team? He suggested that it could have been better to lose the game. President advised that Management committee do not interfere with the team selections.]

[Another member (Selva) asked why Manoharathas doesn't play the cricket games. President advised that the question to be raised with the member concerned. President also advised that he remembered Manoharathas played a game some years ago.]

- Sub-committees were formed for constitution amendment, sports, membership drive, fundraising, digital/social media, sports facilities improvement project, hostel scholarships fundraising and community projects
- Inauguration of a facebook page for HCPPA NSW
- Autumn Newsletter was sent to members
- HCPPA-NSW families Tennis Day held on 9 June at Barton Park
- Members and their families Annual Dinner Dance held on 27 July 2019
- Annual Cricket match HCPPA-NSW vs Jaffna Hindu OBA –NSW held on 7 Oct 2019 and HCPPA-NSW teams won both games
- Public Liability Insurance for HCPPA-NSW has now been arranged

The President also explained the funding provided and other related tasks undertaken during the year:

- Funding the salaries for English Teaching and Management Assistant (Mr Manickam) for the year 2019 (Rs. 60,000)
- Agreement was made with other OBA branches (Victoria, Canada/USA, UK and Colombo) to share the College ground maintenance cost
- Annual prize giving awards (for Hartley College students) by NSW members, funds were collected and sent to the HCPPA Trust

The President also outlined the funding provided to the College Hostel maintenance:



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- Hostel Scholarship Fund – Member contributions: \$4,500
- Raised \$1,190 through the American Auction at the dinner dance and this amount was also allocated for Hostel Scholarship Fund
- Dr Vijayakumar requested to fund hostel scholarship for one student from the funds donated by him in 2017 for technical education



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The President also highlighted some of the initiatives taken during tenure but not completed and requested the new committee to consider completing the activities, viz:

- Gala Day with members of NSW PPAs of Hartley College, Methodist Girls High School and Vada Hindu Girls School. The proposal was put on hold due to the sudden health condition of Vada Hindu PPA President's husband
- Constitutional amendment particularly bridging the current gap in conducting the election for the office bearers of the Management Committee Deductible Gift Recipient (DGR) Status

4. Presentation and Adoption of the Audited Financial Report for the financial Year 2018/2019

The Treasurer Mr.K.Yoganathan presented audited financial report for the financial year 2017/18 and the accounts up to AGM.

The report accepted by the members present at the meeting.

Proposed by K Kaneshalingam and seconded by Ponniah Elango

5. Motion 1: HCPPA-NSW Constitutional Amendment

The motion was presented by the President and many members raised the concerns why the constitution was not amended.

[A member (John) asked why was the task of amending the constitution not completed. When another member (Selva) replied that some sub-committee members did not attend meetings, it was challenged that the meetings were not organised appropriately. Another member (Sree) asked why the sub-committee was not changed if it was not effective. President advised the issue was raised at many committee meetings and promises were made by the sub-committee to complete the task, however it was not completed. Another member (Charles) stated that it was disappointing to see the task was not completed. He added that if a sub-committee can't do a task, it should inform the management committee in time and allow the task be given to others. Another member (Jeeva) asked how would the new sub-committee benefit from the lessons learnt if they are not made known. President advised that there was some misunderstanding by some members on how sub-committees should function, especially on reporting and being accountable to the management committee.

After considering the views expressed by the members and the motion 1 was adopted, with amendments incorporating timeframe and reporting arrangements to the general membership as:

“The New Management Committee to review and amend the current constitution of the association. The amended constitution draft to be presented to the members through a HCPPA-NSW Minutes of AGM 2019



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Special general Meeting (SGM) by 30 June 2020 and 3-monthly progress needs to be presented to members”

6. Motion 2: Application for Deductable Gift Recipient (DGR) Status

The President tabled the motion 2 and after listening to the views of the members it was agreed to explore further on the possibility of obtaining the status of DGR to the association and motion 2 was amended as

“The new Management explores the possibility of obtaining DGR status for the Association and advise the members on the pros and cons of obtaining such status at the SGM to be convened to discuss the constitution amendment as referred in Motion 1”



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7. Motion 3: DGR Status and Opening New Bank Account

The floor agreed to open a new bank account to use for eligible transactions once the DGR status is obtained. Depending on the outcome of the application of DGR status, the new bank account will be opened.

8. Appointment of Auditor 2019/20

The current Auditor Mr S Ratnasigam was proposed by Mr Yoganathan Sivanathan and seconded by Mr Thinesh Fredrick.

Mr S Ratnasingam agreed to function as the Auditor for 2019/20

9. Election of the New Management Committee:

The President requested whether he could bring forward the agenda item "Election of the New Management Committee" and it was agreed to have Any Other Business as the last item of agenda

The President thanked all members of the outgoing management committee and the general members for the support given during the last term.

The President dissolved the current committee and requested to elect a person to function as the Returning Officer to conduct the Election.

The members unanimously nominated Mr N Karunakaran as the Returning Officer and Mr K Kaneshalingam agreed to assist the Returning Officer to conduct the election.

The Secretary who received the nominations for all vacant positions before 2pm on the day of AGM handed over them to the Returning Officer.

There was discussion, expressing different views, particularly whether new nominations can be received at this stage, as the constitution of HCPPA-NSW is not clear on this matter.

After hearing the varied views expressed by many members, it was agreed only to consider the nominations received before 2pm on that day by the Secretary.

There was no contest for any vacant position of the management committee and details of the new management committee as indicated below

President: Mr. S Kathirkamanathan

Proposed by: Mr.S Ragavan Seconded by : Mr.K Selvarajah

HCPPA-NSW Minutes of AGM 2019



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Vice President: Mr.A.Srikumar

Proposed by: Mr.S Kathirgamanathan **Seconded by:** Mr.S.Ragavan

Secretary: Mr. S.Ragavan



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Proposed by:	Mr.S.Kathirgamanathan	Seconded by: Mr.A.Srikumar
Joint Secretary:	Mr.K Selvarajah	
Proposed by:	Mr.S.Kathirgamanathan	Seconded by: Mr.S.Ragavan
Treasurer:	Mr.K.Yoganathan	
Proposed by:	Mr.S Kathirgamanathan	Seconded by: Mr.A Srikumar
Editor:	Mr.S.Kananathan	
Proposed by:	Mr.S. Mr.A.Srikumar	Seconded by: Mr.S.Kathirgamanathan
Social Secretary:	Mr.S.Nandagopan	
Proposed by:	Mr.S.Kathigamanathan	Seconded by: Mr.J Reginald
Sports Secretary:	Mr.T.Sivasaththy	
Proposed by:	Mr.S.Kathirgamanathan	Seconded by: Mr.S.Ragavan
Committee member 1:	Mr.K. Sivaganesan	
Proposed by:	Mr.S.Kathirgamanathan	Seconded by: A.Srikumar
Committee member 2:	Mr.J.Reginold	
Proposed by:	Mr.S.Kathirgamanathan	Seconded by: Mr.K.Selvarajah
Committee member 3:	Mr. Bala Kuganesan	
Proposed by:	Mr.J.Reginold	Seconded by: Mr.K.Selvarajah
Committee member 4:	Mr. Sivam Rajaram	
Proposed by:	Mr.S.Ragavan	Seconded by: Mr.S.Kathirkamanathan
Committee member 5:	Mr.K.Ratanasabesan	
Proposed by:	Mr.S.Kathirgamanathan	Seconded by: Mr.C.Thinesh
Committee member 6:	Mr. Anchalow Francis Michael	
Proposed by:	Mr.K.Selvarajah	Seconded by: Mr.A.Srikumar



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10. Introduction to the new Management committee and briefing by the President-Elect

The newly elected management committee was introduced to the membership present and the newly elected President took charge of the proceeding of the meeting.

The newly elected President Mr.S.Kathirgamanathan thanked the members for electing the new committee and also thanked outgoing members of the committee for their services during the past year.

11. Any Other Business

Mr K Sritharan raised concern regarding term of the Vice Patrons and he wanted to limit the term of Vice Patrons to 3 years. He requested look into this by the new constitutional Sub committee

Mr P Elango clarified and explained the role of Vice Patrons who are only serving the committee in advisory capacity and they do not get involved in any decision making.

It was agreed that the new management committee needs to look into the role of Vice Patrons and make decisions regarding any changes.

Mr K Sritharan suggested that guidance to Yr12 students back at Hartley be given regarding overseas opportunities.

A member (Kris) asked why some members are scared of elections to select members to the committee.

Outgoing president requested members to give appropriate respect to the management committee and its members in their dealings. He advised that during the term of the previous committee, two members accused him through separate emails without any substantiation. He further added that he was even considering legal action against the two members. He wished the new president and other committee members not to go through such pain. Another member (Charles) suggested members respect all and requested no silly emails from anyone.

Mr Karunakaran advised that timing of speeches at dinner nights need to be carefully considered. He added that at the last dinner night, when speeches were made people not listening and it was very noisy.

The meeting concluded at 430pm



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President – HCPPA-NSW

Secretary – HCPPA-NSW

Annex-1: Audited Financial Report for the financial year 2018/2019

Annex-2: Presentation Made by the President