



# FIRBANK OLD GRAMMARIANS' ASSOCIATION ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2022

## MINUTES

**Date:** Tuesday 7 June 2022, 6pm

**Venue:** Hindley House Library, Firbank Grammar School

**1. Welcome**

Amanda Webster, Diana Cudmore, Vanessa Davie, Kate Dema, Marg Desmyth, Belinda Evans, Ayles Llewellyn, Fiona Longmire, Pam Hammond, Melissa McLean, Jennine Ross, Pat Phair, Natalie Susic

**Apologies**

Patsy Turner, Jenny Williams, Margaret Arblaster, Victoria Breidahl, Suzy Cato-Gashler, Cheryll Symons, Steffie Wallace, Sue Wheeler

**Apologies and Proxies received from the following members**

Melinda Chaponnel, Ann Connell, Annabelle Davie, Lucy Davie, Rosie Dema, Felicity Gould, Anna Grace, Wendy Grant, Lyn Journeaux, Johanna Moffat, Edwina Muir, Sue Muir, Michelle O'Brien, Bree Ramanauskas, Colleen Reddin, Georgia Thomson, Bridget Tomkins, Millicent White

**2. Minutes of 2021 Annual General Meeting**

(copy previously circulated to all members)

Moved: Amanda Webster

Seconded: Marg Desmyth

**3. Matters arising from the minutes**

No matters arising from the 2021 minutes

**4. Guest speaker: Ayles Llewellyn Deputy Head of Senior School at Firbank.**

Ayles spoke on the Wellbeing program at Firbank and how the school community has been supported through Covid in particular. Many dimensions to the Wellbeing program, including:

Student wellbeing support – School psychologist and counsellors and wellbeing leaders at each level, mentors per house at each year level, international and indigenous students

Guest speakers topical and emerging issuers. e.g. Susan McLean last year on cyber security, safety online

Year level and house activities, Years 7-12 sister groups student, mentoring

Transition program at year 7, Careers and pathways Years 9 – 12

Personal development curriculum, Turning into teens workshops

School TV; inclusivity workshops, combined events with BGS – school productions, swap day; community based projects – eg RCD

Student wellbeing check-in – 60 secs each week, 5 questions, provides great information how we can help students; very holistic approach

18 certified staff in MHFA (mental health first aid)

### **Treasurer's Report**

(report as attached)

Income predominantly from membership fees, up slightly on previous year.

No fundraising during the year due to Covid

Expenditure – ordered 2 years of Year 12 valedictory necklaces \$3,796

\$5,000 donation to Pay it Forward scholarship

2 issues of VINCIT \$ 393.75

Moved : Vanessa Davie

Seconded: Kate Dema

Amanda proposed a vote of thanks, to Vanessa who is retiring from the position

### **5. President's Report – Amanda Webster**

2022 began with a sense of optimism and anticipation. After a challenging couple of years, we are looking forward to reconnecting and building relationships with our community of past students. Connection and engagement with our past students are part of one of the Four pillars at Firbank, '*Building a strong Community*': One that is highly engaged with a culture of inclusion, empathy and action. Through FOGA, our past students are able to retain friendships, be part of our established network and keep up to date with the latest events and developments at Firbank.

In November, we welcomed our newest members from the class of 2021 at the Valedictory service and dinner held again under marquees on the oval, it was a wonderful night of celebration where the girls were able to reflect on their journey at Firbank and celebrate with their parents and staff. These girls achieved wonderful results and worked so hard through the challenging two years of their VCE, they are to be congratulated on so many levels, for their resilience, positivity and making the most of all opportunities that came their way. We look forward to hearing of their journeys over the coming years and seeing them back at their reunions.

Our Archive Collection has continued to grow and has settled into its new home in Middle Crescent. We have received some wonderful donations over the year of past uniforms, letters, diaries and photographs. Melissa McLean has led a small

team of volunteers who managed to meet in between lockdowns. If you have anything you could add to our collection or could possibly help as a volunteer, please let us know.

We were saddened to hear of the death Merrin James (1970) in June. Merrin had been a member of the FOGA committee for a number of years and always brought wise counsel to our meetings and was so supportive of all our endeavours. Merrin so thoughtfully left FOGA a generous Bequest and the committee made the decision to use this bequest to establish the Merrin James FOGA Fellowship, an annual program to support the professional development of past students. Merrin was instrumental in the development of this program along with the current committee. The Fellowship will provide the successful applicant with up to \$5,000 to assist them in undertaking either professional development, research, or a specific project of further study in their chosen field. Applications will be open on July 1 with the successful candidate announced on 30 September 2022.

Over the past 12 months the committee have been updating the rules of the Association. This has been a long and involved process, the final draft is currently with a solicitor and once it has been approved by the Firbank Board, we will hold an extraordinary general meeting.

We are also in negotiation with a company to launch our own Firbank Old Grammarians website, this will give us the opportunities to reach out more efficiently to our members, establish a business directory, create networking opportunities and our members will be able to update their details their own time.

Firbank offers all past students the waiver of the \$200 application fee upon enrolment of their son or daughter at Firbank. Currently, we have 12% of students whose mothers or grandmothers attended Firbank. A photograph of all these students will be published in the Green Gold and White

I am so appreciative to be surrounded by strong, successful and incredibly dedicated Firbank women who make up the FOGA committee: Melissa McLean, Vanessa Davie, Margaret Arblaster, Diana Cudmore, Kate Dema, Marg Desmyth, Natalie Susic and Fiona Longmire. I want to make mention of Margaret Arblaster who is retiring from the Committee. Marg has been Treasurer and also editor for our online newsletter. Marg has always given selflessly of her time on the committee, was assiduous in her role as treasurer and was the driving force in establishing VINCIT. We will certainly miss Marg and her advice and knowledge.

I would also like to thank the Principal Jenny Williams, Scott Feehan CFO, Maddison Grange, Events Manager, All in Accounts Department, Wendy Gray and

Bree Ramanauskas in Reception for all their support.

**6. General Business**

Acknowledgement of the passing of members:

Janet Wright (Carson) 1954, Patsie Fox 1961, Heather Phiddian 1950, Judith Hood (Farrell) 1952, Verna Drummond (Wood) 1946, Margaret McGregor 1951, Shirley Lewis (Hodgers) 1952, Merrin James 1970, Rosemary Nelson (Moore) 1949, Roslyn Clifford (McDonald) 1951, Beverley Dunn 1950, Pauline Fock (Burford) 1953, Patricia Humphris (Prosser) 1948, Nola Cuthbertson (Revill) 1947, Julie Huggard (Turner) 1948, Judith Smith (Skeat) 1945. Trish Roberts (Robinson) 1969, Ann Roberts (Monotti) 1966, Jenny Moran (Weight) 1959. Denise Dawson (White) 1948 Pamela Martin (Dickie) 1941

**7. Ms Jennine Ross chaired the election of the 2022 / 2023 FOGA Committee**

**President** - No nominations for President – Amanda Webster has kindly agreed to continue acting in the role

The following were elected unopposed

**Vice President**            Diana Cudmore

**Treasurer:**

**Secretary:**                Melissa McLean

**General Committee:**

Vanessa Davie

Kate Dema

Margaret Desmyth

Belinda Evans

Fiona Longmire

Natalie Susic

**8. Other Business**

Pam Hammond advised she has been looking at a possible Ramble with the Art Series Hotels, the meeting agreed Pam would look for possible dates in August or September and get back to the committee.

Meeting closed at 6:50pm

Light refreshments were served following the meeting.