



## Housing for the Aged Action Group

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# Annual General Meeting

## Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> November 2009

### 1. Welcome

Doreen Rushby, Chairperson, welcomed those present and gave an overview of HAAG for the year 2008-2009. Doreen reflected on the more favourable financial position HAAG found itself in at the end of 2009. The additional funding was due to our late accountant Bill Crombie who was very much missed by our organisation. His funding proposals were accepted by government which in turn justified an increase of government funding from both Federal and State Governments.

Doreen thanked all the Committee Members for their hard work over the previous year. During the term of the Committee, they had reluctantly accepted the resignation of the elected Treasurer, Maree Bellett, due to ill-health and Sarah Lawrence, Secretary, who also resigned due to ill-health. Committee member Joan Maxwell who had been on the committee for a number of years would not be re-standing. Doreen thanked these three women for their long and dedicated service to HAAG.

Doreen announced she was stepping down from the position of Chair but was willing to accept a nomination for another position.

### Attendance:

Ena Ahern, Patrick Barron, Maree Bellett, Pat Black, April Bragg, Bob Brooks, Kerrie Byrne, Jenny Dale, Amy Duncan, Jeff Fiedler, Lionel Foster, Marian Foster, Molly Hadfield, Esther Harris (Returning Officer), Betty Harrison, Sue Healy, Merrilyn Horne, Shirley Hynes, Sarah Lawrence, Joan Maxwell, Bill McKenzie, Mary Mektartish, Melanie Mills, Ruth Mueller, Ruth Mueller, Sahndra Nelson, Robert Newey, Josephine Pirona, Judith Prosser, Robert Purves, Kevin Redmond, Doreen Rushby, Dalene Salisbury, Ali Sallehpour, Wyn Stenton, Frances Swann, Richard Tate, Joannah Tierney, Kaye Trainor, Judith Wernas, Ah-Geng Yeo,

### **Apologies:**

Wendy Cotton, Heather Wright, Patricia Young, Frank Cook, Margaret O’Callaghan, Mrs Memory, Annette Munroe, Helen Ohlhoff, Phyllis Kelly, Rhonda Black, Anne Sgrò, Irene Carstons, Sarah Morgan.

**2. Approval of the minutes** of the previous Annual General Meeting 9<sup>th</sup> October 2008

**MOTION ONE: to accept the minutes for the AGM held 9th October 2008**

Moved: Molly Hadfield      Seconded: Dalene Salisbury

### **3. Presentation of Annual Report 2008 – 2009**

Doreen summarised the main activities of the year, highlighting in particular the achievement of increased funding for HAAG. Doreen thanked the Committee members and HAAG workers for their support during her time as Chairperson.

#### **3.1 New HAAG workers**

New HAAG workers Melanie Mills and Ena Ahern of the ACHA (Assistance with Care and Housing for the Aged) program and Jenny Dale CAV (Consumer Affairs Victoria) introduced themselves to HAAG members.

**3.2** Ena spoke of the Intake/Referral and Housing Options - a Victoria wide position – which has received over 400 referrals from almost 100 different organisations since the beginning of 2009. These referrals have come from such diverse places as the Magistrates Court, ACAS (Aged Care Assessment Service) officers, CACPs (Community Aged Care Package) case managers, hospital social workers and also HAAG members. Referrals have also come from Centrelink, CAV (Consumer Affairs Victoria), Seniors Information, Councils, Shire Offices and even HACC (Home and Community Care) cleaning ladies.

The Intake/Referral and Housing Options position is part-funded by the Assistance with Care and Housing for the Aged program (ACHA).

#### **3.3 Presentation to Maree Bellett**

Maree has been the Web Woman Extraordinaire of HAAG since 2002. Maree’s computer skills are self-taught and over the years she has documented HAAG stories and activities on the website. HAAG is forever grateful to Maree for her dedication and her input.

April Bragg thanked Maree and presented her with gift of appreciation. The Chairperson thanked Maree very much for her hard work. Maree found this to be an emotional moment and thanked everyone.

Kaye Trainor spoke about the wonderful website set up by Maree seven years ago that she has recently taken over. Kaye spoke highly of the skills Maree had employed and developed in building and maintaining the website. With assistance from Sarah Day of Ross House a new website has been developed which has an easier content management system. Kaye will continue to add information regularly and she encouraged everyone to have a look at the new website.

#### **4. Financial Report 2008 – 2009 and appointment of auditor for 2009 – 2010**

April Bragg presented the financial report, on behalf of Ani Loriente. April said it had been a very traumatic year with the loss of Bill Crombie in June and how difficult financially it had been for HAAG since the loss of Victorian Government Funding more than three years ago (December 2005).

Through Bill's diligence prior to his death, additional funding had come from CAV and the Myer Foundation. These funds had assisted with programs, staffing, resources and improved office space. Unfortunately as this occurred after Bill had passed away he was not able to enjoy the benefits of the increased funding from his proposals and budget planning.

Our new bookkeeper Ani had prepared the financial report however a correction is required in relation to long service leave loading of \$20,000.00 which reads as \$40,000.00. This will be amended for the next committee of management meeting.

It was clarified that funding from the Myer Foundation would be available in two instalments due to the economic downturn.

**MOTION TWO: to accept the 2008 – 2009 financial report**

**Moved** Pat Black

**Seconded** Merrlyn Horne

**MOTION THREE: to appoint Walker Partners as the financial auditor of Housing for the Aged Action Group for 2009 – 2010.**

**Moved** Bob Brooks

**Seconded** Bob Purves

#### **5. Election of Management Committee**

Doreen stood aside to allow Esther Harris from STAR to perform her role of Returning Officer. STAR is an organisation which assists people with

intellectual disabilities. Their office is adjacent to HAAG on the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor. Esther who has worked at STAR for 16 years, thanked HAAG for the honour of being the returning officer for the second time.

**Returning Officer:** Esther Harris had found everything accountable and correct and declared all positions of the Committee of Management vacant.

- Esther declared that she had found all processes regarding the nominations of Office Bearers to be in order and therefore the following nominations stood:

Chairperson:	Dalene Salisbury
Vice Chair:	Wyn Stenton
Secretary:	Doreen Rushby
Treasurer:	Patrick Barron
Public Officer:	Helen Ohlhoff

- Esther declared that she had found all processes regarding the nominations of Committee members to be in order and therefore the following nominations stood:

Eight nominations for eight Committee Member positions were received: Amy Duncan, Patricia Black, Bob Brooks, Molly Hadfield, Siva Nallaratnam, Bob Newey, Bob Purves, Richard Tate

The new Chairperson Dalene Salisbury took the floor. Dalene appreciated being elected again to a position she had held previously for a few years, and thanked the members for re-electing her.

## **6. Launch of film – ‘Ageing in Place?’**

Jeff launched the new Housing for the Aged Action Group film ‘Ageing in Place?’ which was produced by Dr Peter Phibbs, University of Western Sydney. It is a film that can be used by HAAG to assist in future campaigns.

HAAG members Molly Hadfield, Ken Dixon and Murray Burles were interviewed for the film. Andrew Jones, a researcher in Queensland University for AHURI was also interviewed and he spoke of the plight faced by older people in private rental.

The film reinforces that older people are doing it hardest in private rental. The film, of 12 minutes duration, was screened for the benefit of members at the AGM.

#### **7. Presentation to Molly Hadfield**

The Chair, Dalene, asked Molly Hadfield to leave the room as there was a matter about her to be discussed and voted on.

The Chair spoke of Molly's long association with HAAG and how she has been a member since the start of the organisation. The Committee of Management had expressed a view they wished to nominate Molly for Life Membership to HAAG. As the HAAG Constitution currently had no provision for Life Membership, Helen Ohlhoff had contacted Corporate Affairs for advice. An amendment to the Constitution which has a clause about Life Membership will be brought to a general meeting to advertise the change.

**MOTION FOUR: to grant honorary Life Membership to Molly Hadfield in recognition of her work with Housing for the Aged Action Group**

**Moved** Amy Duncan    **Seconded** by everyone in the room

Chair acknowledged Molly as an amazing person who has mentored many people over a long period of time. An emotional Molly thanked those present. Molly said she never thought 26 years ago that housing would remain an issue which people would be still campaigning for some two decades later. Molly accepted a commemorative award and a bouquet of flowers.

#### **8. Wise Elders Working Group**

Ena spoke about the many housing history stories not documented and that she would like to get an advisory group commenced. Signatures from those people wishing to be involved were encouraged on the special form available at the meeting.

#### **9. Meeting closed**

Chair announced the meeting closed at 2.35pm.

Minutes to be ratified by members at the next Annual General Meeting in October 2010.