

Minutes of General Meeting of I.F.F.R. (Australia) Inc., held at 9am on Sunday 12th October 2008 at the Lakes Resort, Mt. Gambier, South Australia.

1. Attendance.

President Ted Richey plus **26** members, signed the attendance book. In addition, **26** partners and guests also signed the attendance book.

2. Apologies.

Kester & Suzanne Baines
Trevor & Lyn Brown
Laurie & Helen Chapman
John & Judy Turner
Gary & Lea Rickwood
Jack & Nancy Tanner
Elio & Coralie Zambelli
David & Jennifer Riley

Bruce Fanning
David & Lorraine Law
John & Julie Pinel
Annette & Noel Ramage
Ian & Roma Richards
John & Sonya Caddy
Ron & Aylsa Dickinson
James & Christine Drinnan

3. Welcome.

President Ted Richey welcomed all members and guests to the Mt. Gambier General Meeting, and gave a special welcome to those new members attending for the first time. He also welcomed visiting IFFR New Zealand members, Phil Pacey (Australasian Vice President) and Roy Marsden (World Secretary), and Seaford Rotary Club's exchange student Hannah Arvidsson from Sweden.

4. Confirmation of Minutes (Req. 25.2a)

Secretary Mal informed the members that the minutes of the previous General Meeting held at Grafton NSW, at 10am 13th April 2008, and the adjourned meeting held at Golden Beach at 10am 20th April 2008, were posted on the IFFR Australia web site.

In addition, the above minutes were emailed to those with an email address, and posted to those without.

Secretary Mal asked that they be accepted as read, and signed by the President.

Resolved. That the minutes of the General Meetings as described above, be signed by the President and accepted as a true record of proceedings.

Moved - Barrie Aarons Seconded - Alan Grady

5. Reports on Past and Future Fly-Ins

(a) Grafton April 2008

President Ted called on John Berends to report on the Grafton Fly-In. John gave a brief overview of another successful fly-in with great fellowship, and interesting visits to places such as Yamba and Maclean. He informed the meeting that a full report was available on our website. Alan Grady also wished to thank his very good friend, District Governor Denis Green, for his excellent job in organizing our visit.

(b) Proposed April 2009

President Ted reported that the committee had tentatively decided that the April fly-in could be at Newcastle NSW, as opposed to Cessnock, in order to facilitate easier access to those members who relied on public transport to attend.

Subject to confirmation, the dates would be *3/4/5/6th of April 2009, so as to avoid several District Conferences, and to coincide with the visit of the World President Feroz Wadia.

Treasurer Ian Hope agreed to liaise with Steve Jackson to help arrange the visit, and noted that this area included points of interest such as Williamtown RAAF Base and Port Stevens.

Final details would be forwarded to the membership in due course.

(c) Future October 2009

President Ted reported that the committee was investigating Toowoomba QLD as the location, with the possible dates being *2/3/4/5th October 2009. Andrew Mladen and Stow Kentish have agreed to help organize the visit. This area offers such attractions as the Oakey War Birds Museum, and the aftermath of the Carnival of Flowers.

Details will be forwarded to members in the usual manner.

President Ted has asked all members to examine their respective areas, and advise him of possible venues for future Fly Ins, which offer easy access to Regular Public Transport.

6. Constitution

Immediate Past President Trevor Steel had previously suggested that the Executive Committee consider an amendment to the constitution, to allow for a reduction in the number of members required to form a quorum at future Annual General Meetings.

This proposed action is a direct result of the situation the club experienced in Grafton, where a quorum was not present, and resulted in the need to adjourn the meeting.

The committee has decided to delay such action at this time, due to the fact that this problem has rarely occurred in the past.

However, should the membership decline further, this idea may have to be revisited in the future.

7. Reports

(a) President's Report

President Ted reported on the ongoing safety issues in relation to the loss of life at previous, Rotary arranged, Fly-Arounds, following regular Fly Ins and conferences conducted around the world.

President Ted informed the meeting that a committee has now been formed to examine all aspect of such activities, and that he is the Chairman of this committee.

During a recent meeting in New Zealand, it has emerged that certain members of the International body intended to recommend, at the next International AGM, to ban fly-rounds, and limit the format of future IFFR flying events.

Roy Marsden noted that countries such as America, Scandinavia, United Kingdom, Benelux and New Zealand, had voiced their opposition to these proposals, and it was important that the Australian section should formally circulate it's opinion on this matter.

Following extensive discussion, and submissions from several members including, Earn Dawes (Past IFFR International President), Brian Condon (Past IFFR international President), and Alan Grady (Past President), It was decided that IFFR (Aust) Inc. would join the above countries In voicing it's opposition to such proposals.

Resolved. That IFFR (Aust) Inc. is not in favour of attempts to limit the format of IFFR flying events, or the banning of future fly-rounds, and that we should formally circulate such a resolution to the safety committee, and the International body prior to the next International AGM.

Moved Brian Condon

Seconded Earn Dawes

(b) Secretary's Report

Secretary Mal thanked those members who had taken the opportunity to produce their own uniform for use at our fly-ins.

By using the embroidery pattern emailed to members following the Grafton meeting.

The IFFR logo can be used on your favourite hat, jacket, or shirt.

The Secretary agreed to send the information again to all members in time for the next fly-in.

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(c) Treasurer's Report

Treasurer Ian Hope reported that the Executive Committee had previously agreed to increase the existing term deposit to \$30,000 (thirty thousand Dollars), in order to take advantage of the higher interest rate available.

Treasurer Ian informed the meeting that the Executive Committee had agreed to include John Berends as a signatory on the IFFR (Aust.) Inc. bank account, for the purpose of convenience.

(d) Bulletin Editor/Web Site Manager Report

Andrew Mladen reported that some members had asked if the web site could be used to inform members of internal news relating to; members activities and health etc.

Andrew said that he would be only too happy to update the site regularly, however he required regular input from the membership in order to do so. He therefore encouraged everyone to contact him with any information they felt would be of interest to the members.

Andrew also agreed to collaborate with Mike Scarce, with a view to producing a printed club newsletter.

7. Other Business

(a) Alan Grady asked the members to support the Rotary Health Fund's upcoming 2009 Bike Ride, and invited anyone requiring details to contact him.

(b) President Ted Richey presented Immediate Past President Trevor Steel with a gift in appreciation of his contribution to IFFR (Aust) Inc, as our 2006-2008 President.

(c) Bruce Davis spoke of the recent loss of our friend and fellow flying Rotarian, Ron Davies.

Bruce expressed the need for the membership to be kept informed of the health, and wellbeing, of members and their families who might be doing it tough, and could maybe use a boost from their IFFR friends.

To this end, Bruce volunteered to become our welfare officer, and asked everyone to contact him with any information regarding member welfare.

Other Business cont.

*(d) Secretary Mal spoke of the issue raised by several participants of this fly-in, and in fact, many other fly-ins in recent years, with regard to finding ways of increasing the time available for fellowship at our bi-annual fly-ins. Your committee has already tried to address this issue by moving the first Executive meeting to Friday night, and trying to shorten the Sunday meetings where possible.

However, there are many members who are in favor of extending the fly-in to include Monday, this would allow us to organize a Sunday lunch, and afternoon activities, as well as enjoying a Sunday night fellowship dinner similar to Friday night.

This format would allow members to depart at their leisure on the Monday, or still enjoy some further fellowship at the airport if they wish.

With the agreement of those present, it was decided to trial this format at our next fly-in in April 2009 to Newcastle, and asked Ian Hope to inform Steve Jackson of this change.

President Ted thanked all who attended the Mt Gambier fly-in, and gave a special thankyou to Barrie Aarons and Graeme Bond for their help in organizing the weekend's events.

There being no further business, President Ted closed the meeting at 10.45am.

Ted Richey

President

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