

President: Steve Bullock brief outline, not standing again, time for new blood
Dance: Jane Bullock thanks to many for keeping Dance going
Webmaster: Michael Hassett reports much work on website; S Bullock continue to assist reshaping site and Fireside Fiddlers and newsletter archives; credit card access provided; mail spam issues mentioned; B Desailly warned problems with Paypal security, can't cancel a transaction
Sessions: 38 Sessions over year; 4th week All-in going well, some interesting 5th week theme nights held, other weeks going well; ISP email services have caused headaches; Zoom access still popular though in Oct. the Committee agreed to review continuation after six month trial stat collection. It may be necessary to rationalise due to the heavy work involved. Much appreciation to web team, Bill Buttler, and all conveners. D. Fraser wishes to take a break after 10 years, other roles taking up too much time.
Concerts: Concerts progressing well; problems with audibility at some Concerts this year, much discussion re a solution, a survey of members held, results on website, a successful trial was held in May, assessing results and trialing to continue
Membership: stats presented; P Read mentioned age profile
Publications: storage at Fort Knox discussed; possible scanning of Collectors Choice
Billabong Band: numerous bookings at aged care facilities picking up from none before, may do a gig for little kids, big thanks to all who participate
Newsletter: Maggie Somerville thanked all for their contributions

Moved that all reports be accepted

Moved: Colin McLaren

Seconded: Maree Buttler

Carried

5(b) Treasurer's Report:

Six page report distributed, also folder of all invoices, receipts, records available for viewing.

Don Fraser reports checked by accountant, satisfied our report presents fairly the financial position of the Club and of its performance and cash flows for the year, the Club is able to pay its bills. No outstanding issues, all bills paid in a timely manner.

The total cash balance at SOFY 1/4/22 in the Trading account and the two Term deposits was \$60,614, while at EOFY 31/3/23 it was \$59,822, this is a cash deficit of -\$792 for the year.

Attendances for most events have been slow to recover after Covid issues, and with no clear signal all is well there appears to be a general caution in venturing out.

Hall rents take a good proportion of admissions collected, continuing low interest rates on the two Term Deposits the Club has resulted in little income there, although rising rates have recently started to look more attractive again.

A Cashbook and Statement report is given to the Committee each month for their perusal, showing all transactions, matched against bank statements. These are available on the website and in a folder for viewing.

A summary of nets distributed shows surplus or loss on individual activities. Treasurer pointed out all Club expenses including insurance, accountant, fees and charges are

amortised over income generated by the activities, member fees, donations etc. in addition to activity costs.

Depreciation to stock and equipment will vary from banking transactions a little but will be close. Due to reserves in the bank the Club has weathered the Covid issue well, and if attendances recover the deficit should decrease in time.

In the interests of keeping the Club a relatively economical and good value organisation the Treasurer does not recommend an increase in membership fees at this point. Hopefully this will help growth in membership along with the ease in joining and paying admissions etc. Much appreciation to the efforts of the web team for setting up Humanitix, Square etc.

Don Fraser, Treasurer.

Moved that the Treasurer's report be accepted

Moved Don Fraser Seconded: Peter Read Carried

6. Election of committee members :

All Current Committee members vacated their positions

Colin McLaren stepped in to chair the meeting and call for nominations

Colin McLaren thanked the previous Committee then called for election of office bearers.

For:	Proposed by:	Nominee:	Seconded:	Accepts:
President	Colin McLaren	Mike Hassett	Robyn Hammond	yes
Vice Pres	Maree Buttler	Bill Buttler	Trevor Voake	yes
Secretary	Maggie Somerville	Robyn Hammond	Mike Hassett	yes
Treasurer	Michael Hassett	Don Fraser	Chris Graham	yes

New President Mike Hassett took over chairing the meeting.

Ordinary Memb.	Maree Buttler	M. Somerville	Trevor Voake	yes
	Maree Buttler	Colin McLaren	Robyn Hammond	yes
	Maggie Somerville	Trevor Voake	Mary Fraser	yes
	Maggie Somerville	Maree Buttler	Robyn Hammond	yes
	Maree Buttler	Peter Read	Maggie Somerville	yes
	Colin McLaren	Peter Kernebone	Maree Buttler	yes

Appointment of positions:

Remains basically as for the previous year

Membership	Trevor Voake	
Concerts	Maree Buttler	another year
Newsletter	Maggie Somerville	
Publicity	Don Fraser	can't do Dance
Sessions	Don Fraser	vacating

Dance
Billabong Band
Website

Bill Buttler
Trevor Voake, Margie Voake
Steve Bullock
Mike Hassett
Bill Buttler
Peter Read
Jane Bullock, Maree Buttler, Don Fraser

Youth Outreach
WattleDay
Highland Games
Library
Auditor

7. Annual subscriptions for the coming year:

After discussion it is agreed subscriptions for the coming year remain as is.

Moved: Colin McLaren Seconded: Steve Bullock **Carried**

Note: Some admission charges to events may be reviewed in future.

8. Date for Payment of Annual Subscriptions

After discussion it was agreed that the due date for payment of subscriptions be 1st April

Moved: Colin McLaren Seconded: Steve Bullock **Carried**

9. Special Resolution re updating the Constitution:

Mike Hassett explained the background to the 2022 motion to update the Constitution to allow proxies at future AGMs. That motion was carried with the Committee also agreeing that a full review of the whole Constitution was in order to fix some other obvious ambiguities and weak points. A four person sub-committee was appointed during the year to do this (D Fraser, D Martin, M Hassett, C McLaren) and submit findings to the Committee for inclusion in this proposed **2023 AGM** update.

The review sub-committee met a number of times during the year and recommendations were made and sought to and from the main Committee.

Colin McLaren summarised the main proposed updates subsequent to the adoption of the current constitution at the 2022 AGM:

- The 2022 amendments inadvertently deleted the prohibition of proxy voting at committee meetings. This new draft reinstates the rule that proxy voting is not allowed at committee meetings.
- Deletion of the reference to family membership in the constitution. Rather those provisions should be covered in 'Club Rules' as made by the committee (following point and Item 10(a) refers).
- Make and promulgate a list of Club rules, observance of which is part of becoming a member;
- If membership fell to less than eight members, a Special General Meeting should be convened to determine the club's future. If the membership fell below five, the Club would have be wound up, as was always the case.
- The most obvious inclusion was that a proxy signer must give specific instructions on a matter and not just a submit a blank form with a signature;
- Disposal of assets if the Club was to be wound up. Previously they would be distributed

to a like minded organisation, maybe this is not appropriate these days with VFMC assets reasonably healthy but most other folk clubs in general decline.

- members be given two week's notice of the deadline for submission of items for General Business at AGMs.
- Ability of members to inspect the membership register be limited to just members' names.

Motion that the the amended 2023 Constitution be accepted,

Moved: Colin McLaren Seconded: Chris Graham

20 in favour, 5 abstained, nil proxies against.

Carried

10. Other Business. Resolutions Submitted By Colin McLaren:

(A simple majority in favour is required to be carried)

10a CLUB RULES

Motion

“That the Victorian Folk Music Club make available to all members a list of current Club Rules which exist in addition to the Club’s Constitution”.

Rational for motion

Over the years, in addition to the Club’s Constitution, the Club has introduced a number of Club (or local) Rules which are not widely known by the majority of Club members. As all Club members are required to abide by the Club’s Rules, it is imperative that these rules be made readily available to members to ensure compliance. A benefit of having Club Rules is that they can be amended from time to time without the legal requirements and associated expense involved in amending the Club’ Constitution.

Moved: Colin McLaren Seconded: Chris Graham

After discussion, the motion was amended to read:

“That the Victorian Folk Music Club document and make available to all members a list of current Club Rules which exist in addition to the Club’s Constitution”.

Result of vote: **Carried**

10b AMPLIFICATION

Motion

“That the Victorian Folk Music Club permits and provides amplification for performers and comperes at Club concerts”.

Rational for motion

Over recent months, complaints have been received from Concert patrons regarding their inability to properly hear and appreciate artists' performances and narrations. This problem could be caused by a number of factors including an ageing audience whose hearing has become less acute, the acoustics of the venue, the inability of performers to effectively project their voice, instrumental accompaniment masking vocals etc. Most performers are now accustomed to using amplification and the provision of same could attract new and talented performers who have been reluctant to perform at Club concerts because of the current amplification prohibition. As new artists would have their own following of fans/ supporters, the engagement of same could well result in increased audiences as well as an increased awareness of the Club. Failure to provide audience satisfaction could prove to be detrimental to the Club.

Moved: Colin McLaren Seconded: Chris Graham
Lengthy discussion then ensued.

Bill Buttler explained much work has already been done on this topic in response to comments from Concert patrons re hearing difficulties; a survey was arranged at the May Concert; options were discussed; light amplification was tested in June; results were positive; Bill proposes trialling and monitoring continue.

The motion was amended with Colin's consent to read:
"That the Victorian Folk Music Club permits and provides voice amplification for performers and comperes at Club concerts"

Proxies **in favour** of all motions - 9

Proxies allowing discretion - 2 (discretionary vote given to T Voake **cast against**.
Discretionary vote given to M Buttler **cast against**.)
Proxies **against** - 2 (Tomlin and Williams)
Total proxies against 10(b) = 4

Result of vote:

For		Against	
On line plus zoom	7	On line plus zoom	14
Proxy	9	Proxy	4
Total	16	Total	18

Result of vote **Defeated**

10c ZOOM FACILITIES

Motion

"That at least one of the Victorian Folk Music Club's "Round Robin" session be held without the provision of Zoom facilities".

Rational for motion

Whilst in the past, "Round Robin" sessions provided an opportunity for members to both perform and appreciate the performances of fellow members in a pleasant and friendly atmosphere, the projection of song lyrics and scores onto a wall has become a dominant and detracting factor, making these sessions less pleasurable, and resulting in several

longstanding and talented members ceasing to attend The Club recently discontinued Zoom facilities at its “All-In” sessions.

Moved: Colin McLaren Seconded: Chris Graham

Discussion ensued, during which the proposal in Bruce Watson’s Proxy form was noted. The proposal is that the words “except in extraordinary circumstances” be added to the motion.

Proposed amendment: Add the words “except in exceptional circumstances” to the original motion.

Moved T Voake (as proxy for Bruce Watson) Seconded Bill Buttler. **Carried**

Amended motion:

“That at least one of the Victorian Folk Music Club’s “Round Robin” session be held without the provision of Zoom facilities except in exceptional circumstances”.

Result of vote:

For		Against	
On line plus zoom	12	On line plus zoom	9
Proxy	11	Proxy	0
Total	23	Total	9

Allocation of the two discretionary proxies unknown, but would not affect result.

Result of vote **Carried**

Meeting Closed:

Attachment 1

Proxy details

Proxy giver	Given to (Proxy holder)	Instructions
Keith McKenry	T Voake	proxy holder discretion
K Cottrill	M Buttler	proxy holder discretion
Dympna Beard	C McLaren	vote in favour of all motions
Fred Sanstrom	C McLaren	vote in favour of all motions
Dieter Imberger	C McLaren	vote in favour of all motions
Therese Virtue	M Hassett	vote in favour of all motions
Salina Goldsmith	T Voake	vote in favour of all motions
Tony Kelly	M Buttler	vote in favour of all motions
Alex Ruschanow	T Voake	vote in favour of all motions
Bruce Watson	T Voake	vote in favour of all motions. proviso suggested re item 10(c) that zoom may be reinstated in exceptional circumstances
Jill Watson	T Voake	vote in favour of all motions
John Tomlin	T Voake	Against 10b, otherwise in favour of all
Trish Williams	T Voake	Against 10b, otherwise in favour of all
Steve Bullock	Present in person on zoom	N/A
Jane Bullock	Present in person on zoom	N/A