

**Hackett Community Association
Annual General Meeting
20 October 2014
ACT Sports House, Hackett**

Attendance: as recorded in the General Meeting Attendance book

Greg opened the meeting and thanked everyone for attending.

Capital Metro – Ben Smith

Greg introduced Mr Ben Smith, from Capital Metro, who spoke about planning for light rail in Canberra. Mr Smith covered a number of points, which were also explored in questions, including:

- Stage 1 will be a High capacity, high frequency line, from Gungahlin to City and will have 13-15 stops, including stops at Phillip Ave, Swinden Street and Macarthur Ave
- People will be able to cross the tracks using lights _ it will be an embedded track _ a smooth surface to walk over
- There is a lot of support for extending the line, especially to Russell
- Trees will need to be removed. Due to irrigation, the current trees have shallow roots. In 2010 there were 800 healthy trees, but recently only 400. New trees will be planted, with leaf mass high up - so enabling good visibility.
- There will be provision for parking, including new Park and Rides facilities, possibly at Dickson. There will be provision for bikes in some cases _ but seating should get priority
- While the cost of the new infrastructure will be high, it needs to be compared with the hidden costs of cars, including the costs of roads and the costs to residents of second cars. We also need to consider the issues in the context of what kind of city do we want.

Minutes: Minutes of the 2013 AGM were accepted (Greg/Kate)

Treasurer's report. Terry reported that the financial situation of the Association has improved over the last year. We had a balance of \$2019.29 at the beginning of the year and \$3081.36 at the end of the year. Terry reported that this improved position was partly due to Greg's hard work in getting sponsorship for the Hackett parties and also due to the increase in the number of members. Terry noted that we may need to think about purchasing a PA system if we are going to continue to host parties regularly. The report was accepted (Greg and Len)

Chairs report. Greg reported that it had been a very active year:

- The website continued to be developed and has been progressively taken up. There are now 130 newsletter subscribers
- The toilet at the shops didn't happen. It was put on hold and now there is no money. We are now, however, top of the priority list
- The table and chairs at the shops are now in place
- As a direct result of lobbying we now have a bus shelter at the shops.
- The Party at the Shops was successful, but in future we need to avoid the clash with Canberra Day
- Membership numbers have increased, though we may need to distribute the brochure once again to get a new surge.

Greg flagged that a major priority going forward will be the work on the History of Hackett (the "50 years book")

Greg noted that there had been 10 committee meetings during the year, and thanked the other Committee members.

Election of office bearers

The following people were elected to the Committee:

Chair - James Walker
Deputy Chair and Public Officer _ Greg Haughey
Treasurer Lorraine Mason
Assistant Treasurer - Terry de Luca
Secretary - Bruce Smith
Assistant Secretary - Kay Murphy

General Committee members

Marian Williams
John Carty
Len Crossfield

Election of Life Members: The HCA Committee had nominated Dorothy Mackenzie and Waltraud Pix for life memberships of the Association. Greg spoke to the nominations, talking about the tremendous contributions both Dorothy and Waltraud had made to the Hackett community over the years, both in the HCA and also in other organisations such as Neighbourhood Watch (Dorothy) and Friends of Mt Majura (Waltraud). The nominations were approved by acclamation.

Marian Halligan: Ms Marian Halligan, a writer and resident of Hackett, spoke generally about the experience of being a writer in Canberra. She talked about gardens and about the future of writing in Australia. Marian also spoke about the importance of offering encouragement and support to young writers. She read extracts from her novel *The Taste of Memory*, and elaborated on her description of suburbia (including Hackett) as “republics of pleasure”.