



THE NATIONAL COUNCIL OF THE YOUNG MEN'S CHRISTIAN ASSOCIATIONS OF AUSTRALIA

98th Annual General Meeting

Held on

Crowne Plaza, Bridge Room 2, 1-5 Spencer Street, Melbourne

Sunday, 29th November 2015

11.00am - 12.43pm

DRAFT MINUTES
(Subject to confirmation)

1. OPENING & ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

The President, Andrew Smith, declared the meeting open at 11.00am.

He acknowledged the traditional owners of the land both past and present.

He also acknowledged those Life Governors who were present, Richard Edwards, Caz Bosch and Ross Melville, Presidents and CEOs, fellow National Board members and YMCA Australia staff, for their attendance.

PRESENT

Name	Association	Name	Association
Alan Ellis	Bendigo	Haydn Robins	SA
Peter Malone	Bendigo/ YMCA Australia	Purdey Eades	Top End/ YMCA Australia
Jane Robson	Bendigo	Grant Fenton	Top End
Alan Bray	Brisbane	Tyaan Tuckey	Top End
Daniel Cheverton	Brisbane/ YMCA Australia	Michelle Bruggeman	Victoria
Richard Edwards	Brisbane/Life Governor	Peter Burns	Victoria
Ross Peddlesden	Bundaberg	Stephen Ellich	Victoria
Jenny McCombe	Canberra	Anthea Hancocks	Victoria
Diana Gallo	Central Australia	Anthony Neal	Victoria
Linda Robertson	Central Australia	Ross Kyrwood	WA
Irena Krzton	Central Australia	Anna Lee-Rennick	WA
Bruce Harris	Eastern Goldfields/ YMCA Australia	Glyn Davies	Whittlesea
Simon Boer	Geelong	Boh-Lee Mook	Whittlesea
Shona Eland	Geelong	Deborah Patterson	Whittlesea/ YMCA Australia
Phil Butler	Hobart	Stephen Bendle	YMCA Australia

Name	Association	Name	Association
John Stewart	Grampians (Ararat)	Olivia Brown	YMCA Australia
Colin Thompson	Grampians (Ararat)	Allison Carr	YMCA Australia
Ross Melville	Life Governor	Melinda Crole	YMCA Australia
Adam Hawken	Manningham	Maree Davidson	YMCA Australia
Christopher Lewis	Manningham/ YMCA Australia	Charlie Heywood	YMCA Australia
Julian Yule	Manningham	Dianne McDonald	YMCA Australia
Jenni Hutchins	NSW	Ron Mell	YMCA Australia
Marg Lennon	NSW	Alan Morton	YMCA Australia
Sue Whelan OAM	Queanbeyan	Jenny Rex	YMCA Australia
Caz Bosch	SA	Andrew Smith	YMCA Australia
Robert Prime	SA	Jacki Whitwell	YMCA Australia
Michelle Roberts	SA		

2. REFLECTION

Anthea Hancocks, President, YMCA Victoria, acknowledged the traditional owners of the land on which the meeting was being held and paid her respects to their elders past and present.

Anthea questioned whether we were a learning organisation, was our thinking strong, clear and shared? She emphasised why it is so important that we encourage and participate in active learning, dialogue and discussion and be open to challenge and new ideas and the importance of making this forum a welcoming place for sharing ideas, knowledge and creativity.

“Enlightened leadership is spiritual if we understand spirituality not as some kind of religious dogma or ideology but as the domain of awareness where we experience values like truth, goodness, beauty, love and compassion. Where we focus on intuition, creativity, insight and focused attention.”

3. PRESIDENT'S REMARKS

The Chair passed over to the Company Secretary for the formalities of the meeting.

4. MEMBERSHIP

Ron Mell – Company Secretary

The Company Secretary advised that there were no Charter or Licences revoked during the year.

5. APOLOGIES

- Ian Howard (Life Governor)
- Robert (Bob) Romanes (Life Governor)
- Brooke LeSueur (Ararat)
- Keryn Crebbin (Ballarat)
- Ian Smyllie (Brisbane)
- Phill Sellwood (Bundaberg)
- Pierre Huetter (Canberra)
- Kate Bibby (Geelong)
- Melissa Carlton (Hobart)
- Tammy Frean (Katherine)

- Jodie Johnson (Launceston)
- Graham Towns (Launceston)
- Leisa Hart (NSW)
- Peta Virgo (Queanbeyan)
- Rosey Harslett (Stanthorpe)
- Steve McEvoy (Stanthorpe)
- David Barrett (Top End)
- Brad Wylynko (WA)

6. GREETINGS

The Chair acknowledged greetings received from Peter Posner (President, World Alliance of YMCAs), Johan Vilhelm Eltvik (Secretary General, World Alliance of YMCAs) and Nam Boon-Won (newly appointed General Secretary, Asia and Pacific Alliance of YMCAs).

7. IN MEMORIAM

The meeting stood silent for a minute to reflect on the contribution of those members listed.

- Michael Jones (Ballarat)
- Murray Wilson (Bendigo/Kangaroo Flat Y Club)
- Stuart Kennedy (Brisbane)
- Ian Frencham (Canberra/Ballarat/Port Pirie)
- Eunice Kornfeld (Canberra)
- Colin Bray (Footscray/Victoria)
- Frank Geradi (Geelong)
- Mark Gordon (Hobart)
- Neil Newling (Canberra/Sydney/Traralgon/
Westlakes - Toronto)

8. MINUTES

8.1 Minutes of the 97th Annual General Meeting

Resolved

That the minutes of the 97th Annual General Meeting held on 30th November 2014 at the Hilton Darwin, 32 Mitchell Street, Darwin, as circulated, be received.

Moved: Glyn Davies

Seconded: Daniel Cheverton

Carried

9. REPORTS

9.1 President's Report

Andrew Smith provided a verbal report to the meeting.

He stated as a Movement we must respond to emerging trends, adapt to meet changing needs and look “over the horizon” to anticipate the ways in which we can serve communities as they evolve and change. Today was about a responsible dialogue about what is best for the YMCA Movement in Australia.

He mentioned that individual Associations would be impacted in different ways by the topics on today's agenda and welcomed input from all Associations to ensure that risks are recognized in relation to Associations both large and small, unintended consequences are avoided and that all work towards co-design solutions that deliver positive outcomes for all Associations.

He then set the context for the day and the strategic framework that we have taken to addressing these important topics including:

- Redress
- The Fit for Purpose Review
- Changes to the Licensing Framework.

In relation to the Fit for Purpose Review Andrew noted:

- The National Board and Reference Group have reached the conclusion that there is a need to ensure the Movement has a fit for purpose operating model to deliver on the strategic objectives of the Movement because:
 - The needs of the communities we serve are changing
 - The NFP sector and markets we operate in are changing
 - There are clear and present threats to the sustainability of our Movement
 - Opportunities abound and we need focus if we are to make the most of these opportunities.
- The risk of doing nothing is greater than the risk of taking action to understand the future.
- Individual Associations will be undertaking this work independently, as they should, but the strength of the Movement is in our ability to take collective action. The Fit for Purpose Review is about taking collective action to secure our future impact.

Financing our strategic priorities

He stated that the National Board was of the view that the redress scheme and the Fit for Purpose projects were priority and appropriate activities to be conducted by the National Office over the past year and in the coming year.

Andrew advised the meeting that in view of the importance placed on these strategic initiatives, the National Board has determined that it will incur these initial 2015/2016 operating costs of the redress scheme and Fit for Purpose projects and views them as an investment and key strategic risk management initiatives for the future of the Movement and of Members.

It is expected that the direct consequence of this decision will be to incur a \$250,000 investment resulting in an approximately \$200,000 reduction in the National Council's capital reserves in 2015/16.

The National Board will undertake work leading up to the 2016 AGM which will:

- Consider the appropriate level of capital reserves that should be held by the National Council of YMCAs.
- Determine, if necessary, how this capital will be recovered and over what timeframe.
- Budgets for the following two years which will consider the conclusions reached above and the manner in which National Office will return to an operating surplus.
- This may require an increase in subscriptions but that matter will be addressed through this work and decided upon by the Members at the AGM.

Resolved

That the President's Report be received.

Moved: **Phil Butler**

Seconded: **Marg Lennon**

Carried

9.2 Finance Report

The Treasurer, Mr Bruce Harris, stated that the Treasurer's Report should be read in conjunction with the audited financial reports, the Directors' Report and the Auditor's Report for the year ended 30 June 2015.

He stated that the new subscription model was providing stability to the operations of the National Office and the office was able to meet its obligations to the Movement. He mentioned that financial investments remained volatile and reserves needed to be increased.

In summary, the 2015 year included:

- The new subscriptions model operated for the full year.
- Financial outcomes were close to the budgeted financial result in 2014/2015, although performance was affected by project costs.
- There was greater enabling and facilitating of shared resources of Associations.
- Staff structure enabled Business Plan goals to be met, with continuing focus on Redress policy, Safeguarding Children & Young People policy and Fit for Purpose project.

The Treasurer thanked the Movement and the National Board for the opportunity to represent them over the past 11 years.

Shona Eland, CEO, YMCA Geelong queried why the Subscriptions figure of \$2,019,198 on page 8 of the AGM agenda papers differed from the amount shown in Note 2 Association Contribution of \$1,858,081 of the Consolidated Financial Statements.

The CEO confirmed that the Subscription list on page 8 were those that were required and billed from 1st July each year. He committed to clarify this issue and advise the Associations accordingly.

Resolved

That the audited financial reports, the Directors' Report and the Auditor's Report for the year ended 30 June 2015 be received and adopted.

That the Treasurer's Report be received.

Moved: **Bruce Harris**

Seconded: **Phil Butler**

Carried

The Chair recognised and expressed his appreciation for the contribution of Bruce Harris as Treasurer to the National Movement for over 11 years.

Appointment of Auditors

Resolved

That BDO be appointed auditors for the year 01/07/2015 – 30/06/2016.

Moved: **Bruce Harris**

Seconded: **Phil Butler**

Carried

9.3 CEO's Report

The CEO, Mr Ron Mell, provided a verbal report. He stated that the community impact report sets out information on the Movement's activities for the year and provides a snapshot of just some of the fantastic programs and work of the Movement.

Some that were either initiated or facilitated by National Office and National Board leadership included:

- The GymBetter promotion with Medibank, where the Movement received national coverage in prime time television and which resulted in increased gym memberships and in participation.
- The YMCA Swimathon, led by Dianne McDonald and which raised over \$340,000.

Major initiatives for 2014-15 included:

- Members' approval and implementation of the National Safeguarding Children and Young People Policy.
- Learning from and contributing to the Royal Commission enquiry as a priority.
- Further development of the Fit for Purpose Review project
- The work on a national approach to redress
- Supporting survivors who have come forward or who have made claims of abuse
- Submissions to government enquiries
- Increased compliance management (including the ACF child protection review and Membership reviews)
- Licensing Framework development
- Communications and social media development

- Further development of the Change Agents project and the successful facilitation of a Youth Empowerment Forum.

Ron talked about leadership at a national level. He spoke of the importance of being able to leverage not only the resources of the Movement but the leadership of the Movement and while providing resources was important, providing leadership, through working collaboratively with YMCA Australia and others is truly leveraging our assets.

He stated that over the year there had been many examples of that including the Property Trust presentation yesterday by Alan Bray, CEO, YMCA Brisbane.

He mentioned that the National Leadership Teams were another example of leveraging the skills and leadership within the Movement. The Governance Leadership team was an example of that distinctly collaborative leadership.

Ron also referred to a note he had received from Jenni Hutchins from YMCA NSW in relation to the Safeguarding Children Leadership Team.

“The Safeguarding Leadership Team has collectively worked on some strong mechanisms to create a National conversation for our approach to safeguarding children. The team’s collective wisdom and passion for children, families and child protection is evident and will stand it in good stead in delivering effective leadership and decision making”. Jenni Hutchins

He thanked and expressed his appreciation to the National Board and staff team at YMCA Australia for their work and leadership to the office and to the Movement.

Resolved

That the CEO’s Report be received.

Moved: Alan Ellis

Seconded: Phil Butler

Carried

9.4 Report on actions from 2014 Convention Statement

The 2014 Convention meeting prepared a statement which was received by the Members at the 2014 AGM.

The President advised that the Movement’s status in meeting the actions set out in the 2014 Convention Statement were included in the AGM papers. (Refer Attachment 9.4 – page 61).

Resolved

That the Movement’s status report on the 2014 Convention Statement be received.

Moved: Marg Lennon

Seconded: Sue Whelan

Carried

9.5 Safeguarding Children and Young People Report

The Chair referred to the Safeguarding Children and Young People Member Report from page 63 of agenda papers which would become the formal record of YMCAs of Australia.

Sue Whelan OAM, President, YMCA Queanbeyan, referred to “Appendix 2 – Status of YMCA accreditation” on page 66 of the agenda papers and stated that it was inaccurate to list YMCA Queanbeyan under YMCAs who are yet to be audited and accredited. Melinda Crole confirmed that YMCA Queanbeyan had previously been accredited and were due for reaccreditation. She advised that the report would be amended to reflect this.

Resolved

That in accordance with the Movement’s Safeguarding Children and Young People (Child Protection) policy, the Safeguarding Children and Young People Report, is received, once amended.

Moved: Sue Whelan

Seconded: Ross Peddlesden

Carried

10. ELECTION OF DIRECTORS

The Chair advised that four nominations had been received for four Directors position which were vacant as a result of retirements or through Directors retiring pursuant to Article 30(c).

The nominees were invited to present to the meeting and as there were four positions vacant and four nominations, an election was deemed unnecessary and the nominations were put to a vote as a block.

Resolved

That Purdey Eades, Stephen Ellich, Peter Malone and Catherine Payze be elected to the Board of Directors of the National Council of YMCAs of Australia.

Moved: Daniel Cheverton

Seconded: Julian Yule

Carried

The Chair congratulated them on their appointment.

11. GENERAL BUSINESS**11.1 National Approach to Redress**

The Chair referred Members to the original motion in Attachment 11.1, 11.1A & 11.1B of the AGM papers.

Resolution 2015-9

That the National Council of YMCAs of Australia adopt the National Approach to Redress Policy as circulated as Attachment 11.1A of this agenda.

That the application of the National Approach to Redress Policy as a Priority One Standard will apply from 1 July 2016.

Prior to this date the following matters must be approved by the Redress and Public Apology Reference Groups and the National Board, following appropriate engagement with the Movement:

- *The communications strategy for redress and the public apology*
- *Redress procedures and protocols*
- *Terms of Reference and formation of the redress panel.*

Further, the Members acknowledge that in order to ensure a consistent approach for survivors and to allow for effective monitoring and testing of the policy leading up to 1 July 2016 that all YMCAs must comply with the policy effective immediately.

Moved: **Phil Butler**
Seconded: **Marg Lennon**

The Chair then invited speakers for the motion.

Simone Boer, YMCA Geelong Board member, stated that their Board had put forward another motion (Draft Resolution 2015-11) which they wished to withdraw. She then spoke against the motion.

Marg Lennon, President, YMCA NSW, spoke in favour of the motion.

Anthea Hancocks, President, YMCA Victoria, spoke against the motion and proposed the following motions:

Proposed Revised Motion from YMCA Victoria
Draft Resolution 2015-9.1

That the National Council of YMCAs of Australia endorses the principles of the National Approach to Redress Policy as circulated as attachment 11.1A of this agenda.

Further, the Members acknowledge the imperative of a consistent, fair approach to responding to the needs of survivors and choose to align with the policy principles effective immediately.

Proposed Revised Motion from YMCA Victoria
Draft Resolution 2015-9.2

That the National Council of YMCAs of Australia requests YMCA Australia to further develop procedures and protocols to support the implementation of the principles of 'National Approach to Redress Policy' for consideration at a General Meeting of the National Council of YMCAs of Australia, to be held not later than 1 July, 2016. The documents to include:

- *the policy*
- *the rationale for the policy becoming a Priority One Standard to apply from 1 July, 2016;*
- *the communications strategy for redress and the public apology; and redress procedures and protocols, including:*
 - *operation of a central payments model, and*
 - *terms of reference for, and the composition and formation of a redress panel.*

Moved: **Anthea Hancocks**
Seconded: **Shona Eland**

The Chair asked for any debate or discussion.

Following further debate on the revised motions the Chair called for a poll to be taken. He advised the meeting that he took from the discussion so far that in the event that the revised motions were lost then it would be taken that the original motion was agreed to.

Mr Richard Edwards was appointed the returning officer for the purpose of overseeing the poll count. Melinda Crole and Jenny Rex were appointed to count the votes.

Upon the counting of the votes, the returning officer advised the meeting that the revised motions were lost:

- 50 “For” the revised motions
- 130 “Against” the revised motions.

The Chair declared that the original motion 2015-9 as put forward in the AGM papers was carried.

Resolution 2015-10

That the National Council of YMCAs of Australia adopt the Central Payments Model, circulated as Attachment 11.1B of this agenda and in doing so:

- *Note the National Board’s decision to put aside up to \$250,000 of its cash reserves.*
- *Agree to a one-off levy of up to \$150,000 in total being applied to Associations once the Fund reserves are reduced to \$100,000. This levy is to be applied in the following financial year and in accordance with the method adopted for subscriptions.*
- *At such time that further funding is required, there will be appropriate engagement with the Movement and a formal resolution put to the National Council for consideration in a General Meeting.*

Moved: **Anna Lee-Renwick**

Seconded: **Phil Butler**

The Chair noted that there was no speaker in favour of the above motion.

Anthea Hancocks, President, YMCA Victoria, spoke against the motion and proposed the following motion:

Proposed Revised Motion from YMCA Victoria

Draft Resolution 2015-10.1

Resolved

- *That the National Council of YMCAs of Australia adopts a model of central payments to support redress for survivors relating to Associations that no longer exist.*
- *That the National Council of YMCAs of Australia notes the National Board’s decision to put aside up to \$250,000 of its cash reserves to fund a central payments model; and its determination that at such time that further funding is required, there will be a formal resolution put to the National Council of YMCAs of Australia for consideration in a General Meeting.*

12. OTHER BUSINESS

12.1 YMCA Australia Awards

Resolved

That the AGM acknowledges the recipients of the following Awards:

- *I.C. Howard/Y Service Clubs International Staff Scholarship Award*
- *Strengthen our Movement – Volunteer of the Year – YMCA WA, Lin Doust*
- *Extend our Reach – Program of Excellence – YMCA WA, Belmont Youth Service*
- *Inspire our People – Staff member of the Year*
- *Green Award of the Year (no nomination was received).*

Carried unanimously

12.2 Other Business

Voting papers

Richard Edwards, Life Governor and scrutineer, requested the destruction of the voting papers from item 11 General Business.

Resolved

That the voting papers from item 11 General Business be destroyed.

Moved: **Daniel Cheverton**

Seconded: **Richard Edwards**

Carried

Acknowledgement

Phil Butler, President, YMCA Hobart, expressed his thanks to the National Office team, particularly to Charlie Heywood for her work leading up to and during the event.

I.C. Howard/Y Service Clubs International Staff Scholarship Award

The CEO confirmed that there was no winner of this award this year.

Caz Bosch, Life Governor, expressed her concern that the number and calibre of applicants had reduced and was perplexed as to why people were not investing in the professional development of themselves or the Movement.

She stated that fellow Life Governor, Ian Howard, who has contributed to this scholarship for many years, would be devastated and encouraged everyone to elevate this award and make a real effort to bring forward the best people possible.

The Chair stated that the National Board would review this to ensure that Ian Howard's contribution to the Movement is honoured in an appropriate way.

The Chair thanked everyone for their attendance and the meeting closed at 12.43pm.

NEXT MEETING – SATURDAY, 26TH NOVEMBER 2016