

THE AUCKLAND MEDICAL HISTORY SOCIETY

Founded in 1964

“for the promotion of an interest in and knowledge of medical history through lectures, discussions, exhibitions and other means”



Building 43
Auckland City Hospital
Park Road, Grafton, Auckland.

Secretary: Mrs Jenny Collins
56A Polygon Road, St Heliers,
Auckland 1071
Mob: 027 867 7599
Email: secretary@amhs.co.nz

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE AUCKLAND MEDICAL HISTORY SOCIETY HELD ON 19 NOVEMBER 2020 IN THE ERNEST AND MARION DAVIS LIBRARY, AUCKLAND CITY HOSPITAL AT 6.30PM

- 1. Present:** John Collins (President), Jenny Collins (Hon. Secretary), Peter Holst (Hon. Treasurer), Neil Anderson, Pat Clarkson, Judy Murphy, Peter Stone, Tom Miller and 60 ordinary members.

The President welcomed members to the final meeting of the AMHS for the year, following a challenging period with Covid-19. He also welcomed the speaker, Chris Farrelly, CEO of the Auckland City Mission, who would be giving his presentation after the AGM.

- 2. Apologies:** Alan Shirley, Bruce Hadden, Peter Rothwell, Cherie Cook, Graeme & Annabell Woodfield, Marilyn Eales, John & Noeline Buchanan, Diane Seddon, Jo Birks, Kevin & Shirley O'Brien, David Caughey, Ross Blair, Bill Sugrue, Tony Hardy, Bev Sorrell and John Simcock.
- 3. Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on 3 October 2019** had previously been circulated. The President proposed the Minutes be accepted as a true record, seconded Margaret Guthrie and this was carried unanimously.
- 4. Matters Arising**
There were no matters arising.
- 5. President's Report**

The President's report had previously been circulated. The President outlined a number of concerns:

- Treasurer's report outlining loss for 2020
- possible impact of Covid-19 in 2021
- declining membership
- unpaid membership fees
- difficulty recruiting new members
- difficulty in find replacements for president and treasurer
- burden of monthly dinners (which are like organising a conference dinner for 60-70 every month)
- serving alcohol for which we do not have a licence
- annual subscriptions not being increased for 15 years.

He referred to the Constitution of the AMHS and read to the meeting the goals of the Society.

The Executive wished to propose the following recommendations to streamline the operation of the Society:

- reduction in frequency of meetings
- cessation of dinners and alcohol
- increase in annual subscription

He said that the Society needs to move forward into the future to ensure its purpose and survival. Judy Murphy and Peter Stone have established a superb website which went live on the 16th November and

he encouraged members to use it. Pat Clarkson has also done a wonderful job in archiving the Society's records.

6. Financial Report

The Treasurer had previously circulated the financial statements. He said that unlike the previous 10 years the Society will end with an operating loss in 2020, and a small surplus in 2021. The expected loss is mainly due to our website development and a reduction in annual membership subscription funds. He said that the Society's finances were threatened from two directions, a predicted fall in interest income and an increase in costs of operating the website. Jean Lawry asked what was planned for the \$60,000 and was there some restriction on that money. He noted that without compromising the named funds (Newman \$23,000 and Gluckman \$6,200), there was \$30,000 of general funds invested which could be used.

The Treasurer moved that: "The AMHS financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2019 be adopted". Seconded Barbara Smith and agreed unanimously.

The Treasurer said that for 2021 there should be a small surplus but from 2022 onwards the Society was looking at a major reduction in investment income.

He proposed that: "For the year ended 2021, the annual subscription levy for a single member be increased to \$50 and the concessionary levy for couples be increased to \$80. There will be no membership levy for students." Seconded John Collins. Carried unanimously.

Peter Stone said that he had been working with Judy Murphy on Phase One of the website. He thanked Pat Clarkson for the work she had been doing on the archives and although these were not yet accessible on the website, it was hoped that they would be available in the future.

7. Election of Officers

John Collins said that after four years as President he was now stepping down. Neil Anderson had agreed to act as President for one year. The other Office Bearers and members of the Executive had signalled they were prepared to stand again for election, and this was put to the members, who agreed unanimously.

8. Website

Judy Murphy gave a presentation on the new website. She had prepared several slides which demonstrated how the website functioned. She said it was user-friendly and encouraged members to access it.

John Collins thanked Judy Murphy and Peter Stone for all the time and effort they had put in to creating the successful website, which he was confident would help with the recruitment of new members.

9. Any other business

John Collins thanked Juliet Hawkins, Curator of the EMDL for her support during the year. He also wished to thank Angela Caughey for her generous donation to the Society, Alice Willison for the donation of the napkins for the past two years, and Margaret Maxwell for the flowers on the tables.

He reminded members of the Memorial Service for Susie Simcock which will be held on Thursday, 26 November 2020 at St Mary's-in-Holy Trinity, Parnell at 2pm.

John Collins said it had been a privilege to serve the Society and that he would like to thank members for their support during his four years as President. He said he had enjoyed the time and hoped members would continue to support the Society.

Peter Stone then moved a vote of thanks to John Collins for the time he had given to the Society over the past four years.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 6.55pm

Jenny Collins
Hon. Secretary
Auckland Medical History Society
23 November 2020