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2023 Annual General Meeting Minutes

Meeting details
6:00 PM Wednesday 28 September 2023
Royal Perth Yacht Club

Item 1: Meeting administration

1.1 Opening and chair of the meeting
The meeting opened at 6:10 PM and was chaired by the President.

1.2 Welcome, attendance and apologies

- Apologies – Michael McLure
- Attendance - David Christmas; Nicky Cusworth; Alan Duncan; Peter Kolf; Anusha Mahendran; Alison Preston; Kristina Primus; John Roberts; Riko Stevens; Michael Windsor; Cassandra Winzar; Yanrui Wu

1.3 Minutes of the previous meeting
Motion: that the minutes of the 2022 Annual General Meeting held on Thursday 20 October 2022 be approved.
Moved: Nicky Cusworth; seconded: Cassandra Winzar; outcome: approved

1.4 Matters arising out of the minutes
There were no matters arising from the minutes of the previous Annual General Meeting .

Item 2: Ratification of WA General Meeting decisions at meetings since the last AGM

As no General Meetings had been held since the 2022 AGM, there were no WA meeting decisions to be ratified.

Item 3: Update on ESAWA activities since the last meeting

The ESAWA President, John Roberts, gave an update on ESAWA activities since the previous Annual General Meeting.

3.1 Presentations and Events
Several presentations and events were held over the past year, including a policy forum for social science week in 2022, a forum on Inflation and the RBA and a presentation by Paul Flateau for the 2023 Social Science Week.

3.2 2023 Australian Conference of Economists
John Roberts and Alison attended the Australian Conference of Economists in Brisbane and reported that the standard of presentations was very good.

3.3 Thanks and acknowledgements

- The President congratulated Alan Duncan on winning the Austin Holmes award and Peter Kolf for receiving life membership of the ESAWA. He also congratulated the young economists awarded student prizes during the year - Oliver Mcgie; Brooke Rego; Holly Parkes; Stephen Galea; Nicholas Johns; Leah Davies; and Louis Richardson.
- The President thanked our administrative support person, Manuela Torgler, the members of the ESAWA Council and leaders of the Young Economists' Network and Women in Economics Network for their work and support over the past year.

Item 4: Financial position

The ESAWA Treasurer, Riko Stevens, gave an update on the financial position.

4.1 Financial Update

- The Society made a surplus of $494 in the 2022-23 financial year, resulting from total income of $8,595 and expenditure of $8,101. Expenditure and particularly income were lower than in 2021-22 because of the impact of the 2021 Australian Conference of Economists, which was held in Perth.
- Total assets increased by $494 to $65,720 over the financial year. The Treasurer plans to move some of these into an interest-bearing account. The Society does not have any significant liabilities, but at the end of the financial year it had a number of creditors with outstanding balances due to problems approving payments. These problems were subsequently resolved, and payments are now up to date.

4.2 Membership and fees

Total membership increased over the year, to 85. Membership fees have not increased since 2019, and the Treasurer proposed an increase of approximately 5% with effect from 1 January 2024, as follows:

Membership	**Current**	**Proposed**
Ordinary	$88.67	$95.00
Student	$33.63	$35.00
Professional	$122.28	$130.00

Motion: that the financial report for 2022-23 and the proposed increase in membership fees from 1 January 2024 be approved

Moved: Riko Stevens; seconded: Alison Preston; outcome: approved

Item 5: WEN Update

The WEN President, Cassandra Winzar, gave an update on activity in 2022-23. WEN held a number of successful events over the year including a gender economics workshop led by Sylvia Salazar, a policy symposium on domestic violence, a meeting of WEM members with MP Kate Chaney, boardroom briefings and university events. It also held successful social events at the end of the 2022 calendar year. WEN is looking to hold presentations in High Schools.

Item 6: YEN Update

The YEN President, Anusha Mahendran, gave an update on activity over the year.

6.1 Events

- YEN organised an event with WA WEN and the Curtin Economics Society in August titled 'Economics- Where Can It Take You' about career opportunities for Economists within the local private and public sectors.
- Following discussion with students, YEN decided to hold 3 Econometric Workshops in October 2023 to assist students with the use of econometric software and provide opportunities to network with people from various career sectors. Given the success of these events, further workshops are planned for 2024.
- YEN will also look to hold an informal 'Meet & Greet/Informal Networking Sundowner' event in 2024 with at the Curtin Uni Tavern in conjunction with CES.

6.2 Online presence

- YEN's Facebook page has almost 200 followers and continues to be a good platform to promote and advertise job, research and training opportunities as well as upcoming initiatives and events for young economists
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Item 7: Election of Office Bearers and Ordinary Council members

This item sough nominations for Office Bearers and Ordinary Council members of the WA Branch. The following nominations were received and were approved by the meeting:

7.1 President – John Roberts
7.2 Vice President – Alison Preston
7.3 Treasurer – Riko Stevens
7.4 Secretary – Nicky Cusworth
7.5 Council Members:

- David Christmas
- Alan Duncan
- Anusha Mahendran
- Yanrui Wu

Item 8: Other Business

There was no other business.

Item 9: Next meeting and meeting close

9.1 The meeting closed at 6:45 PM, followed by a dinner and a presentation delivered by Austin Holmes Prize winner Alan Duncan.

9.2 The next Annual General Meeting must be held before the end of September 2024.