



ECFA

Estonian Cultural Foundation in Australia Ltd.
Eesti Kultuuri Sihtasutus Austraalias

ABN: 50 091 457 911

Chairman: Dr Juho Looveer - (02) 4500 3816 - juho.looveer@gmail.com

Director & Secretary: Ms Ingrid Galloway (née Tartu) - 0419 497 117 - ingrid.galloway@exemail.com.au



ECFA ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

AGM MINUTES

Sunday 5th February 2023

Sydney Estonian House, Surry Hills, Sydney

Note: The previous ECFA AGM was held on Sunday 20th March 2022.

1. MEETING OPENING

The meeting was opened at 11.15am.

The Chairman, Juho Looveer opened the meeting by welcoming the Members.

A minutes silence was observed as a sign of respect for Members who had passed during the year.

Ingrid Galloway (née Tartu), gave the **Acknowledgement to Country**

Mindful of the consequences of past invasions and occupations of Estonia by foreign forces: we begin this meeting by acknowledging the Gadigal people of the Eora Nation, the traditional owners & custodians of the land on which we meet today and pay our respects to Elders past, present and emerging.

Juho Looveer formally thanked Hillar Ranniko for his pro bono project leadership work and contribution to the renovation of Sydney Eesti Maja.

Juho Looveer formally thanked Mart Rampe for his work as the previous Chairman and presented Mart with an ECFA certificate of Life Membership.

ECFA has thirty one (31) current financial Members. A total of Twelve (12) Members were in attendance, which included Eight (8) Board Members and Seven (7) Members; Thirteen (15) Members sent their apologies and Seven (7) of those Members nominated a Proxy.

Apologies

15 Apologies: Director Kristi Barrow; Siiri Ismaa; Kieran Scott; Ella Scott; Indrek Tults; Kate Rampe; Krista Hawkins Rampe; Leen Rampe; Pamela Rampe; Siimon Rampe; Trevor Ford; Kaili Ford; Tiiu Ford; Tõnu ja Hedda Moll.

ATTENDANCE

PRESENT:

12 Members: Chairman: Juho Looveer; Deputy Chairman: Peeter Muttik; Director Treasurer: Allan Mülle; Director Secretary: Ingrid Galloway (née Tartu); Director: Maie Barrow; Director: Hillar Ranniko; Director: Sulev Kalamae; Director: Lembit Suur; Taimi Nurm; Ivo Kauniste; Kai Panov; Mart Rampe; Arne Neeme; Andres Neeme; Krista Ford.

PROXIES: Seven (7) Members designated

1. Mai Bell nominated Ingrid Galloway(née Tartu), Item 1,2,3 Undirected Item 4 Directed.
2. Pamela Rampe; Kate Rampe; Krista Hawkins née Rampe; Leen Rampe, Siimon Rampe; nominated Mart Rampe, Undirected Item 1,2,3,4.
3. Eili Annuk nominated Mai Bell, Undirected Item 1,2,3,4.

2. MEETING BUSINESS

Item 1 Minutes

To confirm the minutes of the ECFA AGM held on Sunday 20th March 2022.
The minutes were circulated by email and reviewed by the Members.

MOTION: Moved Taimi Nurm; Seconded Mart Rampe. **Unanimous Agreement**

Item 2 To adopt Annual Accounts and Records

To adopt the Financial Report of the Company and the reports of the Directors and the Auditors in respect on the financial year ended 30th June 2022.

MOTION: Moved Krista Ford; Seconded Mart Rampe. **Unanimous Agreement**

Item 3 Re-Appointment of Fitzpatrick + Robinson Accounting & Business Specialists to provide a review of the financial reports.

MOTION: Moved Ivo Kauniste; Seconded Taimi Nurm. **Unanimous Agreement**

Item 4 Election of Directors. Re-election of three Directors.

MOTION: Moved Kai Panov; seconded Krista Ford. **Unanimous Agreement**

3. GENERAL BUSINESS

3.1 Chairman's Annual Report 2021-2022

The full report was circulated with the AGM Meeting papers.

- Melbourne had a successful Estonian Cultural Festival – Eesti Päevad and ECFA sponsored the day out at Kilmore and the Festival Album.
- A total of \$32,000 was awarded to the following groups: ▪ Adelaide Eesti Selts; ▪ Sydney Eesti Selts- Kino Project; ▪ Mudilasring Sydney; ▪ Estonians in Newcastle; ▪ Digitisation of Melbourne Eesti Maja Co-op Records; ▪ Estonian Archives in Australia; ▪ The Oaks Historical Society Thirlmere - Kungla Sign; ▪ Musica- A short film; ▪ Azuria #10 'In Peace & in War'; ▪ Estonian Sõrve Children's Camp; ▪ Hans Ots Grant.
- All post Covid Board meetings; have been held using remote teleconferencing technology and this will remain the norm until further notice.
- One issue we have been discussing is that of our declining membership. The older or more established Estonian community across Australia is generally declining, and people are being more selective in which organisations they maintain their memberships. This is common for all ethnic groups, and has been noted in other countries as well.
- We are also discussing the future of the Estonian diaspora in Australia, and the level of funding we will allocate in future years. Some of the relevant questions (raised in the evaluation of the Melbourne Estonian House) are:
 - What is the future of the Estonian Community across Australia?*
 - Will there be an Estonian community in the future?*
- We look forward to continue working with the Estonian diaspora in Australia, to enhance Estonian culture and language and community.

3.2 Treasurers Report

- Allan Mülle discussed the Financial Report and noted that generally the investments were relatively stable.

3.3 Member's Feedback and Comments

- Ivo Kauniste proposed a vote of thanks the Directors of the Board.
- Kai Panov discussed the small number of current ECFA Members and what can be done to promote interest and increase membership. There was general agreement that memberships of organisations across all communities has declined.
- Ingrid Galloway (née Tartu) discussed the Zoom meetings with Andrew Leigh, the Minister for Charities, who also noted the general decline in membership of charities and volunteers joining various community organisations.
- The \$5.00 ECFA Membership fee was noted as reasonable and an inducement for potential new Members.
- It was noted that the Annual Membership fee is now due by 31st July each year.
- Juho Looveer thanked all the Directors.
- Ingrid Galloway (née Tartu) answered a question and advised that ECFA reports to the Australian Charities Not-for-Profits Commission (ACNC) who liaise with Fair Trading.
- Lembit Suur discussed the improvements that have been made to Sydney Eesti Maja and noted other states may apply for assistance too.
- Juho Looveer noted comments that the Australia Eesti Seltside Liit (AESL) is Sydney centric.
- Lembit Suur noted that the Estonian Community would need to build a business model to manage the various states' assets.
- Juho Looveer noted that Melbourne Eesti Maja will be sold.
- There was general discussion about the long term consequences of Russia's invasion of the Ukraine.
- Peeter Muttik noted two important positives in the community; Sõrve Camps 60th Year, and the popularity of Folk Dancing, as there are approximately 286 folk dancers.
- Allan Mülle stated that Sõrve has a remarkable 10 year safety record (no insurance claims) and that risk management and safety strategies are in place. However the annual cost of insurance for Sõrve camp increases each year.
- Lembit Suur stated the critical importance of ECFA investments for future funding.
- Krista Ford thanked the ECFA Board Members.

All the Members sang the Eesti Hymn.

Meeting Closed at 12.15.