



# VICTORIAN RIFLE ASSOCIATION INC

ESTABLISHED 1860  
Registration Number A13641H  
ABN 37 571 868 151

## Annual General Meeting 2022 Minutes

**Date:** Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> September 2022

**Time:** 4.20 pm

**Location:** Horsham Rifle Range

Councillors in Attendance		
<b>Albert van Wyk</b>	Chairman	Rosedale
<b>Craig Weaire</b>	Deputy Chairman	Nagambie
<b>Alan Wright</b>	Councillor	Lang Lang
<b>Frank Conner</b>	Councillor	Robinvale
<b>Markus Gaebele</b>	Councillor	Lilydale

Members in Attendance			
Name	Club	Name	Club
Garry Kay	Yarram	Steve Falla	Nagambie
Joan Kay	Yarram	John Read	Natimuk
Robert Bant	Bacchus Marsh	Guy Holden	Stawell
Paul Milbourn	Fitzroy/Caul/Grant	Paul Rudolph	Horsham
Graham Eldred	Fitzroy/Caul/Grant	Richard Lane	Natimuk
Liana Gaebele	Lilydale	Barry Crouch	Kaniva
Richard Tapps	Lilydale	Joe Melbourne	Nagambie
Jason Becroft	Colac	Leigh Metzke	Karramomus
Mick Liston	Warracknabeal	Glyn Yates	Wangaratta
Craig Leamon	Horsham	Joanne Becroft	Colac
Trevor Heinrich	Horsham	Don Loughton	Rosedale
Andrew Rudolph	Horsham	Mitchell Parsons	Colac
Malcolm Bennett	Mildura Redcliffs	Michael Hall	Colac



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Mace Ramsay	<b>Mildura Redcliffs</b>	Julian Sanders	<b>Colac</b>
Bill Poynton	<b>Geelong</b>	Lisa Donnelly	<b>Colac</b>
Garry Rose	<b>Geelong</b>	Andrew Habets	<b>Wangaratta</b>
Clive Bodle	<b>South Bendigo</b>	Alex Barnes	<b>Natimuk</b>
Mike Evans	<b>Colac</b>	Catherine Shirrefs	<b>Natimuk</b>
Ted Holden	<b>Stawell</b>	Peter Farley	<b>MCC</b>
Frank Barnes	<b>Natimuk</b>	Ian Gordon	<b>Warragul/Drouin</b>
Chris Sutherland	<b>MCC</b>	David Rich	<b>Kaniva</b>
Joylene Rich	<b>Kaniva</b>	Ray Boucher	<b>Moe City</b>
Carolynn Nitschke	<b>Warracknabeal</b>		

**1.Apologies:** Ken Reither, Bob Herron, Robyn & Morrie Jackman, Ron & Ross Aldridge, Ian Kercher, Susie Morgan, Peter Turner, Colleen Morgan, Bob Pedersen, Wayne Mitchell, Alan Bandy, Peter Nitschke, Stephen Nitschke, Schae Bubb, Mark & Gayle Sewell, Heather & Brendan Thomson, James Corbett.

## 2.2021 AGM Minutes

Minutes are carried as presented with no changes requested.

**Moved:** Albert van Wyk      **Seconded:** Peter Farley **Carried**

## 4.Chairman's Report

Honourable guests' life members ladies and gentlemen,

Financial year 2022 has been a remarkable year for all our members and of course the association alike.

In the last 12 months the VRA has seen one of the largest participating fields at our state championships, we hosted the National F class teams and along the way many of our members have celebrated some remarkable achievements. I have been most proud of the volunteering efforts and most importantly the sense of community and sense of purpose, quite evident within our association and our clubs

As chairman I quite often reflect on whether we're moving too fast, or not fast enough in leveraging or deploying our resources... Where are we best placed to focus, in order to deliver meaningful impacts within the association... We clearly have limited resources and time and we need to be smart about what we do. It truly is a dilemma that I often struggle with rationalising.

However, when I hear the stories of success, and receive gratitude from members, when I see our juniors exceling on the big stage and when I see increases in our membership numbers, I can't but think that at least in some small part we might just be on the right path and focusing in on the right areas.

One once such example is the fact that we are all here in Horsham to hold our AGM and to participate in the local OPM. As you might all be aware, the council is trying to drive greater



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awareness and participation in our sport by getting our members to experience clubs and locations other than Bendigo. To that end, allow me to thank the Number 1 DRA - Wimmera for hosting this annual general meeting and for the wonderful generosity of its members.

This year I've seen many of our members excel within their respective disciplines across Australia. I would like to congratulate each and every single one of them for travelling to other states to compete and thank them for representing our state with honour.

I would like to thank our retiring council members Craig Weaire and Douw de Kock who both have contributed greatly to our association and its members. In particular I would like to say thank you for your selfless efforts, thank you for your knowledge, your resources, your time, and other selfless contributions. These are all highly appreciated and will never be forgotten certainly not by me.

I would also like to welcome those new, and maybe not so new counsellors to the association in Gary Kay and James Corbett and returning counsellor Alan Wright for nominating themselves and for being willing to continue to build and drive the strategic vision of the Victorian Rifle Association.

In closing I would like to remind us all that the association is only as strong as the strength of its clubs and the congregation of its members. We cannot be successful without your support, cannot achieve anything without your input and I ask that you all remain resolute in the pursuit of these pillars that will see the association grow from a good one to a great one, thank you.

## Wellsford Range Approval

Dear Members,

As many of you would now be aware the Wellsford range is currently closed as we work through licencing of the fallout zone and the section of land behind the 1000-yard mount with Parks Vic.

As you would appreciate this is of major concern and the number one priority to rectify.

I am undertaking an extensive investigation which will be provided to our members in a report once concluded there has been a number of irregularities along the way and I'll ask that you that you be patient as we work through these matters.

So, what can I tell you today, in December 2020 following the AGM at Wellsford I engaged with DELWP in order to obtain the necessary approvals and reissuance of our licences. As this was still within the middle of COVID correspondence was slow but as the email trail shows we were persistent in our enquiries. Towards the middle of January 2021, we were directed to Parks Vic who now holds the rights and ownership of any licences or leases over the fallout area and the 1000-yard parking area. At that time, I received correspondence from Parks Vic indicating that the VRA would shortly be issued with the permits as requested. This did not happen.

As it stands today the Bendigo Rifle Club has been issued with a licence for the 1000-yard area and we have requested from the club a transfer of the license and are awaiting their response.

With the change of responsibilities from DELWP and Parks Victorian, there is now a considerable administrative process that needs to be undertaken to secure the licenses. As a council we are committed to concluding this process and secure the firing rights of the range.



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In the meanwhile, we have been engaged with LRD as sought support and assistance so that temporary approvals might be granted to the range and that shooting activities might continue.

We will be keeping you all informed of the progress as the situation unfolds and in addition, will submit for review an incident report to ensure that any errors or omissions in the process can be rectified moving forward.

Thank you.

Albert van Wyk  
Chairman

Questions arising from Chairmans Report

Garry Rose (GR) asked if the insurances lapsed whilst the fallout zone licence was not renewed. AvW – our primary focus in 2020 was to renew the fallout zone licence not the licence at the back of the 1000-yard mound. GR asked if we operated without insurance, AvW at this point it has not been confirmed but yes, we may have. We are still seeking advice from LRD. The moment we became aware of the licence not being renewed we ceased all shooting at the range.

Michael Hall (MH) asked if the VRA ever had the licence on the area behind the 1000-yard mound? AvW – BRC currently holds that licence and the VRA is currently looking into how that has occurred. MH – is BRC in the process of handing back the licence to VRA? – AvW – we have requested the required correspondence to be forwarded to Parks Victoria, we are still awaiting this correspondence.

Mike Evans (ME) - what is the estimated timeline for the re-opening of the range? AvW – we are currently seeking advice from LRD however it may be an extended period of time. AvW – we are also seeking advice from Marsh Insurance regarding the insurance.

Mick Liston (ML) – given this may take some time, what contingencies do we have for major events? AvW - The only major event is the DRA Teams/COC, the VRA Council changes over after this AGM, one of our first agenda items will be should we find an alternative range.

Julian Sanders (JL) – Do you get the impression that Parks Vic are trying to close the range down? AvW – no it does not appear that way, Parks Vic are being extremely co-operative in assisting us with this process.

**Moved:** AvW

**Seconded:** Garry Kay

**Carried**

## 5.Treasurer's Report FY 2021-2022: Read by AvW

Good afternoon to all our members, Chairman, Executive Officer, and fellow councillors,

I'm greeting you from somewhere in Australia and need to apologise for not being there in person, due to unforeseen work circumstances I am not in Victoria at the moment.

When I stood before you at the last AGM we just came out of lockdown, we were uncertain what the future will hold....fast forward a year and we are again free and able to participate in a sport we all



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love dearly, catch up with friends and gather to celebrate the successes of the past year and remember those who we sadly lost in the past year. The VRA hosted one of the largest and most successful Queens in recent history, Bendigo has been thrown into the mix that may see shooting as a sport in the next commonwealth games.

## The year past

As I'm writing this report, I have not received any questions from any of the members in regards to the presented financials, I will therefore make my report very short and to the point:

We retained a **net surplus** of \$ 100,796 this year opposed to \$ 63,314 last year.

**Revenue** increased by \$ 149,000 compared to last year, **cost of sales** increased (normal due to the higher revenue), **staff expenses** remained pretty flat with an increase in **operational expenses** up from \$ 84,211 to \$ 115,237.

Our current **Net Assets** sit at \$ 1,369,759; we have **\$ 490,565 in cash**.

Shop sales are up by 24%.

Member subscriptions are up – that is great news for the VRA and the Sport.

The Queens income almost doubled compared to the previous year, having the national teams immediately before the Queens had an impact on the success of this event. We hope to see many of the interstate shooters back next year.

Increase in **Operational Expense** is predominately due to the increase in cost running the Queens (up from \$ 27,948 to \$ 44,627) and the new website which include the online trading platform (up from \$ 3,267 to \$ 11,486).

The VRA is financially stable and able to service any of its current commitments.

## Where to from here?

For me personally it is the end of the road...for now, I have a pretty young business that needs all my attention. This is my last responsibility as the Treasurer of the VRA and I hand over to a committed group of members who will lead us to greater heights.

I would like to thank Albert, Nikki, Craig, Alan, Frank, and Markus for the past two years, it has been a pleasure being involved in the committee and I pledge my support to you and the future committees to see our sport and the VRA grow from strength to strength.

Beers are on Albert.....

Best,  
Douw de Kock  
VRA Treasurer

**Moved:** AvW    **Seconded:** Mace Ramsay    **Carried**



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## 6.Appointment of Auditors

AvW recommended that we retain the services of the current auditors AASB - Accounting and Audit Solutions Bendigo.

**Moved:** Albert van Wyk      **Seconded:** Peter Farley **Carried**

## 7.Election of a Patron

Council has not formally considered this position.

## 8.Life Membership

NIL life memberships nomination received.

50 Year Membership Presented:

- Mark Sewell – Wangaratta
- Lesley Longmuir – Shepparton/Nathalia
- Mervin Greenslade – DVUY
- John Hoath – Fitzroy Caulfield Grantville
- Peter Daldy – Karramomus

Present at the AGM

- Robert Sandlant – Bendigo

## 9. Business on Notice

No Business on notice presented

Meeting Closed at 4.55pm