



South Australian Local Government Financial Management Group Inc

MINUTES

2014 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Meeting held on Friday, 22 August 2014

Breakfast & Guest Speaker Presentation: 7:45am to 9:00am

AGM: 9:00am to 10:00am

Venue: Terrace Room, Adelaide Pavilion, Veale Gardens, South Terrace, Adelaide

1. Apologies

- Julie Campbell (Rural City of Murray Bridge)
- Bernadette Clelland (District Council of Franklin Harbour)
- John Comrie (JAC Comrie Pty Ltd)
- David Hope (Skilmar Systems Pty Ltd)
- Annette Martin (City of Charles Sturt)
- Ginny Moon (City of Prospect)
- Craig Mudge (District Council of Mount Remarkable)
- Elizabeth Williams (Alexandrina Council)

2. Confirmation of Minutes of AGM held Friday 30 August 2013

Moved: Marcus Smith

Seconded: Clive Hempel

CARRIED

***Recommendation:** That the minutes of the SALGFMG AGM held on 30 August 2013 be confirmed as a true and correct record.*

3. Business Arising from Minutes

Nil.

4. President's Report – Annette Martin

Sorry I cannot be with you today although Simon Zbierski as Vice President has kindly stepped in to provide you with my update on what has been another successful and exciting year for SALGFMG.

I would like to thank everyone for attending today and supporting our AGM and in fact all for all your support of FMG activities over the past year.

Today, however I would like to take the time to recognise the achievements over the year and in particular to acknowledge those who helped to make it happen.

Firstly the FMG executive, these are a group of volunteers who give up their time to help organise seminars and workshops, develop tools and publications, provide feedback on policy and in general advocate on behalf of the Local Government finance sector.

I personally would like to thank them for the support they have shown me over the past years and their tireless commitment to the financial sector at a time when I know they are often snowed under with their own jobs. I would also like to acknowledge the Councils they work at and for the support they give these Executive members so they can participate as members of the FMG.

I will list them by name and ask that they stand so those in the room know who your hard working Executive have been for 2013/14 especially in a year when we have had a record number of non metro Councils represented.

Simon Zbierski – City of Campbelltown
Karishma Dutta – City of Mitcham
Marcus Smith – District council of Mount Barker
Tony Amato – Town of Gawler
Ray Barnwell – City of Marion
Norm Biggs – City of West Torrens
Julie Campbell – Rural City of Murray Bridge
Mike Carey – City of Unley
Anna-Lucia Draper – City of Tee Tree Gully
Dianne Eckermann – City of Onkaparinga
Stephanie Juhas – City of Victor Harbour
Peter Fairlie-Jones – City of Salisbury
Anita Futterer – City of Playford
Clive Hempel – Wakefield Regional Council
David Hope – Skilmar Systems P/L
Mark Lague – Barossa Council
Ginny Moon – City of Prospect
Annette Pianezzola - Adelaide City Council
Ben Rasigatale – District Council of Karoonda East Murray
Elizabeth Williams – Alexandrina Council
Eion Williamson – District Council of Grant

Can everyone please put their hands together to acknowledge the Executive of 2013/14.

I would like to thank and acknowledge Peter Fairlie-Jones , Ginny Moon and Annette Pianezzola who will be retiring from the FMG executive. Peter was an inaugural member of the FMG Executive back when it started in 1989 and so has served on the Executive for over 20 years in a number of senior positions and work groups. In recognition of his achievements he was granted life membership of the FMG back in 2011.

Ginny started on the Executive in 2009 and Annette in 2011 and both have been have been hard working contributors to many working groups such financial management, fees and charges and the membership group where Ginny was also Chair.

I personally will miss them all very much and sincerely thank them for their contribution over the years.

I also would like to acknowledge

- the LGA (particularly Shane Sody)
- the Office of State/Local Government Relations and in particular John Wright
- the LGMA SA, who were our events co-ordinators until recently, and particularly Linda Wride our Secretariat and Taryn Sexton
- Patricia Coonan from Think Purple Solutions who is our new event management and secretariat support - welcome
- The SA Local Government Auditors group and in particular its Chairperson , Tim Mulhausler
- Ian McDonald our Auditor
- Maria Hocking who provides our Treasurer support
- Sabine Schuhrer from the University of Adelaide
- Irene Scales our website coordinator

and to those from the general FMG membership who came along and participated in some of our executive meetings and work groups. It was great to meet and work with all of you.

A Review of the Year for 2013/14 and main projects

Internal Control

Metro Councils for the first time will be audited on the effectiveness of their internal control systems against the legislated Better Practise Model - Internal Financial Controls. We have recently put in an R&D funding submission to review the framework so we can take on board the learning's and improve the quality of the document. Control Track was launched as a low cost option to monitor the effectiveness of a Councils financial internal control systems. Based on feedback the tool is being developed into a risk end to end product due for launch soon. With the product being transferred to new owners we are excited by the impending development of the product which provides a low cost solution for Councils. Personal thanks to Pascal Marrot Castellat for his enthusiasm and support of this project.

Fees and Charges Full Cost Recovery

FMG also continued to work with an LGA working group to progress work on Local Government fees and charges set by statute with a view to establish annual indexation and, where appropriate and possible, full cost recovery.

UHY Haines Norton worked with the group and established a methodology which is being used as a basis for determining a representative fee which more closely reflects the full cost of the service for Local Government . A roof truss fee was established under the methodology which has been provided to State Government for mandating in legislation. We are still waiting on an outcome. In the interim with the help of UHY Haines Norton we are reviewing Section 7, food inspection and lastly planning fees, noting that indexation of a number of fees has been occurring.

We were also advised of the \$18 fee for debt recovery. We advocated on behalf of the sector for an increase to the reminder fee without success but are now pushing to have the expiation fees increased to help offset the cost. The LGA are continuing to lobby on our behalf for these changes.

Seminars and Workshops

Again we have continued with our very successful seminar series, the 2 day event in December, "Are we there yet?" at the Wine Centre and again in March "Getting Better all the Time" at the Semaphore Palais. The events were very successful with record attendance.

Speakers such as John Silvester, Co-Author of the "Underbelly True Crime Series, Alexander Downer and Tim Harcourt headlined a number of outstanding presenters on topics relevant to our sector at events which provided great opportunities for learning, fun and networking.

Remember to lock in the 4th and 5th of December at the Wine Centre for our next conference "Recipe for Success". We again have a great line up of speakers including Annabel Crabbe along with a panel to discuss the cost of compliance in our sector and details will be out soon.

I wish to acknowledge Peter Fairlie-Jones and the Seminar Working Group who spend hours organising these seminars and workshops for you.

Website/Newsletter Group

This year we continued with development of our new website www.salgfm.com.au and our now regular e-newsletter. You can now register online for all our events as you would have done for this AGM and for FMG membership. The website offers a lot of information on topics relevant to our sector in the resource library and papers from seminars etc and has come a long way this past year for which I would like to acknowledge the work of Clive Hempel and the Newsletter/Website Working Group who have been progressing this project.

Membership Group

Our membership group led ably by Ginny Moon looked at how we can increase opportunities for rural Councils to participate more actively and reviewed our guidelines and general correspondence. It's reassuring to know we have around 200 members with the majority of Councils having an FMG member.

Financial Management Framework Group

We again provided feedback in relation to the model financial statements and much time was spent with the LGA and SALGAG in establishing an information paper on the new AASB13 to assist you. We also provided feedback on a number of other information papers and documents.

I want to acknowledge Mark Lague and the Financial Management Working Group for all their work in progressing these projects and providing feedback. This feedback is critical so the regulators are more aware of the issues some of these changes can have on our sector from the practitioner's point of view, however we concede it is often with varying success.

Other

We also sent representatives from the FMG, Alex Oulianoff (District council of Mount Barker) and David Hope to the CPA expo to talk to and promote the advantages of a career in Local Government finance to university students.

We are still involved in the LGPI and thanks to Mike Carey and Chris Birch for their work in maintaining the integrity of the data.

We have a newly formed working party on Costing Principles who have been involved in providing relevant information papers. Thanks to Marcus Smith and the group for identifying that issue and progressively working to provide some real guidance to the sector and practical information especially to those with CWMS schemes

Last but not least to our valued sponsors.

Through their generous sponsorship and support of our industry we are able to provide many of the high quality events at low or subsidised cost and have the capacity to be involved in projects which provide benefit to finance professionals across the sector. We sincerely thank you for your support and look forward to working with you again in 2014/15. We encourage all our members to continue to show their support to these organisations who support our sector.

Platinum Sponsor

Local Government Finance Authority

Gold Sponsors

APV Valuers and Asset Management
Local Government Solutions

Silver Sponsors

National Credit Management Limited
Technology One Ltd

Bronze Sponsors

AME Recruitment
Maloney Field Services
Coalface Software Solutions
Deloitte
BDO
Norman Waterhouse Lawyers
Assetic
Chameleon
UHY Haines Norton Chartered Accountants

And on that note again I would like to acknowledge Allen Bolaffi , who was the Managing Partner at UHY Haines Norton who died tragically earlier this year. Allen was a well respected member of our community and highly regarded for his experience and professionalism. We will miss him.

Lastly I remind you that we have executive meetings on the last Friday of every month as published in our agendas. Remember to read the minutes to ensure you are up to date on what is happening in our sector remembering that any FMG member is most welcome to attend any executive meetings as an observer or participate in any projects we are working on – just email our Secretariat Patricia Coonan of your interest.

This year we had a record number of observers and participants in work groups. It's wonderful to be part of such a collaborative network of people and I have sincerely appreciated the last 4 years where I have been given the opportunity to serve as your President. Thankyou.

Can I please have a mover and seconder for the President's report please.

Moved: Michael Carey

Seconded: Mark Lague

CARRIED

Recommendation: That the President's report be received.

5. Treasurer's Report

The audited financial report has been provided to members. The Treasurer Marcus Smith provided a verbal update on the financial report. Marcus Smith also acknowledged the many volunteer hours put in by the committee and working groups and thanked Maria Hocking and Ian MacDonald for their contributions and support.

Moved: Eion Williamson

Seconded: Ben Rasigatale

CARRIED

***Recommendation:** That the Treasurer's report be received.*

6. Election of Office Bearers and Management Committee Members for 2014/15

Returning Officer, Patricia Coonan, announced that single nominations were received for the positions of President, Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer and the following appointments were made:

POSITION	NAME
President	Simon Zbierski, Campbelltown City Council
Vice President	Clive Hempel, Wakefield Regional Council
Secretary	Karishma Dutta, City of Mitcham
Treasurer	Marcus Smith, District Council of Mount Barker
Committee Members	Anthony Amato, Town of Gawler
	Ray Barnwell, City of Marion
	Norman Biggs, City of West Torrens
	Chris Birch, City of Prospect
	Julie Campbell, Rural City of Murray Bridge
	Martin Cooper, City of Burnside
	Anna-Lucia Draper, City of Tea Tree Gully
	Diane Eckermann, City of Onkaparinga
	Anita Futterer, City of Playford
	Kate George, City of Salisbury
	David Hope, Skilmar Systems
	Stephanie Juhas, City of Victor Harbor
	Mark Lague, The Barossa Council
	Annette Martin, City of Charles Sturt
	Pep Piscioneri, Adelaide City Council
	Ben Rasigatale, District Council of Karoonda East Murray
	Michael Wetherall, City of Port Adelaide Enfield
Elizabeth Williams, Alexandrina Council	
Eion Williamson, District Council of Grant	

Moved: Ray Barnwell
Seconded: Anita Futterer
CARRIED

***Recommendation:** That the Returning Officer's report be received and that all Committee Members be duly elected for the 2014/15 financial year.*

7. Appointment of Auditor

Simon Zbierski thanked Ian MacDonald and Nancy Tran for providing the audit services for 2013/14.

Moved: Marcus Smith
Seconded: Mick Wetherall
CARRIED

***Recommendation:** That Ian McDonald of Creative Auditing Pty Ltd be appointed as Auditor for the 2014/15 financial year.*

8. Setting of Fees

Moved: Diane Eckermann
Seconded: Mark Lague
CARRIED

***Recommendation:** That there be no change to the Membership Fee for 2015/16: \$99 incl. GST for continuing members and \$124 incl. GST for new members.*

9. General Business

An honorary member is open to any individual who has made a significant contribution to the SALGFMG. This year the Committee would like to acknowledge the contribution of Mr David Hope and offer him an Honorary Membership.

During the year, the FMG Committee considered and endorsed the sole nomination it received for Honorary Membership. In accordance with the Group's Membership Policy, Honorary Membership is available to any individual who has made a significant contribution to the SALGFMG, both members and non members are eligible. This year, the Group has granted honorary membership to David Hope.

In this time on the Committee, David was:

- Involved in the formation of the Financial Management Group back in 1989
- The inaugural Secretary from 1989 to 1991
- Served as President from 1991 to 1993
- While on the Executive of the FMG, David was appointed Deputy Chair and then Chair of the LG Accounting Committee (an LGA appointment) during the implementation phase of AAS27
- After the implementation of AAS27 in the late 90's David resigned from the Group, but returned again in 2013.

David has also served as a:

- Member of CPA Australia's Public Sector Centre of Excellence (PSCoE) from 1993 to 2003, including 2 years as Deputy Chair then 3 years as Chair.
- Divisional Councillor of CPA Australia in South Australia and Queensland
- Divisional Councillor of the LGMA in South Australia.

Unfortunately, David is off travelling overseas to exotic locations so is not able to be here to receive his award, but I would ask you to join me in congratulating David on his valuable contribution to the FMG.

Recommendation: *That David Hope be offered Honorary Membership.*

Moved: Karishma Dutta

Seconded: Peter Fairlie-Jones

CARRIED

10. Close

Meeting closed at 9:31am.