



PONZ Annual General Meeting Minutes Saturday 21 November 2015, 8.00-9.00

Mararoa and Whitestone rooms, Ascot Park Hotel

Chair: Kathryn Taylor

Present: Maria Stapleton, Emma Bell (minutes), Lorraine Sutherland, Nora Thompson, Don Baken, Hazel Nesar, Sue Wragg, Sheldon Ngatai, Vanesse Geel, Sarah Kidd, Di Greaves, Fiona Lothian, Lizzy Kent, Richard Egan, Lydia Bras, Stephanie Turner, Lynley McCristell, Ginny Eggleston, Joanne Commerieu, Gay Dungey, Cathy Hanson-Friend, Marie Wales, Judith Stewart, Adiella Stewart, Diana Stevenson, Warrick Sue, Michelle O'Dowd, Pene Clifford, Sue Corkill, Monika Clark-Grill, John Cochrane, Shireen Tresslor, Sonia Clearwater-Blunt, Tessa Schriek, Kim Blair, Jo Scott-Weir, Irene Frazer, Janine NcCaughan, Sue Pullar, Emma Cowan, Lynn Twigley, Sinda Hall, Lyn Little, Simone Petrich, Frances James

Apologies: Catherine Dwan, Grace McMullen, David Perez

Item	Minutes
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1.	Welcome
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The chair welcomed members to the meeting and accepted apologies.

2.	Previous minutes and review of actions
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The minutes of the meeting of 22 November 2014 were accepted as a true and accurate record.

Proposed Lorraine Sutherland, seconded Sue Wragg

3.	President's report
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The president spoke to her report. Views on the zero fees membership policy will be sought later in the meeting, with a general meeting to be held in 2016 to discuss further.

The committee is keen to develop educational opportunities further next year; education days would provide the main source of funding if membership is kept at zero cost.

4.	Treasurer's report
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The treasurer spoke to her report. She advised that having audited accounts is a requirement when seeking funding from many sources.

Zero fee membership was not seen as contributing factor to the financial loss for 2014-15.

Those present were advised that auditors and accountants have shown good will in providing some pro bono services - a letter of thanks will be sent from the executive committee.

It was **proposed** that PONZ appoint Bethlehem Accounting as accountants for the 2015-16 year, and Anthony Harris Ltd as auditors for the same period.



Item Minutes

Moved Maria Stapleton, **seconded** Nora Thompson , carried unanimously

5. Membership fee 2016-17

It was agreed at the 2014 AGM to trial zero fee membership and review at the 2015 AGM. While this will be discussed, the 2016-17 fee will be set at a general meeting in 2016. Current membership is around 145 [*secretary's note - there were 43 members for the 2014-15 year*]. The president noted that many people have multiple memberships in their professional lives and acknowledged that members may find it hard to get reimbursement of membership costs from their employers as PONZ membership is not a requirement. It is hoped that education days held in 2016-17 can generate a good level of revenue.

Options for the membership fee include maintaining a zero cost policy, reintroducing a membership fee at an acceptable level or recommending a membership fee and members pay what they can afford.

Responses included that having a low fee wouldn't be worth the work involved, and concern that reintroducing a fee would cause membership to decline again. Those who had joined this year because of the free membership noted that it hadn't been clear what benefits were brought by membership, and this gave them the opportunity to find out. The president noted that that benefits are still evolving, such as regular newsletters. It was suggested that a fee could be reintroduced when there were more associated benefits.

It was suggested that revenue generated through the membership fee is too small to really support the purpose of giving back to the workforce, and that growing the membership through a zero fee is more important.

6. Constitution amendment motion

The current constitution only allows executive members to serve a term of two years. The president advised that the committee is considering proposing a change to the constitution, allowing either an open term or extended term. Thoughts were invited from the floor; it was suggested that members could hold two consecutive terms, therefore serving for four years. A turnover of representation allows for new energy in the group.

The committee will hold a face to face meeting next year and a general meeting will be held the same day, including a motion to change the constitution.

7. Terms of reference for branches, plus other policy documents

Copies of policies were provided for review; feedback was invited.

8. PONZ logo

It has been suggested that the logo needs updating, and could reflect PONZ better as a group. Ideas for new design or possible designers were welcomed. It was requested that there is some reflection of Māori culture in any new logo.

9. Election of officers

- The vice president sought nominations for **president**.

Kathryn Taylor was **proposed** as president for 2015-16

Moved Maria Stapleton, **seconded** Emma Bell, carried unanimously



- The president sought nominations for **vice president**.

Nora Thompson was **proposed** as vice president for 2015-16

Moved Kathryn Taylor, **seconded** Lorraine Sutherland, carried unanimously

- The president sought nominations for **treasurer**.

Maria Stapleton was **proposed** as treasurer for 2015-16

Moved Sue Wragg, **seconded** Lorraine Sutherland, carried unanimously

- The president sought nominations for **secretary**.

Emma Bell was **proposed** as secretary for 2015-16

Moved Maria Stapleton, **seconded** Richard Egan, carried unanimously

10. Other business

There was discussion around the handover to the 2016 conference committee and the importance of timely information and planning documents. Planning for the 2016 conference is already underway; Nora Thompson and Hazel Naser advised that the conference will be held in Wellington in late November; the theme will be A Gender Agenda. Keynote speakers will be Kim Hobbs, Prof Gary Dowsett and Tess Moeke-Maxwell. Abstracts were invited.

There was a question around PONZ's capacity to advocate at national level around policy, such as a submission to the Select Committee on euthanasia. The president replied that advocacy is in the mission statement but this area is not yet fully developed. The committee is open to suggestions as to how to best do this. It was suggested that members who are particularly passionate or have expertise in a topic area could draft a statement and forward to members for agreement. PONZ has been contemplating strategic relationships such as that with IPOS, and considering how to develop these relationships to ensure an aligned approach and who else to collaborate with to develop more political influence. The diverse nature of the PONZ membership was noted and it was acknowledged that it may be hard to represent the views of the whole membership in any statement.

Meeting closed at 8.55.