**Venue**: Gemmology House, 380-382 Spencer Street, West Melbourne 3003

**Date**: Thursday 11th April 2019 (commencing 6.15 p.m.)

**MINUTES**

**Attendees**

Michael Oboler Katherine Kovacs (from 6.40pm)

Cecil Stott Lynne Cunningham

Annie Dursun Kathryn Walker

Grant Hamid Nicole DiPierdomenico (from 6.40pm)

Cheryl Paton Margaret Blood

Stacey Lim Laura Brehaut

Katrina Marchioni Vicken Nackashian

Bobbi O’Riley Chris Holdsworth

Aimee Page David Heiderich

Angela Beach Ashley Jones

Ronnie Bauer Jacinta Mainstone (from 6.30pm)

**Apologies**

Ian Dun, John Adam, Liz Gould-Williams, Michelle Hall, Lachlan Burnet, Rebecca Sampson

**Proxies**

Michelle Hall, Jennifer Campbell, Jacqui McMaster, Nikki Papaioanou, Glenn Busch, Kylie Beachley,

Katrina Marchioni, John Adam, Deborah Hamid

**Motion:** The minutes of last AGM of GAA (Vic) held on 19th April 2018 be accepted.

**Moved**: Grant Hamid **Seconded**: Michael Oboler

**Passed**: Unanimous

**Confirmation of Minutes and Signature of the Chairman**

**Business arising from Minutes**

None.

**PRESIDENT’S REPORT – *Margaret Blood FGAA DipDT***

# GAA (Vic) President’s Report, 2018/2019

***2018 Victorian Division President Report by Margaret Blood***

*This 2018 report as President of the Victorian division has been a difficult one to write as my term*

*comes to an end, sorry if it is a little long.*

*As I am sure many Presidents before me have felt at the completion of their three year term, there*

*were so many more things that I hoped to achieve and be able to improve. It seems you start the*

*process in a bit of a daze, dabble while you sink and swim, just start getting back on your feet to*

*make a difference and then the term is over. In saying that, I am also a solid supporter that all*

*positions should be refreshed at the end of each term wherever possible. This ensures a fresh*

*approach and new ideas, and that cultures and behaviours within the Association stay at their best.*

*My journey has been one with many positives and also negatives, it has been both easy and difficult*

*at times. I have worked hard to do as good a job as all the Presidents before me. I am the person*

*that looks for the good, looks for the right, and above all else I have continued to work hard for the*

*Association, in the position with such responsibility and yet still only feel I scratched the surface.*

*2018 for the Victorian division had many ups and downs but the end result at GAA House was 100%*

*positive.*

*The student group was a good one for 2018 and we had another exciting year ahead of us. I*

*thoroughly enjoyed the time I had talking with them over the year when I could. Our teachers,*

*assistants and volunteers were all back to support our students and the GAA. And again another year*

*has gone by where the unwavering hard work and dedication of our ESO David cannot go by*

*unnoticed together with the Federal committees that ensure our education standards remain high.*

*We are fortunate to have some amazing people doing some fantastic things in Victoria.*

*Room bookings at GAA House from outside sources have continued this year, and I am proud that*

*this relationship was able to be rebuilt. I hope it remains nurtured and continues strongly for many*

*years to come.*

*We ran almost all of our short courses in 2018 and were able to open our doors to offer many*

*learning opportunities. Developing and running short courses is not an easy task, but behind the*

*scenes this is exactly what we continue to do. Our newest short course Crystals 101 was very well*

*received and we look forward to the opal short course coming to fruition mid-year 2019. It has also*

*been great to welcome back our pearl threading course for 2019. Hopefully the work on other*

*proposed short courses that have been discussed can get off the ground this year too.*

*All our regular courses have been fully scheduled for 2019 in the diary, and I hope that with plenty of*

*marketing and word of mouth, each and every one of them is full of eager participants. Spread the*

*word!*

*The first half of 2018 was business as usual. Hectic with David ensuring all was set and ready for our*

*students to commence their year in gemmology. Our diamond courses were up and running, some*

*short courses commencing and of course our most important event on the calendar, graduation!*

*A wonderful night was held, again at the Royal Melbourne Hotel. It was a very proud moment for all*

*of our graduates and award winners. Graduation is a fantastic opportunity for students to share with*

*family and friends, all of their hard work and efforts of their educational journey.*

*The Diploma courses are no easy feat and do require hard work and dedication, there is no room for*

*complacency. I fully congratulate all students in their achievements, and more so to repeat students*

*for not giving up, well done to all of you, you should be so proud.*

*The second half of the year, changed the course of our 2018 planning. On Sunday 17 th June, 2018,*

*the ground floor at GAA House was flooded. It was a devastating event; we lost all floor furnishings,*

*a lot of furniture and also fittings. Everyone quickly got to work in the mop up and saving as much as*

*we could until the official clean-up crew arrived. The damage was great and was to go on for weeks*

*until everything had been dried out and we could then take full stock of the total effect.*

*In the meantime, we had all our classes, room bookings and an upcoming event with John Chapman*

*to work around. It was chaotic and just when we thought the pressure was on with that schedule to*

*handle, the UNSW contacted us to offer some international guest speakers to our members in*

*August, 2018 at GAA House.*

*Pressure! What pressure, bring it on! The Victorian division pulled together, working closely with the*

*insurance companies and the many tradespeople, we somehow managed to get through it all. There*

*were a number of disruptions to classes and room bookings, all totally out of our hands, as the only*

*other option would have been to cancel everything. We did the best we could do given the*

*circumstances, and I thank everyone involved and who were affected for the support and patience*

*through this situation. It definitely was not easy at times.*

*Unbelievably, by mid-August, we had a week that I will not personally forget and could not believe*

*we had got so far with the restoration of the ground floor. In that week, we had our regular Gem 1*

*and Gem 2 theory and practical classes running on the Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday evenings,*

*PDG course on the Tuesday evening, Diamond Tech on the Wednesday evening, and a room booking*

*for one of our regulars holding their AGM also.*

*To the above just add our international speaker event for members on the Tuesday evening for*

*nearly 80 people, and an IMA (International Mineralogical Association) social event, fully catered for*

*around 60 people on the Wednesday night. Every room of the GAA was in use and it put all of us to*

*the test. The exposure of the GAA Victorian division and success of the evenings did not go*

*unnoticed by anyone or internationally.*

*We recovered somewhat, while continuing to work on areas that were not complete, then it was*

*time to hold the Federal marking weekend after exams in November, and our regular member’s*

*Christmas party in December. To be honest most of the second half of 2018 was a bit of a blur, with*

*so much happening and going at such a pace, but we got through it all.*

*From a disastrous event occurring, only positive vibes could be sought. The ground level at GAA*

*House had an unexpected, but total make-over. A decision to continue these works upstairs saw*

*level 1 also get a make-over through the Christmas holiday break and into January of 2019. It was a*

*great way to start the New Year in a beautifully renovated GAA House for our students and staff.*

*Due to delivery issues, the final furniture for the library is almost due for delivery, and the exciting*

*completion of the library will commence. A long awaited working bee will then be very welcomed.*

*Although having to wait until the official Treasurer’s report for 2018, I believe that the financial*

*position of the Victorian division has, unbelievably with everything going on, been a positive one.*

*This enables us to continue to keep our membership fees as low and reasonable as we can, whilst*

*also keeping educational standards and equipment in good order for our students.*

*Through my term as President, I have been able to learn and understand so much more about the*

*Association, both at a Federal and local level. I have a greater appreciation for my membership fee*

*being what it is and feel extremely fortunate to be involved with the GAA. Volunteers fill the*

*majority of positions of the Federal executives, State representatives, our committees and sub-*

*committees. Constantly working hard to promote, improve and keep up with all advancements in*

*the scientific study of gemstones. I feel at times it is possible to lose sight of our true purpose and*

*the good people within and wanting to contribute.*

*Volunteering does require commitment but also carries with it a responsibility to represent the*

*Association and behave within the ethics and constitution that have been set before us. Ensuring*

*that the GAA remains second to none, with a good reputation and standard of excellence, the*

*objective must be for the focus to remain on our students and members, without whom we would*

*not exist. I don’t believe the Association receives the full recognition it truly deserves and only hope*

*that we can continue into the future to ‘wow’ the world with our courses and events.*

*Finally due to some past events and their personal effects on me, the fast growth of my own*

*businesses and an unexpected family commitment to now manage, the end of my term as President*

*doesn’t just see me leave that role, but also my position on the Council. It has been one of the most*

*rewarding, albeit exhausting experiences I have been through, and I thank everyone that has advised*

*and supported me throughout my time as President. Since making the decision, I have been actively*

*ensuring that there would be an amazing team of executives and council members to continue*

*making sure the GAA Victorian division remains its best, and this has been achieved by many.*

*I wish the new 2019 executives and council members that are chosen all the very best for the year,*

*and will make myself available through the transition wherever possible. My door will always remain*

*open to the GAA, its members and students.*

**Motion:** Move and record with acclamation the President’s report be accepted.

**Moved**: Cec Stott **Seconded**: Michael Oboler

**Passed:** Unanimous

Cec Stott gave thanks to Margaret Blood for all of her hard work during the year and moved that these thanks be minuted.

**TREASURER’S REPORT - Cec Stott FGAA**

Tabled and copies available for members present.

Cec’s final report to the GAA, he mentioned that he has been associated with the GAA since 1967 when he entered as a student, he give thanks to all acquaintances during that period of time.

Cec commented on the following:

We recorded a surplus at the end of 2018 of $25,090 and at the end of 2017 $23,356. This is remarkable as we had many issues during the year, namely the flooding

We have a good use of the building at this stage with room bookings; these are making a great contribution to the income which leads to the surplus. We need to keep up the good rapport with U3A to ensure the room bookings stay.

Grant Hamid thanks Ian Dun and Margaret Blood for getting U3A on board with us initially.

Grant Hamid asks about marking weekends, 2017 is two years combined into one and 2018 is a 0 as the bill has only just been sent.

Lynne Cunningham asks about the gem database, Laura Brehaut says there has been some issues along the line of this production, currently still a work in progress, LB and CS have both had previews and state that it is quite impressive so far.

Initial quote for this job was $2000 - $2500 and a small deposit was paid to Andrew for this.

CS asks the question of should we patent the program and copyright it, and should we try to sell it.

**Motion:** That the Financial Statements and report be adopted and that it is a true and correct report.

**Moved**: Cecil Stott **Seconded**: Ronnie Bauer

**Passed**: Unanimous

**ELECTION OF OFFICE BEARERS FOR 2017**

Nominations received prior to the meeting.

**President**: Laura Brehaut

With no other nominations from the floor Laura Brehaut was elected.

**Vice-Presidents (2 positions):**  Michael Oboler and Stacey Lim

Michael Oboler was nominated by Ronnie Bauer, all were in favour.

Stacey Lim was nominated from the floor by Laura Brehaut and all were in favour

With no other nominations from the floor, Michael and Stacey were elected as Vice President.

**Honorary Secretary**:

Lynne Cunningham was nominated by Laura Brehaut and all were in favour.

With no other nominations from the floor, Lynne was elected as Honorary Secretary.

**Honorary Treasurer**:

Chris Holdsworth was nominated from the floor by Katherine Kovacs and all were in favour

With no other nominations from the floor, Chris was elected as Honorary Treasurer.

**Association Secretary:**

Ronnie Bauer was nominated by Michael Oboler and all were in favour.

With no other nominations from the floor, Ronnie was elected as Association Secretary.

**Committee Members (11)**:

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| 5 nominations were received prior to the meeting: |
| 1. Ian Dun
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| 1. Annie Dursun
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| 1. David Heiderich
 |
| 1. Cheryl Paton
2. Vicken Nackashian
3. Angela Beach
4. Michelle Hall
5. Grant Hamid
 |
| All were elected.The following nominations were received from the floor: |
| 1. Katherine Kovacs
 |
| 1. Katrina Marchioni (? TBC)
 |

**General business**

Michael Oboler speaks about getting better recognition for the GAA; we never put anyone for awards, e.g. Lord Mayors Commendation type of awards, or other Melbourne City Council recognition. Grant Hamid mentions that he has had some experience with those types of awards and they are aimed at businesses rather than individuals or associations but it can be looked into.

Cec Stott discusses the display in the meeting room, and how that was funded by the Melbourne City Council at a cost of $35,000. He states that in his opinion, we are sitting on a goldmine; we just need to use our foresight and imagination to plan for the future, it is essential to have a future plan in place for both the building and organisation.

Grant Hamid says it’s very unusual to have the President, Treasurer and secretary all ending their terms at one time and stepping away from the GAA, thanks to them for such a remarkable effort over the years. Also thanks to existing committee and new committee members.

All in favour

Margaret Blood thanks Cec and Kathryn for their service

**Close of Meeting**: 7.10 p.m.