

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING - BRINDABELLA BAPTIST CHURCH

27 JUNE 2010

Chair

Riitta Palasrinne, Operations Manager

1. Welcome

The meeting commenced at 12.30pm sharp. Riitta welcomed everyone and explained the member voting eligibility, that it was not based on the forms signed in the church service today, but on existing membership. The *Season of Changes* 2009-2010 Annual Report was distributed and taken as read. (Attachment 1)

Attention was particularly drawn to the valued contribution and work during the year of the following people and each of them was thanked personally:

- David Wakeling - Elder and Operations Manager
- Dave Silberman - Elder
- Ruth Sawtell was honoured and thanked (with a standing ovation) for her role for the past seven years as Office Manager
- Paul Bainton and Dean Sawtell - Elder
- Brigita L'Estrange (in her absence) - Pastoral Care and Small Groups
- Rick Wade – Missions and Outreach. Thanks were also conveyed to Diane Wade in her absence.
- Worship Teams – The worship has been awesome!
- Children & Youth Ministries

Riitta thanked the many people involved in the Children and Youth Ministries and asked Wendy Newman to speak in relation to the children's work.

Wendy has just taken on the role this year, and explained that it was something dear to her heart. She advised they are short of helpers and wanted to thank Deanne Smith, Helen Morris and Vanessa Luke for their assistance. Ros Thrackray had taken a break but is now helping with the younger children. Thanks were also extended to Ros, Kathy Rusin and Nerida Parker, however more helpers are still required, with no preparation being required. Wendy mentioned the Treasure Island theme that had been running and how the children are learning to rely on God in new ways. Pirates Adrian Marks, Simon McAlister and Phil Newman were commended.

Paul Bainton then opened the meeting in prayer.

2. Apologies

Heather Healey, Aidan & Vanessa Luke, Adrian Marks and Steve Orme, and those at Emmaus: Trish Antognelli, Beth Doyle, Rachel Marks, Alison McDonald, and Kathy Rusin,

3. Members Present:

The quorum for today's meeting was 25% of active members (63) or 16 people. A total of 36 members were present. They were:

Gail Aiken, Paul & Sandy Bainton, Debbie Briese, Rhondda Edwards, David & Robyn Evans, Sue Fulton, Elana Geddes, Rohan & Julie Geddes, Glenise Henderson, Marian Luke, Wayne Martin, Simon & Lisa McAlister, Steven Mogg, Gary & Helen Morris, Wendy Newman, Karina Padovan, Riitta Palasrinne, Dean & Ruth Sawtell, Dave & Heidi Silberman, Peter & Liz Simpfendorfer, Keith & Deanne Smith, Cathy Taylor, Tony & Ros Thrackray, Rick Wade, David & Leanne Wakeling.

New Members Present

David & Laa Fairhall, Phil & Jenny Malone, Debbie McGrath.

Non Members Present

Shaun McGrath, Rob & Fiona Stevenson, Andrew Taylor, Mark Thrackray, Rebecca Thrackray.

4. Minutes of the 31 May 2009 Meeting

It was Agreed that the 2009 AGM Minutes be accepted. (Attachment 2)

Moved: Helen Morris. *Seconded:* Ruth Sawtell. *Carried.*

5. New and Inactive Member Proposals

It was Agreed that Phil & Jenny Malone be moved from the absentee list to the active list.

Moved: Heidi Silberman. *Seconded:* Rick Wade. *Carried.*

It was Agreed that David & Laa Fairhall be accepted for membership.

Moved: Dean Sawtell. *Seconded:* Leanne Wakeling. *Carried.*

It was Agreed that Debbie Mc Grath be accepted for membership.

Moved: Dean Sawtell. *Seconded:* Julie Geddes. *Carried.*

Dean Sawtell welcomed and prayed for each of the new members.

6. Election of Elders and Ministry Teams

Scrutineers: Simon McAlister, Rick Wade.

Each of the three nominated Elders spoke briefly about why they accepted nomination.

Ballot papers were handed out for the positions of Elder, then later for the other ministry positions.

Nominations were called for the vacant positions, but no nominations were forthcoming.

7. Annual Reports

The Treasurer's Report and the Auditor's Report were presented and it was agreed that these Reports be accepted. (Attachment 3)

Moved: Keith Smith. *Seconded:* Paul Bainton. *Carried.*

Keith was thanked for his faithfulness in serving in the Treasurer role and that he had done an absolutely amazing job under tremendous pressure. Paul confirmed that the church "released him from this job as from this month and that we thank him from the bottom of our hearts".

Tremendous applause followed. Riitta also thanked Keith's family for their contribution, understanding and support.

8. Encouragement from Elders

Riitta also invited Paul to speak.

Paul shared today's devotional from *Streams in the Desert*, "The Lord hath sent strength for you" (Psalm 68:28). "As thy days, so shall your strength be" – strength of will, strength of affection, strength of judgment, strength of ideals and achievement.

"The Lord is my strength" *to go on.*

"The Lord is my strength" *to go up.*

"The Lord is my strength" *to go down.*

"The Lord is my strength" *to sit still.*

"The Lord is my strength!" "Our sufficiency is of God."

9. Declaration of the Voting Results

The results of the voting were announced:

- Elder – Paul Bainton
- Elder – Dean Sawtell
- Elder – Steven Mogg

Riitta prayed for the three Elders covering them in prayer.

- Operations Manager – Peter Simpfendorfer
- Mission and Outreach – Marian Luke
- Children – Wendy Newman

Dean Sawtell prayed for those elected, for *strength*, and Paul also committed them to prayer praying for *unity*.

The following positions were declared vacant:

- Treasurer
- Pastoral Care and Small Groups
- Worship and Creative Arts
- Youth

Riitta encouraged everyone to continue prayerfully considering if God would have them nominate for any of the vacant positions.

10. Closing Words from Elders

Dean:

“God is good. Bring the little that you have... We are a church that has an amazing diversity. God can walk us forward with strength, hope, joy and love that I think we are beginning to discover anew.”

Thanks were extended to Wayne Martin and Beth Doyle for stepping into their Advisory roles so well, and also to Riitta for serving in the position of Operations Manager in an interim measure, for standing in this position and bringing God’s grace into it.

“Know that your leaders will do our very best, not just good, and together we will see what God is doing here.”

Paul:

Paul publicly thanked Sandy for supporting him and Ruth for supporting Dean. Applause followed as all the members affirmed these words. Paul concluded with the words: “My hope is that as we move forward we will not burn people out, but raise them up with wings as eagles.”

Riitta advised that the Membership forms that had been signed during the church service would now be processed. Any member who had been absent from the service will be contacted during the week and given the opportunity to sign and commit themselves to membership. A copy of this form is also attached. (Attachment 4)

Closure

The Meeting closed at 1.35pm sharp.