



**Hunter Valley Law Society Inc.**  
A Regional Society of  
The Law Society of New South Wales  
A.C.N. 000 000 699

**Hunter Valley Law Society**  
**Minutes of Annual General Meeting for 2023**  
**Held at: 6.09 pm on 23 November 2023**  
**Location: Vile & Vile Solicitors Maitland**

**1. Members Present for AGM**

- Nada Vujat
- Dan Smyth
- Lucy Kelly
- Andrew Vile
- Renee Newland
- Dan Conway
- Dane Twohill
- Max Reed

**2. Apologies**

- Nil

**3. Previous AGM Minutes from 2022**

Dane Twohill previously circulated minutes via email. Moved by Max Reed and seconded by Dan Smyth as being a true reflection of the previous AGM on 4 November 2022.

**4. Annual Accounts & Treasurer's Report – Lucy Kelly**

Report: Treasurer's report provided by Lucy Kelly, balance at 4 November 2022 \$35,308.03; fees \$5,753.55; costs \$4,952.12; **balance today \$36,839.24.**

Treasurers report was moved by Andrew Vile and seconded by Max Reed.

*NB:- the income earned between 4 November 2022 and the closure of accounts is awaiting verification from statements from the closed Westpac account.*

**5. Presidents Report – Nada Vujat**

**Website:** Nada spoke about the HVLS website as now being live. Members are now able to register to post notices on the HVLS website. Details of upcoming CLE's, Member's functions and other notices will be posted by the HVLS on it's website Noticeboard.

It is expected that the website noticeboard will be utilized by Members practicing in Wills & Estates Law where Will searches can be posted by Members once registered. The HVLS will no longer send emails with respect to Will searches and it is expected Members post such searches on the Noticeboard. Dane Twohill will set up a separate noticeboard on the website for wills searches.



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Dan Conway enquired as to whether enquiries could be made into whether the website could send an automatic notification to members once a new wills search had been posted, for example using an RSS feed. Dane Twohill will make enquiries with the website developer.

Members are currently able to renew their memberships online, including payment of membership fees. Dane Twohill and Lucy Kelly raised an issue with the online payments system and it was agreed that the online payment functionality would be discontinued and Members would be requested to make payment of membership fees by direct deposit.

Dan Smyth advised that he had experienced functionality issues with the website when using a Macbook. Dane Twohill will follow this up with the website developer to ensure the website is functional with Mac computers.

**Upcoming CLE's:** Dan Smyth confirmed that the next CLE will occur on Friday, 23 February 2024 at Easts Leisure and Golf Club. Confirmed speakers include Former Supreme Court Justice, Phillip Hallen, representatives from the Law Society and Law Cover. The CLE will offer 5 CLE points. Following the CLE on 23 February 2024, HVLS will have offered 10 points of CLE's free of charge to members; this will remain the same for 2024.

**Social Events:** Nada noted that for some time she had been following up Certificates for practitioners who have achieved 25 or 50 years of service. Nada was pleased to advise that she had now received some of those Certificates and the Law Society had advised her that any outstanding Certificates would be provided shortly.

Nada advised that the Law Society had offered to attend and provide funding for a Social Event in 2024 at which time the Certificates to practitioners could be presented. Further information in relation to the proposed event will be provided in due course, however it is anticipated that it will occur in the Hunter Valley in the second half of 2024. At this stage, the preferred date being 4 October 2024.

The President's report was moved by Maxwell Reed and seconded by Renee Newland.

## 6. Election of Committee Members

All positions declared vacant.

Nominations for the following positions were made, received and accepted:-

**President:** Nada Vujat

**Vice President:** Dan Smyth

**Secretary & Public Officer:** Dane Twohill

**Treasurer:** Lucy Kelly

**Committee Member:** Andrew Vile

**Committee Member:** Daniel Conway

**Committee Member/Young Lawyer Representative:** Renee Newland

## 7. General Business



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**Membership fees:** For 2023 \$60.00 per annum. Dan Smyth moved that fees remain the same for 2024; seconded by Andrew Vile.

**Members Business from the Floor:** There was discussion regarding continued problems members were experiencing with the Supreme Court's online probate system. Maxwell Reed suggested that members be invited to participate in a general discussion surrounding the problems and issues they were experiencing at the next CLE on 23 February 2024, which was agreed to by those present.

**Nada Vujat declared the meeting closed at 6.58 pm**