

Hunter Valley Law Society
Minutes of Annual General Meeting for 2022
1:43pm on 7 November 2022
East's Leisure & Golf East Maitland
(Held in conjunction with CLE)

1. Members Present for AGM

- Nada Vujat
- Dan Smyth
- Lucy Kelly
- Andrew Vile
- Renee Newland

2. Apologies

- Alexandra Longbottom
- Dane Twohill

3. Previous AGM Minutes from 2021

Alexandra Longbottom previously circulated minutes via email. Moved by Dan Smyth and seconded by Andrew Vile as being a true reflection of the previous AGM in February 2022 (for year ending 2021).

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

Reports: Treasurer's report provided by Lucy Kelly, balance at 1 February 2022 \$38,99.00; fees \$5,000.00; costs \$9,276; **balance today \$35,308.03.**

Closing account with Westpac due to fees and transferring over to Maitland Mutual (details to be provided shortly).

5. Presidents Report – Nada Vujat

Website: Nada spoke about the HVLS website being in its infancy stages however, it has gone live for unknown reasons (alerted by a member of the general public); this will be rectified shortly. Once the website is finalised, there will be an interactive Notice Board where legal practitioners can post enquiries. Nada noted that Alexandra Longbottom was receiving a plethora of emails and her workload will be reduced with the introduction of the Notice Board. Membership applications will be accessible on the website, details of upcoming CLE's, member's dinners; it will be a 'go to' spot. Nada will send out an email about the website in due course.

Upcoming CLE's: Anticipated to be held in April/May 2023. This year HVLS offered 10 points of CLE's free of charge to members; this will remain the same for 2023.

Social Events: The pandemic has curbed social gatherings and recognition dinners. Nada mentioned that there is a list of practitioners who have achieved 25 or 50 years of service however, the Law Society has not issued the Certificates as yet. Nada informed that there will be a function held in 2023 for this.

Law Cover Discount: HVLS offered a CLE topic this year covering risk management - cyber crime which entitles practitioners to a 10% discount on Law Cover premium (per year). The HVLS will try to incorporate this into future CLE's.

NSWLS AGM: Regarding constitutional changes; Nada distributed details of this to members two weeks ago (via email).

Succession Planning Kits: These are being developed by HVLS and will be provided early 2023 (once live).

Probate Delays: Only a couple of practitioners have emailed Nada; she will be seeking a response from the Elder Law Committee; Nada seeking practitioner and client experiences (deadline to respond to Nada expires 9:00am Monday 7 November 2022); Nada will then address.

President's Report Concluded 1:56pm

6. Election of Committee Members - Maxwell Reed

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: Alexandra Longbottom (*will assist Dane Twohill until March 2023)

Committee Member: Daniel Conway

Committee Member/Young Lawyer Representative: Renee Newland

7. General Business – Nada Vujat

Membership fees: For 2022 \$60.00 per annum (same as last 5 years; except during Covid-19 HVLS froze fees); Dan Smyth moved these fees remain the same for 2023; seconded by Andrew Vile.

Members Business from the Floor: There was a question received regarding what the HVLS's long-term goal was with the balance of funds held. It was put forward from the floor that we shouldn't be shy on spending this money on ourselves; potentially on advertising to benefit all members. Nada Vujat addressed this; social events in particular drain those funds, there are also regional president meetings 4 times a year; our bank balance is considered to be low to medium however, the point was taken from the floor.

Nada Vujat declared the meeting closed at 2:07pm