

## Annual General Meeting

### Minutes

Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> November 2020, 4:00-5:30pm

Platform: Zoom Video Communications Inc.

Attendees		
First Name	Surname	Organisation
Katherine	Ellis	YACVic
Thomas	Feng	YACVic
Jess	Standish	YACVic
Luke	Rycken	YACVic
Stephanie	Brenkovich	YACVic
Derm	Ryan	YACVic Rural
Mark	Yin	YACVic
Leyla	Quartermaine	KYC
Mija	Gwyn	YDAS
Nikayla	Bamblett	KYC
Sebastian	Antoine	YDAS
Simon	Green	YDAS
Bree	O'Dwyer	YDAS
Nina	Laitala	VicSRC
Briar	Rolfe	YACVic
Karen	Walsh	YACVic Rural
Bryce	Taylor	KYC
Liam	Head	YACVic
Sam	Champion	YACVic
Ruqia	Mohamed	YACVic
Stacey	Christie	YDAS
Maya	Ghassali	YACVic
Reece	Moir	YACVic
Liana	Buchanan	Commission for Children and Young People
Martin	Stewart	Blind Citizens Australia
Melanie	Vella	Victoria University

Attendees		
First Name	Surname	Organisation
Nitul	Deshpande	
Paul	Malavisi	
Paul	McDonald	Anglicare Victoria
Roger	Holdsworth	University of Melbourne
Liz	Walker	RSPCA
Robyn	Broadbent	Victoria University
Scott	Duncan	VicSRC
Sienna	Gladstone	VicSRC
Sue	Carlile	
Susan	Wells	
Talisha	Ohanessian	VCOSS
Tania	Glivar	Whitelion
Hang	Vo	Whitelion
Tasha	Ritchie	YACVic
Tessa	Jenkins	
Tim	Corney	
Tim	Harte	Victoria University
Tony	Justice	Knox City Council
Vicki	Cooper	Maribyrnong City Council
Khan	Churchill	City of Whittlesea
Carmel	Guerra	CMY
Alex	Neill	YACVic
Georgina	Oxley	YACVic
Deb	Fewster	VCOSS
Kerrie	Loveless	YACVic
Kerryn	Pennell	Orygen

<b>Attendees</b>		
<b>First Name</b>	<b>Surname</b>	<b>Organisation</b>
Melinda	Lawley	The Bridge Youth Services
Nicky	Leitch	Hume Whittlesea LLEN
Kane	Sparks	Swan Hill Rural City Council
Will	Burns	Swan Hill Rural City Council
Justin	Mohamed	Commission for Children and Young People
Erin	Johnson	
Ardu	Cubillo	YACVic Rural
Laura	Pettenuzzo	YDAS
Evrin	Sen	SYN Media
Becc	Brooker	YACVic
Peter	Glynn	YACVic
Kareem	El-Ansary	YACVic
Carla	Hall	YACVic Rural
Jen	Rowan	YACVic

<b>Attendees</b>		
<b>First Name</b>	<b>Surname</b>	<b>Organisation</b>
Aakriti	Malhotra	VicSRC
Anhar	Al-Shameri	YACVic
Anja	Homburg	DRC Advocacy
Ashley	Eadon	
Giovanna	Szalkowicz	YACVic
Alex	Iliopoulos	YACVic
Albert	Giglia	YACVic
Kelsey	McGowan	YDAS
Issy	Orosz	YDAS
Nuriyah	Haque	
Jessica	Brooks	
Andy	Bell	Youth Gurus

<b>Apologies</b>		
<b>First Name</b>	<b>Surname</b>	<b>Organisation</b>
Rhiannon	Jennings	YACVic Rural
Jill	McCabe	YACVic
Indi	Clarke	KYC

### **1. Welcome and Acknowledgement of Country**

YACVic Deputy Chair and MC Natasha Ritchie welcomed everyone to the AGM and provided an Acknowledgement of Country.

### **2. Commemorating the 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of YACVic**

Members were presented with a tribute video for the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of YACVic.

### **3. Reports**

#### **Chairperson Report**

**Kerrie Loveless** - Chairperson

I want to begin by acknowledging that I am coming to you live from Naarm in Wurundjeri Country. 2020 has shown once again the ongoing need for reconciliation and racial justice in this country and many others. I pay my deep and personal respects to elders from all countries across this land we now call Australia. I acknowledge the strength, resilience and wisdom of all First Nations people and their continuing connection to country, culture, and community.

I think we can all agree that this year can be described using a number of choice words and superlatives. None of which are suitable for this moment. But we can all take a moment and say them in our heads, or scream them into a cushion, whatever works.

On behalf of the entire board I want to take a moment to sing the praises of YACVic who have supported young people and the sector during this strange and challenging time. In a year where our members, our communities, our friends have faced bushfires and COVID-19, the team have played a central role in keeping young people's needs and experiences on the public and political agenda, and supported the youth sector to address them in these. I'm sure we have all felt a bit confused by the constant changes this year and I think our role in interpreting all the policy changes and restrictions for young people has been vital.

We have strengthened our role and reputation as a connector, coordinator, and collaborator.

In the wake of such upheaval it is easy to forget that we launched our strategic plan late last year - I know I struggle to remember last week - time is elastic right now. That plan has remained extremely relevant as we pivoted to face these new challenges. We have supported young people from across Victoria: from bushfire affected communities in East Gippsland to young people experiencing homelessness in Warrnambool. We have tackled important issues like mental health, income support, and lowering the voting age to name just a few.

In the midst of that we have also faced our own loss of sorts as we bid a bittersweet farewell to VicSRC. We are so proud to have supported VicSRC for 17 years. Our partnership has been a strong and fruitful one, and we are proud of the way they have grown considerably with us, always keeping the ideas and experiences of young people - students - right at the centre. We look forward to continuing to work in partnership; sharing skills and knowledge, supporting each other to amplify young voices and enable young people to lead and shape their communities. I think about where CMY is today and I wish for a similar strong journey for VicSRC.

Reflecting on the year to write the annual report, and for today, gives me a chance to take a moment and to recognise and appreciate the passion, skill, and commitment of our team. This has not been an easy year. Like so many people, they have managed the stress of COVID: juggling work, parenting and teaching; working from bedrooms, lounge rooms, and laundries; overcoming technical difficulties, all the while working tirelessly for you, our members and young people across Victoria.

So, on behalf of the board I want to offer my sincere and deep gratitude to them for their efforts, and to Katherine for her expert leadership of such a wonderful team. I am confident that YACVic will continue to play a crucial role as we support young people and youth workers across Victoria move towards a post-COVID world.

I also want to take a moment to thank the board. We have all met more regularly than expected this year, faced tough decisions, and situations we had never really considered let alone prepared for. You have all stepped up to the plate, bat in hand ready to swing. I appreciate that. I want to give a special shout out to Paul Turner who has not been on the board officially but has worked his behind off on committees for us. I also must thank our outgoing board members - Tessa Jenkins, Katerina Dandanis and Kareem El-Ansary. You are all superstars.

Anyone who doubts the skills and capabilities of young people should come to one of our board meetings with the likes of these three around the table – or on screen as it has been this year. I am constantly humbled by the people around me there.

Lastly, I want to thank our members. We are – literally – nothing without you. Our work matters because you matter. I thank you for your support for us and for the community. And I look forward to telling you that in person next year. Thank you.

## **Treasurer Report**

**Peter Glynn** - Treasurer

The 2020 financial year (FY20) has been a challenge in so many different ways.

Following the dreadful impact to our communities caused by the summer bushfires, the COVID-19 pandemic in Australia commenced and required your Board to display prudent financial management given the unknown territory that YACVic, its people, members and communities were entering. We entered the pandemic strong, financially speaking, which allowed us to make the right decisions that were consistent with our strategic objective of supporting and advocating for young people.

The FY20 surplus increased to \$309,889 from \$123,389 in the prior year. This result was generated by increased revenues of \$236,420 to \$4,229,390 principally due to an increase in government funding to address COVID-19-related capacity requirements, although this increase was partially offset by a reduction in conference income following the decision to regrettably postpone the planned 2020 Youth Forum and Youth Sector Conference as a result of the COVID-19 restrictions. For the same period, our expenses increased by \$49,900 to \$3,919,491 principally due to increased employee costs incurred to support the additional government funded work. This amount was offset by a reduction in other expenses such as travel, conference and other general operating expenses following the onset of COVID-19.

Our financial position remains strong with net assets at 30 June 2020 of \$1,489,697 which included a healthy cash position of \$2,814,485. One notable change to the Statement of Financial Position in the current year was due to YACVic being required to adopt a new accounting standard, AASB 16 Leases. Whereas in the prior years, lease payments were expensed as incurred, the new lease accounting standard required YACVic to recognise a Right-to-use asset of \$497,013 and associated lease liabilities of \$514,407. Lease expenses in the annual surplus are replaced with the Right-to-use amortisation expenses and lease liability interest charges. Whilst our cash position remains strong it includes \$1,186,205 which was collected in advance for 2021 funding programs, in addition to \$256,133 being transferred to VicSRC following their legal separation in July 2020.

I am proud of the way YACVic's management team and Board continue to lead the organisation. Whilst the FY21 will undoubtedly be another challenging period, we do this, importantly, from a position of financial strength.

## **Annual Report**

**Katherine Ellis** – Chief Executive Officer

I would like to start by acknowledging the traditional custodians of the land I am speaking to you from today, Wurundjeri country. I pay my respects to Elders past present and emerging and recognise that this land was never ceded – it always was and always will be Aboriginal land.

I would also like to note that I use she/her pronouns.

It is a pleasure to be speaking to you all today, as we approach the end of a very very challenging year.

Well, could we ever have predicted a year like 2019-20 for the young people of Victoria, or for YACVic?

It was really a year of two parts. The first half was a time of rejuvenation and renewal, leading up to a new strategic plan which we launched this time last year. We had new staff on board and were really moving ahead on our key goals.

Then came January and the bushfires, which slammed the lives and communities of so many young people in the east of the state, only to be quickly followed in March by the COVID-19 pandemic, a generation-defining crisis.

The demands on YACVic as a peak body, and the work of our key partners and agencies KYC, VicSRC, YDAS and YACVic Rural, have been significant. But I am very pleased to report that our values, our strategic plan and our partnerships have held up very well. I believe we have met the challenges and supported and advocated for young people and the sector, to the best of our ability and resources over the past year.

This included a sharp increase in communications, we created ‘Huddle’ connection events and information webinars; we moved programs and events online; and we advocated with government and other decision makers about the impact of COVID-19 on young people.

COVID provided some silver linings too – the move online made access easier for many people, resulting in hugely expanded connection across the state and beyond, and greater participation in our networks and events.

We have also continued with ‘business as usual’ in many ways, with substantial policy advocacy and sector collaboration on mental health, youth justice and housing security, and delivery of events and programs like the Koorie Youth Summit and YDAS’s Emerging Young Leaders program, both of which were delivered online really successfully.

You’ll hear more about our work from some of our young staff a bit later on.

A milestone event of 2019/20 was seeing our partner agency VicSRC graduate from its YACVic auspice to become independent. Huge congratulations to VicSRC, and we look forward to seeing you continue to fight for student voices to be heard at the centre of education decision making.

Next I want to pay tribute to all our members across the Youth Sector, and YACVic’s own workforce, who have done outstanding work this past year, under extremely difficult circumstances, to support and advocate for young people right across Victoria. Your efforts

have been so important to sustaining hope, and creating stability and opportunities which are vital to young people now, and will continue to be so in the coming years.

Thanks, also, to the Victorian Government for your great support and collaboration this past year. We have been very fortunate to build a good relationship with the new Minister for Youth Ros Spence, and Gerry Goswell and her team at the Equality and Youth Branch, and also receive continued support from DHHS and DPC for YDAS and KYC.

We have continued other great partnerships – like VicHealth, CMY and the Commission for Children and Young People – and also forged some fantastic new ones – with the RSPCA for our Rural Young Activators program, the Lord Mayor’s Charitable Foundation to increase the capacity of YDAS’s advocacy service for disabled young people, and Orygen for a Community of Practice on mental health. Thank you to all of you for your collaboration and your support.

Late in the financial year we also built a coalition of youth sector organisations that secured a major grant from the Working for Victoria Fund to bring extra capacity to the sector. And partnered with Bushfire Recovery Victoria to make sure that young people’s voices and contributions are included in bushfire recovery processes. I’ll tell you more about those projects at the next AGM!

I’d like to take this opportunity to acknowledge and thank the fantastic YACVic board, in particular our Chair Kerrie and Deputy Chair Tasha, who have been incredibly supportive of me personally, and of the whole YACVic team this year, at the same time as facing their own personal and professional hurdles due to the pandemic. I feel truly fortunate to have such an engaged and supportive board.

Finally, and most importantly, I want to acknowledge the resilience and courage of the many young Victorians who have been disproportionately impacted by drought, bushfires and the COVID-19 pandemic this year. You are dealing with disruptions to your education, social isolation, lost jobs and opportunities, mental health issues, and so many other challenges. It has been tough, and it is not over yet.

That’s why we have worked with youth sector and other experts to develop a COVID-19 Recovery Plan for Young People, and we will continue to discuss ways that it can be made real, with commitment into 2021 by government, with business and the community. The state budget this week was an excellent start, with some great announcements that will really benefit young people. Investing in young people is investing in society, and in Victoria’s future peace and prosperity.

YACVic is here for all young people, and those who work with and for young people. And as Victoria moves through and beyond this very difficult time, we will continue to do our best to make sure that your needs, your perspectives and your ideas are respected and embraced in the recovery and reimagining of Victoria.

We will now have the formal resolutions for the AGM presented by Kerrie.

#### **4. Formal Resolutions**

Kerrie Loveless presented the following resolutions for the Annual General Meeting.

## **Approval of the 2019 AGM minutes**

**Motion:** That the minutes of the 2019 AGM, are a true and accurate record of events and be received and adopted.

Moved: Kerrie Loveless

Seconded: Thomas Feng

## **Acceptance of Reports**

**Motion:** That the reports be accepted.

Moved: Kerrie Loveless

Seconded: Rebecca Brooker

## **Reappointment of Auditor**

**Motion:** That Accru Melbourne be appointed as YACVic's auditors for the 2020-2021 financial year.

Moved: Kerrie Loveless

Seconded: Khan Churchill

## **5. Reflections on 2020, and the Future**

Will Burns from Swan Hill Rural City Council shared his reflections on 2020 and his thoughts for the future as a youth worker and as a young person.

## **6. Election results declared**

Natasha Ritchie declared the Election results for the YACVic Board of Governance

### **Board of Governance – Young Person**

Kareem El-Ansary

### **Board of Governance – Young Person**

Tim Harte

### **Board of Governance – Rural Position**

Tessa Jenkins

## **6. Other business**

The formalities of the AGM concluded at 4:50pm.

The event continued with a panel discussion of YACVic's 2019/21 work, delivered by young staff across YACVic, YACVic Rural, YDAS, KYC and VicSRC and moderated by Sam Champion. Professor Robyn Broadbent from Victoria University gave a response.

The AGM formally closed at 5:34pm.