

**Annual General Meeting**

**Minutes**

**Thursday 25th November 2021, 4:00-5:30pm**

**Platform: Zoom Video Communications Inc.**

| ***Attendees*** | | |  | ***Attendees*** | | |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **First Name** | **Surname** | **Organisation** |  | **First Name** | **Surname** | **Organisation** |
| Katherine | Ellis | YACVic |  | Tim | Harte | YACVic |
| Thomas | Feng | YACVic |  | Billie | Angelone |  |
| Jess | Standish | YACVic |  | Rebecca | Morecroft | Live4Life |
| Emily | Greco | YMCA |  | Tanya | Hendry | Whitelion |
| Abbey | Nation |  |  | Alice | Pickin | YWCA |
| Tim | Harte | YACVic |  | Roger | Holdsworth |  |
| Bev | Hoffmann | NELLEN |  | Barry | Rogers | La Trobe Youth Space |
| Derm | Ryan | YACVic Rural |  | Krushnadevsinh | Ravalji |  |
| Carla | Hall | YACVic Rural |  | Marianna | Codognotto | Disability Services Commissioner |
| Richard | Hill |  |  | Is | Hay | YDAS |
| Deepa | Golani | Job Find |  | Kate | Roache | Beyond the Bell |
| Fel | Andronicou |  |  | Molly | Dennis | Western District Health Service |
| Billi | McCarthy-Price |  |  | Michelle | Thompson | Family Services Network |
| Kylie | Peel | Mansfield Shire Council |  | Julia | Coscollula | Brimbank City Council |
| Evrim | Sen | SYN Media |  | Ayaan | Qani | Brimbank City Council |
| Isabella | Ohara |  |  | Kate | Procter | Hepburn Shire Council |
| Sally | Matheson | Tomorrow Today |  | Yu-Wen | Chien | INLLEN |
| Ed | Krutsch |  |  | Ciri | Stanek |  |
| Jarred | Crowe |  |  | Clinton | Fullgrabe | Darebin City Council |
| Jan | Farrell |  |  | Margi | Gibb | Mansfield Shire Council |
| Andrew | Bell | Youth Gurus |  | Melissa | Rowland | Women’s Health Goulburn North East |
| Tanya | Marques | Kingston Youth Family Services |  | Dylan | Hunt | Headspace |
| Khan | Churchill | Headspace |  | Paul | Papadatos | Innovation Youth Centre |
| David | Lyons |  |  | Ciri | Stanek |  |
| Rob | Ellis | Salvation Army |  | Robyn | Broadbent | Victoria University |
| Katerina | Dandanis |  |  | Amy | Liddy | Maroondah City Council |
| Aristidis | Tsoulakos |  |  | Anne | Trickey | CCLLEN |
| Jasmine | Elliott |  |  | Nina | Laitala | VicSRC |
| Kelly | Phan |  |  | Alex | Ross | Tomorrow Today |
| Jack | Dalrymple | Global Voices |  | Melissa | Rowland |  |
| Peter | McNamara |  |  | Hang | Vo | Whitelion |
| Maria | Matthews |  |  | Matilda | Grey |  |
| Becc | Brooker | YACVic |  | David | Jeffery | YSAS |
| Fiona | MacDonald | YACVic Rural |  | William | Burns | Swan Hill City Council |
| Marisa | Uwarow | Hobsons Bay City Council |  | Alexandra | Neill | YACVic |
| Mariah | Magri | Brimbank City Council |  | Mark | O'Brien | Melbourne City Mission |
| Sean | Fitzgerald | City of Melbourne |  | Heather | Stewart |  |
| Kathryn | Daley | RMIT |  | Jen | Couch | ACU |
| Kareem | El-Ansary | YACVic |  | Kerrie | Loveless | YACVic |
| Paul | McDonald | Anglicare Victoria |  | Mija | Gwyn | YDAS |
| Mark | Hinton |  |  | Karen | Walsh | YACVic Rural |
| Sue | Carlile | Family Access Network |  | Jen | Rowan | YACVic |
| Christian | Curtis | Salvation Army |  | Sam | Champion | YACVic |
| Tasha | Ritchie | YACVic |  | Mark | Yin | YACVic |
| Simon | Green | YDAS |  | Ruqia | Mohammed | YACVic |
| Peter | Glynn | YACVic |  | Alyssa | Grace | YACVic |
| Katia | Pellicciotta | YACVic |  | Kelsey | McGowan | YDAS |
| Giovanna | Szalkowicz | YACVic |  | Bonnie | Dukakis | KYC |
| Julia | Baron | YACVic |  | Stacey | Christie | YDAS |
| Bianca | Failla | YDAS |  | Akshay | Kumar | YACVic |
| Georgia | Cutajar | YACvic |  | Nellie | Wotherspoon | YACVic |
| Natalie | Voermans | YDAS |  | Hope | Kuchel | KYC |
| Kirsty | Greenwood | YACVic |  | Leyla | Quatermaine | KYC |
| Nat | James | YACVic |  | Albert | Giglia | YACVic |
| Bridget | Jolley | YDAS |  |  |  |  |
| Lucia | Suarez | YACVic |  |  |  |  |
| Haley | Zilberberg | YDAS |  |  |  |  |

| ***Apologies*** | | |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **First Name** | **Surname** | **Organisation** |
| Shorna | Moore | Melbourne City Mission |
| Andrew | Bruun | Youth Support Advocacy Service |

1. **Welcome and Acknowledgement of Country**

YACVic Board Director and MC Georgina Oxley welcomed everyone to the AGM.

YACVic Board Director and MC Tasha Ritchie provided an Acknowledgement of Country.

1. **Reports**

**Chairperson Report**

**Kerrie Loveless** – Chairperson

Let me start by acknowledging country. It is an honour to carry on a tradition that has been happening on these lands for 60plus thousand years. There are parts of our recent history that are uncomfortable and shameful, but these lands we now call Australia have a rich and proud history. With that in mind I want to acknowledge that I’m on Wurundjeri land. I offer my respects to their elders past and present, and to those who continue their connection to country and community. I commit to learning from them, and helping form a path to a respectful, honest reckoning with our past, and shaping of an equitable future.

Well, we thought last year was a doozy hey?

This year was just as hectic, probably more draining as the ongoing weight of the pandemic really took its toll. I won’t repeat what’s been covered in the annual report, about the impacts on young people, youth workers and our staff. Needless say it’s been a lot. People are exhausted, overwhelmed, and still uncertain about what’s to come.

I am proud of the role YACVic has played during COVID so far. From interpreting ever-changing health and safety messages, to championing and supporting effective youth engagement during challenging conditions, and securing extra resources for the sector through the Working for Victoria program, including many jobs for young people! In many ways this really horrible, stressful time, has highlighted the crucial role YACVic plays in Victoria in elevating the strengths, needs, and voices of young people and the people who work with them.

As Tash and I say in the annual report, we are so proud that YACVic, our members and young people across Victoria have used the challenges of the past couple of year as opportunities to come together, to challenge the status quo and push for a more inclusive, fairer future.

I want to say a few thank you’s before I’ll make room to hear from young people, who will be far more interesting and insightful than I.

Firstly, to our members. We are nothing without you, we are you, if that makes sense. Thank you for continuing to work with us, with each other, and with your communities to elevate and empower young Victorians. We are especially happy to be, hopefully, making membership free for young people.

Secondly, to YACVic staff for your tireless passion and commitment, each month the board is seriously impressed by your output and your impact across sectors and across the state. A special shoutout to Katherine. I know she, like the team and many others, has been tired this year, but her passion and dedication to this organisation, and to young people, is unwavering. We are lucky to have such a creative, strategic, and empathic woman leading YACVic.

Finally, I want to thank the board. I’m sure everyone watching or listening today can empathise with being totally over online meetings, and screens in general, and having a little less motivation than usual this year. Our directors have volunteered their time and energy throughout this crappy year: finished a day of work/homeschooling and jumped straight on zoom for board and committee meetings, or stayed on the laptop for a few more hours working on board policies, reviewing our finances, or updating the risk register. These things are so important. But I can tell you it was harder this year than it’s ever been, for me at least. And I don’t think I’m alone. So truly honestly, thank you. We are fortunate to have such an array of clever, committed humans on our board.

A special mention must go to the outgoing board members – Georgina, Becc, and Peter, who are not standing again. Thank you so much. Alex, Tash, Katerina, and I are standing but we stand at the will of the members. So, thanks to all them for their efforts and being willing to go again. Tash and Katerina in particular have already given many years to YACVic.

That’s enough from me. I’ll hand you over to Peter.

**Treasurer Report**

**Peter Glynn** – Treasurer

FY21 has been another challenging year and has required management and the Board to continue prudent financial management given the continued uncertainty of the COVID-19 pandemic on YACVic’s programs, people, members, partners and communities.

The FY21 surplus increased by $22,979 to $332,868 and this was largely due to:

* Increased revenues of $397,965 to $4,627,355. This increase was principally due to additional government funding of $248,458, an increase in COVID-19 related government subsidies of $132,600 including JobKeeper, offset by a reduction in conference income of $137,565 following the necessary decision to defer our conference to FY22 as a result of COVID-19 restrictions.
* Expenditures increased by $374,996 to $3,919,491. This increase was principally a result of higher workforce costs to support the many continuing and new initiatives across YACVic, offset by a decrease in project costs largely as a result of online delivery of events and programs, and the deferred conference.

Our financial position remains strong with net assets at 30 June 2021 of $1,566,432 which included a strong cash position of $3,540,657. It is important to note that this cash position was largely due to the timing of significant project funding received towards the end of the year and therefore not expended at year-end, but which will be used across many committed initiatives over the coming 12 months.

I continue to be proud of the way YACVic’s management team, people and Board continue to lead the organisation. Whilst FY21 was another challenging year, we start the new financial year from a position of financial strength which will allow us to focus on delivering our impactful strategy.

**Annual Report**

**Katherine Ellis** – Chief Executive Officer

Like last year, 2020/21 has been a time of great challenge for young people in Victoria, and for everyone who works in the youth sector. Young people continued to be slammed by job losses, disruption to education, social isolation and mental health issues, at the same time as so many were giving their best as frontline essential workers and waiting to be eligible for vaccination.

I want to thank and commend every young person who faced, and continues to face, these challenges, and all the parents, carers, youth workers, teachers and others who are collectively supporting and nurturing Victoria’s young people through this very tough time.

As the peak body for young people and the youth sector, and with YDAS, KYC and YACVic Rural focused on young people who face marginalisation at the best of times, YACVic has felt a deeper-than-usual responsibility during this pandemic. We’ve done our best to keep young people and youth issues front and centre with policy makers and media, to gather and share relevant information from experts, and to help the sector connect and collaborate.

This has included a number of key COVID-related activities like:

* Our COVID-19 Recovery Plan for Young People;
* YDAS’s COVID-19 resources and Youth Working Group recommendations; and
* KYC’s hugely popular online Yarning Circles.

At the same time, we’ve continued with a huge program of regular work, developing policy advice on a wide variety of issues, working to promote youth participation in decision making; and building the capacity and connection of youth workers and other youth specialists across the state.

Alongside the disruption and uncertainty, there have been some silver linings, in particular the increased collaboration and generosity across the social sector, the greater acceptance of flexible working and the existence of personal lives, and the boost in attention by policy makers and media to the issues of young people. I really hope that these remain as a legacy of this time in history.

So many new partnerships have blossomed and flourished as we have strived to support and advocate for Victoria’s young people. We’ve continued a strong and productive relationship with the Victorian Government, in particular with Youth Minister Ros Spence and the Office for Youth (OfY), the Office for Disability, the First Peoples – State Relations Group, and the Department of Health.

These partnerships are genuinely two-way, as YACVic, YDAS and KYC facilitate representation by young people and the youth sector in a variety of government advisory groups, working groups, enquiries and consultations. This year also included collaboration with the Office for Youth on statewide consultations to inform the new Victorian Youth Strategy, and the Department of Health to support COVID-related communications to young people.

We have a great partnership with VicHealth, and it has been a delight to support their very genuine commitment to youth participation and a major youth focus in their work. This partnership has also become a model for engagement with other organisations, like Bushfire Recovery Victoria and the Department of Education and Training, with whom we have delivered a major project focused on young people as actors and contributors in bushfire recovery and preparedness, after the terrible 2019/20 fires in Eastern Victoria.

An unexpected partnership evolved this year out of COVID-19 – YACVic brought together the Working for Victoria Coalition, made up of eight organisations, to collectively secure a major grant for extra capacity in the youth sector. This successful coalition has been much richer than just job creation and service delivery – it has led to information sharing, peer support and collaboration on other projects. We also hope to use this kind of collective model to bring more capacity to the youth sector in future, and will tell you about another project underway a bit later this afternoon.

We are grateful to the Lord Mayor’s Charitable Foundation, which has contributed much needed support to increase capacity in YDAS’ individual advocacy team; RSPCA Victoria’s partnership to deliver a Rural Young Activators program focused on animal welfare in bushfire affected areas; Children and Young People with Disability Australia (CYDA)’s partnership to secure NDIA funding to deliver YDAS’ Young Leaders Program; and the FRRR’s support for our Deadly Yarning and Learning Project with Aboriginal young people in the Southern Mallee.

I’ve talked a lot about organisational partners and projects, but I want to be clear that young people have been leading, co-designing, sharing their expertise, participating in, and at the decision-making table in every aspect of this work. And often it has been our young staff, interns and youth working groups who have been driving and supporting the work as well.

On that, I want to acknowledge the extraordinary efforts of YACVic’s staff, who have truly worked above and beyond this year, in most cases while also dealing with their own personal challenges related to COVID-19, and life in general. I’d also like to thank the YACVic Board, who have continued to provide much-appreciated support and direction to our team in this uncertain and historic time.

Finally, and very importantly, I would like to acknowledge all our members, who partner with us in so many ways. YACVic is only as strong and effective as the many intersecting part of the youth sector, and the young people who engage with us, and we are truly fortunate to be able to draw from and contribute to such a wonderful network. Thank you all.

You can read more about our work over the past year in our Annual Report, which is now live on our website. Thank you.

1. **Formal Resolutions**

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

**Approval of the 2020 AGM minutes**

**Motion:** That the minutes of the 2020 AGM, are a true and accurate record of events and be received and adopted.

*Moved:* Thomas Feng

*Seconded:*Tasha Ritchie

Passed.

**Acceptance of Reports**

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

*Moved:* Georgina Oxley

*Seconded:* Kareem El-Ansary

Passed.

**Reappointment of Auditor**

**Motion:** That Accru Melbourne be appointed as YACVic’s auditors for the 2021-2022 financial year.

*Moved:* Alex Neill

*Seconded*: Tim Harte

Passed.

**Approval of Amendments to the YACVic Constitution**

**Motion:** That the amendments to the YACVic Constitution that were provided to members on the 4th of November are approved

*Moved:* Tasha Ritchie

*Seconded*: Paul Papadatos

Passed.

1. **Election results declared**

Kareem El-Ansary declared the Election results for the YACVic Board of Governance

**Board of Governance – Young Person**

Kelly Phan

**Board of Governance – Young Person**

Jasmine Elliott

**Board of Governance – Non-Young Person**

Kerrie Loveless

**Board of Governance – Non-Young Person**

Tasha Ritchie

**Board of Governance – Non-Young Person**

Alexandra Neill

**6. Other business**

The formalities of the AGM concluded at 4:40pm.

The event continued with the launch of the Youth Work Matters Campaign with a keynote address by Paul McDonald, CEO of Anglicare. After the keynote address, there was a panel discussion of young youth workers moderated by Nellie Wotherspoon. The event concluded with a performance by Taylah Shae.

The AGM formally closed at 5:27pm.