



# Wellington Multiple Sclerosis Society

## 59<sup>th</sup> AGM - Minutes

Date: 20 May 2023

Time: 10.30 am

Venue: Upper Hutt Cosmopolitan Club, 11 Logan Street, Ebdentown, Upper Hutt

The meeting was opened with a Karakia led by Lacey Reedy.

### 1. Attendees and Apologies:

#### Attendees

##### *Committee and staff:*

Heather Davy (President), Ross Judge (Treasurer), Steve McCloskey, Alarna Sharratt, Jo Dean (Lead Community Advisor), Lacey Reedy (Community Advisor), Suzanne Linton (Communications and Fundraiser)

##### *Members:*

Paul Gruschow	Shannon Louis	Murray Ruddell
Jenny Hargreaves	Alex Mundy	Ruth Tomlinson
Georgia Lenihan-Geels	Peter North	Glen Sullivan
Sue Kenny	Susan Palmer	Jenny Simpson
Nicky Louis	Tessa Peck	Paul Satherley

#### Apologies

##### *Committee:*

Chelsea Quinn (Secretary)

##### *Members:*

Tony Barnes	Cheryll Gadsby	Alan Kemp
Val and Steve Barnes	Maxine Harland	Chelsea Quinn
Amanda Bennett	Mike & Janet Haylock	Dr Katharina Robichon
Gayle Crozier	Olive Hebron	Veronica Ryan
Shona and Eric Daubé	Jan Henning	Annie Ward

Laura & James Dempsey  
Pam Englert  
Jocelyn Fagerstrom

Thomas Horner  
Merv and Kaye Keighley

Wendy Wallbank  
Lindsay Watson

## **2. One-minute silence for departed members**

Members and guests observed a minute of silence for members who passed away during the previous year.

## **3. Minutes of 2022/58th AGM and any matters arising**

No amendments or matters arising.

Moved: Steve McCloskey  
Seconded: Murray Ruddell

## **4. Annual Report**

Heather presented the Society's Annual Report, printed copies of which were distributed to attendees.

She drew attention to some of the highlights of the past year, acknowledging all our members, supporters, funders, staff and volunteers who have worked to achieve the Society's mission to enable people with MS to live their best lives.

She reported that there were big changes for the charities sector that would impact our Society. Information is on the Charities Services website.

Heather also updated members on the work of the Operations team – Jo Dean, Lacey Reedy and Suzie Linton.

The full text of the Annual Report is provided separately.

## **5. Treasurer's Report**

Ross presented his report, printed copies of which were distributed to attendees.

The Treasurer's Report is provided separately.

## **6. Community Advisors' Report**

This item was covered by Heather in her Annual Report.

## **7. Andy Woodside Memorial Award**

This memorial award is awarded annually to a member of the Society who has made a notable contribution to the Society's mission to enable people with MS to live their best lives.

Heather reported that the Committee recommended that this year's award be presented to Glen Sullivan, who has been actively fundraising for WMS with his team of Cosplayers and Cosvehicles, at events such as Spring into Tawa.

The recommendation was warmly endorsed by members present and the award was duly presented by Heather.

## **8. Confirmation of Committee members, Lawyers, Accountants and Auditors**

### Committee Members

There were no objections to the current committee members remaining on the Committee; all had confirmed their willingness to stand and were duly re-elected by members present.

Jenny Simpson thanked the President and Committee for their work throughout the year.

### Lawyers

Carter Chung Law

### Accountants

Brunton Cropp and Co Ltd (replacing Bennett Currie)

### Auditors

Dent and Heath

Following the tabled Agenda, our Patron, Professor Anne La Flamme, and her colleagues, Tessa Peck and Georgia Lenihan-Geels, gave a talk on the research into new treatment avenues, particularly on the possibility of 're-igniting' the immune response and repairing damage through re-myelination. Tessa spoke about her work looking into why immune cells invade the central nervous system and how to allow non-inflammatory cells to get through whilst blocking others. Georgia is focusing on researching progressive MS, as current treatments work best for relapsing-remitting MS because they target cells outside the central nervous system.

The meeting closed at 11:35am.

The next AGM will be at 10:30am on 18 May 2024 at the Upper Hutt Cosmopolitan Club.