

General Meeting Minutes

Meeting Date			28 August 2023	
Meeting Time			1.00-2.30pm	
Location/venue			Mead Hall, Flinders Street Baptist Church, 65 Flinders Street Adelaide.	
Chair			James Vandenberg President	
Attendees			38 members	
Item	Topic		Discussion	Action/Outcome
1.1	Welcome Acknowledgement of Country		The Chair opened the meeting with an Acknowledgement of Country. The Chair acknowledged the attendance of the Guest Speaker Ralph Clarke who will be fully introduced shortly. The Chair advised members that the General Meeting was being recorded and that the Association aimed to record the General Meetings from now on as 110 members had accessed the July recording via the Members Portal on the Associations website.	Nil
1.2	Apologies		The Chair acknowledged apologies lodged via the website booking process.	Nil
2.	Reports			

2.1	Key Outcomes of the Committee Meeting:	<p>The Chair advised that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jim Rhodes had attended the Committee Meeting as an Observer with the intent of nominating for the Committee in 2024. • Jim initially registered his interest in joining the Committee as a result of the SEEK Volunteering advertisement. 	
3.	Business Arising		
3.1	Committee Activity	<p>The Chair advised that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The main member recruitment process would be in the form of a letter of invitation from the Association to be included in 	Nil

		<p>the annual Super SA mailout and that the development and approval of the letter was currently underway.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The member phone survey had commenced, and that this activity was a direct result of the Strategic Planning processes. • The Committee are updated monthly on the phone survey results and that the full report of outcomes will be considered on 27 November 2023. • The next Superannuant newsletter is being finalised for printing and dissemination early September 2023. • The 2024 Meeting dates have been set with the AGM Planned for 26 February 2024. • The Guest Speaker Program has been finalised until March 2024, with a list of wonderful and interesting speakers lined up for members enjoyment. 	
4.	Guest Speaker		

4.1	Guest Speaker	<p>Guest Speaker: Ian Buckingham introduced Ralph Clarke noting that he has been an active member and employee of the trade union movement and the ALP for nearly 50 years.</p> <p>Ralph joined the then Federated Clerk's Union SA Branch (now known as the Australian Services Union ASU) as an organiser in 1974 and his roles included Industrial Advocate before becoming its Branch secretary in 1984.</p> <p>In December 1993 Ralph was elected to the State seat of Ross Smith (formerly held by John Bannon) as the ALP candidate.</p> <p>During the period 1994 - 1997 Ralph was the Deputy Leader of the SA parliamentary Labor Party. He also held several shadow ministries during this period. Ralph lost his preselection for the 2002 State election and ran as an independent Labor candidate but was unsuccessful.</p> <p>In October 2007 Ralph was elected as a councillor for the City of</p>	
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		<p>Adelaide and held various positions in that role.</p> <p>Since 2002 to the present-day Ralph runs his own industrial relations advocacy business, only representing the interests of employees re unfair dismissals and underpayment of wages and other entitlements.</p> <p>He is also on the board of a charity assisting in the provision of low-cost groceries to persons in need, as well as being a volunteer worker for them and as a JP providing a service for those in need of a JP at the Prospect Council each Wednesday of the week.</p> <p>Ralph then spoke on “Where have the union members gone?” indicating that Membership of trade unions has steadily declined over the last 30 years.</p> <p>Ralph advised that the union movement is still powerful, particularly within the ALP. However, from a time when workers automatically joined the relevant trade union to today when many workers have never belonged to a union and some of them are even antagonistic to unions with changes in the modern workforce having brought about the decline in union membership.</p> <p>Ralph answered questions from members and was thanked for his presentation with a token of appreciation from the Association.</p>	
5	Closing of the Meeting		
5.1	Next Meeting Monday 25 September 2023 @ 1.00pm	The Chair advised that the Guest Speaker for September 2023 is Brenton Gear Director GREEN Adelaide Department of Environment and Water. The meeting closed at 2.30pm	Nil