

**PSA CPSU NSW RETIRED ASSOCIATES
MINUTES OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
Held on Tuesday 25 June 2024 at PSA House and by Zoom**

The meeting was chaired by Dave McKeough, President of the PSA CPSU NSW Retired Associates and commenced at 10.00 am.

1. Acknowledgement of Country – Dave McKeough

2. Attendance

At PSA House Dave McKeough, Carmel McKeough Jeanette Beer, Robert Asbury, John Walz, David Clyant, Paul Turner, Robert Ryan, Barry Blanchard, Mara Tudorin, Anne Cuddy, Phil Mortimer, Wayne O'Mara, Kim McClynmont

PSA Representative Troy Wright, Assistant General Secretary

By Zoom Patricia Nethery, Isabella Ramirra, Nicola Christie, Ysbrand Oosten, David Gibbs

Guest Hugh Mackay AO

3. Apologies

Bret Leech, Samson Raman

MOTION: That the apologies be accepted.

MOVED: Robert Ryan **SECONDED:** David Clyant

CARRIED Unanimously

4. Minutes of the Previous Meeting held on 23 April 2024

MOTION: That the minutes be accepted.

MOVED: Robert Ryan **SECONDED:** David Clyant

CARRIED: Unanimously

5. Vale Stan Beale

Dave McKeough advised of the recent death of Stan Beale a long-time unionist and dedicated member of the Retired Associates. We mourn his loss. Dave gave the following tribute to Stan:

It is with great sadness to hear of the loss of Stanley John Beal on Wednesday the 12 June 2024.

Stan was born on 15 February 1951 and was an outstanding unionist who continued his commitment long after he left the workforce. It was only his declining health that stopped him coming to Retired Associates meetings at PSA House. He was devoted to our cause.

Stan had an over 50-year association with the PSA. He began employment in the Department of Lands in late 1968 and became a member of the PSA in early 1969.

He was involved in conducting PSA elections from 1977 including PSA elections at Annual Conference until the new requirements to conduct elections.

In 1992 he became a full-time employee of the PSA in various administration roles and conducted other PSA related elections before becoming the Office and Building Manager up until his retirement in 2015.

Stan also had a 40-year association with Randwick and Randwick Petersham Cricket Clubs fulfilling roles of Practice Captain, Operations, Assistant CEO, CEO and Chairman of Selectors. He helped young cricketers from the country seeking opportunities in the city by providing accommodation and helped them secure employment whilst studying at local universities.

Stan's funeral will be held at 10AM Friday the 28 June 2024, at St Jude's Anglican Church 106 Avoca Street, Randwick.

Robert Ryan advised that he first met Stan before he joined the PSA. We also reflected on Stan's legacy as a wonderful mentor to new/young staff at the PSA.

The General Secretary's email to staff about Stan's death read as follows:

Dear Staff

I have been advised that Stan Beal has passed after a long-term illness. Stan was a long-term staff member, retired member and PSA member over many decades and one of the great characters of the PSA. Stan was the PSA Building Manager and a Returning Officer for many years having joined the PSA from the Dept of Lands. Stan was also heavily involved with Randwick – Petersham Cricket Club where he often kept score and a keen Greyhound Trainer. I know many of you worked with Stan will mourn his loss. He is remembered by all who knew him with great love and affection. Staff that worked Stan should try to contact former colleagues I will contact former officials today and will keep staff updated on details of his funeral.

Vale Stan

*Stewart Little
General Secretary*

A photo of Stan from his funeral booklet is attached with the minutes.

6. Assistant General Secretary's Annual Report

Troy Wright joined the meeting and gave his report. Troy acknowledged the Retired Associates as a pillar of the PSA. He thanked office holders for their work over the previous year and advised that our input is appreciated.

Troy indicated that while there is more to be done it has been a good year for the PSA. Membership has increased and the recent State Budget included announcements that the PSA had been advocated. This included significant commitments for more social and affordable housing and showed the importance of a strong and effective Departmental Committee.

Troy advised that the PSA would continue to work to grow the membership and call for changes to government policies and programs. Priority areas include community services and the current problems in child protection and out of home care.

7. Guest Speaker Hugh Mackay AO

Dave McKeough introduced our special guest speaker, Hugh Mackay AO.

*Hugh Mackay is a social psychologist and researcher, and the bestselling author of 24 books, including nine novels. His latest non-fiction book, *The Way We Are*, will be published in May 2024.*

Hugh has had a 60-year career in social research and was also a weekly newspaper columnist for over 25 years. He established and ran The Centre for Communication Studies in Bathurst from 1975-1990 and was one of the founders of The St James Ethics Centre (now known as The Ethics Centre). He is currently an honorary professor in the School of Medicine and Psychology at ANU. Among other appointments, he has been deputy chairman of the Australia Council for the Arts, chairman of the board of trustees of Sydney Grammar School and an honorary professor at Macquarie, Charles Sturt and Wollongong universities.

He is a Fellow of the Australian Psychological Society and the Royal Society of NSW. In recognition of his pioneering work in social research, he has been awarded honorary doctorates by five Australian universities. He was appointed an Officer of the Order of Australia in 2015.

Hugh gave a wonderful, detailed and thought-provoking presentation which addressed the themes and insights outlined in his book, "*The Way We Are*".

Issues addressed in Hugh's presentation included:

- current epidemics of loneliness, anxiety, depression and alarming levels of homelessness and poverty;
- enormous problems experienced by First Nations people;
- 3.3 million Australians living below the poverty line;
- need to ask ourselves what kind of society we want;
- everyday millions of people perform acts of kindness i.e. a young person changing the tyre of an elderly neighbour;
- look to the "better angels of our nature" – quote from Abraham Lincoln
- building and maintaining social harmony as we are experiencing major changes in our society is our grand human project – we need to listen to the many distinctive voices in our community;
- we are becoming a divided society to some extent and a more troubled and wounded society as we head further into the 21st century;
- yet we need each other as a community, as neighbours and in groups;
- survival of the kindest – the centrality of kindness as a human quality;
- we have the capacity to show kindness to people we don't like and to strangers;
- impact of social isolation – can lead to anxiety, depression, hypertension, reduced sleep, reduced life expectancy;
- number 1 public health issue is now social isolation – how did this happen?
- society has become far more individualistic;
- we are more interested in our differences than our similarities;
- when we let personal uniqueness overwhelm us we diminish our humanity;
- over the last 30-40 years a series of social trends have emerged arising from choices made that have pushed us in directions that are unhealthy;
- issue of shrinking households – we are creating households at twice the rate the population is growing;
- 25% of all Australian households contain 1 person and 50% of households are single person or 2 person households;
- impact of bereavement and relationship breakdown – loneliness and social isolation;
- falling birth rate – lowest it has been in our history;
- we are more mobile than ever – moving house once every 6 years and almost universal car ownership;

- we've elevated business to being a social virtue;
- impact of the IT revolution – we're more connected than ever but we've made it easier to stay apart;
- higher levels of loneliness experienced by 18-24 years who are also the heaviest users of social media;
- issue of online behaviour and the lack of;
- other big changes have been the decline of religion and changing media landscape;
- the more social fragmented we are the lonelier we will become;
- also in an age of information overload;
- volunteering is in sharp decline;
- "The Way we Are" deals with issues of social isolation and the impact;
- one chapter discusses gender equality and how close we have come to achieving it or not – new strategies and approaches are needed to achieve true gender equality;
- baby boomers were shaped by the post war economic miracle and also lived in the time of the cold war and threat of nuclear war;
- took the view of being here for good times not necessarily a long time;
- while we've reached a critical period Hugh is basically optimistic and believes in the power of human nature;
- we're a wounded society and we need to urgently rebuild a sense of community and be good neighbours;
- it will be a slow rebuild – person by person, street by street – the power of invitation;
- we've previously survived disasters and we're ultimately a resilient species.

There was time for further discussion, questions and answers. We thanked Hugh for joining us at our AGM and for his powerful address. We hope to connect again to explore these themes further.

We thanked Robert Ryan who suggested Hugh as a guest speaker.

8. Reports

8.1 President's Report – Dave McKeough

Stan Beal

Dave commenced his report by referring to his earlier tribute to Stan and his contribution to the union movement and the Retired Associates, particularly his time as the assistant secretary.

Official Duties

Carmel and Dave attended the CPSA Annual Conference at Rydges, Sydney Central on the 24-25 October 2023, the PSA/CPSU Annual Conference held at PSA House on 16-17 May 2024 and the Mental Health Conference on 11 October 2023, Carmel attended the Women's Conference on 5-6 September 2023.

Dave represented the Retired Associates in a panel discussion of all PSA Councils at the 2024 PSA/CPSU Annual Conference. He discussed the benefits of belonging to the Retired Associates, the fellowship provided and our availability to support PSA/CPSU campaigns.

2023/24 Membership statistics

Membership of the Retired Associates on 19 March 2024 was 1016 with 373 female members and 643 male members.

Age ranges: 3 born in the 1920s, 53 in 30s, 240 in the 40s, 538 in the 50s, 148 in the 60s, 9 in the 70s, 2 in the 80s.

Our members are scattered throughout ACT, New South Wales, Queensland, South Australia, Tasmania, Victoria, Western Australia and New Zealand.

Meetings of the Retired Associates 2023-24

The meeting of 27 June 2023 had a physical attendance of twelve members plus five members attending by Zoom.

The meeting of 22 August 2023 had a physical attendance of nine members plus two attending by Zoom.

The meeting of 24 October 2023 had a physical attendance of seven members plus two members attending by Zoom.

The meeting of 5 December 2023 had a physical attendance of fourteen members plus one member attending by Zoom.

The meeting of 27 February 2024 had a physical attendance of ten plus two members attending by Zoom.

The meeting of the 26 April 2024 had a physical attendance of eleven people plus three members attending by Zoom.

Dave McKeough
President, Retired Associates.
25/06/2024

MOTION: That the President's report be accepted.

MOVED: John Walz SECONDED: Robert Asbury

CARRIED: Unanimously

8.2 *PSA CPSU Annual Conference*

Further to Dave's report more information was provided about the Annual Conference. Highlights included:

- Opening address by Premier Chris Minns;
- Address by General Secretary Stewart Little about achievements over the last year;
- Keynote address – Kristy McKeller, a survivor of domestic violence and campaigner against family and domestic violence who has influenced policy and legislative changes in Victoria;
- A panel on domestic violence and child protection which showed the number of agencies involved and the vital role of our members in schools, prisons, housing, corrective services non-custodial and community services;
- Address by the Hon Senator Deborah O'Neill about the PwC scandal, enhanced accountability and governance and the need to rebuild the Federal public service; and
- Address by Leisl Tesch, MP, Member for Gosford about disability inclusion and how the PSA can progress the agenda.

8.3 *Combined Pensioners and Superannuants Association*

Carmel and Mara are both members of the CPSA Executive Committee and reported on the 5 June meeting. Current priorities include aged care, problems in the funeral industry and driver testing.

8.4 *Quality Aged Care Action Group*

Dave advised that the group has prepared a submission to the Federal Government about improving the quality of aged care. Dave referred to the community visitor scheme in NSW and the need to adapt this model for aged care.

9. Business arising from the previous meeting

9.1 *Promotional materials*

9.2 *Unfinancial members*

9.3 *SSS superannuation*

9.4 *Mental health*

All works in progress and awaiting further discussions and advice from the PSA

Action: Dave McKeough and Carmel McKeough to follow up

9.5 *Red Tape Articles*

Carmel will prepare a short article about our AGM and Hugh MacKay's presentation.

9.6 *Meeting of Sydney Retired Unionists Group*

A room has been booked on 5 August 2024 We need to re-check given the works going on in PSA House and if zoom will be available.

Action: Carmel McKeough to follow up with Dylan Smith

10. Correspondence

Correspondence to be prepared in relation to previous mentions about mental health, transition to retirement, volunteering and bicycles.

Action: Carmel McKeough to prepare correspondence

11. **Motions on Notice - nil**

12. **General Business**

12.1 *Workers Compensation and limits imposed on people seeking compensation aged over 65*

Kim McClynmont discussed his experiences with workers compensation.

MOTION: That the Retired Associates writes to the Minister for Industrial Relations about workers compensation for those aged 65-67 and their rights to fairer compensation and appeal mechanisms.

MOVED: Kim McClynmont SECONDED: Mara Tudorin

CARRIED: Unanimously

12.2 *Police Training*

Concerns were expressed about recent tasering events involving very elderly people who had dementia.

MOTION: That the Retired Associates writes to the Police Minister calling for improved police training about dementia, mental health and ageing.

MOVED: Robert Pike SECONDED: Phil Mortimer

CARRIED: Unanimously

12.3 Superannuation Payment

Jeanette Beer advised that low to middle income earners may be eligible for a superannuation contribution from the Government up to \$500 if you make an after-tax contribution to your account. Jeanette suggested Retired Associates follow up.

12.4 Future guest speaker

It was agreed that we should invite Ash Fowler from CPSA to be a future guest speaker. Retired Associates are invited to suggest guest speakers for upcoming meetings.

12.5 Women's Conference 3-4 September 2024

Carmel advised that she will be away when Women's Conference is held. It was unanimously agreed that Nicola Christie and Jeanette Beer would be our observers at the Conference.

Action: Carmel McKeough to advise Simon Scalmer, PSA Women's Officer about our delegates

13. Date of Next Meeting

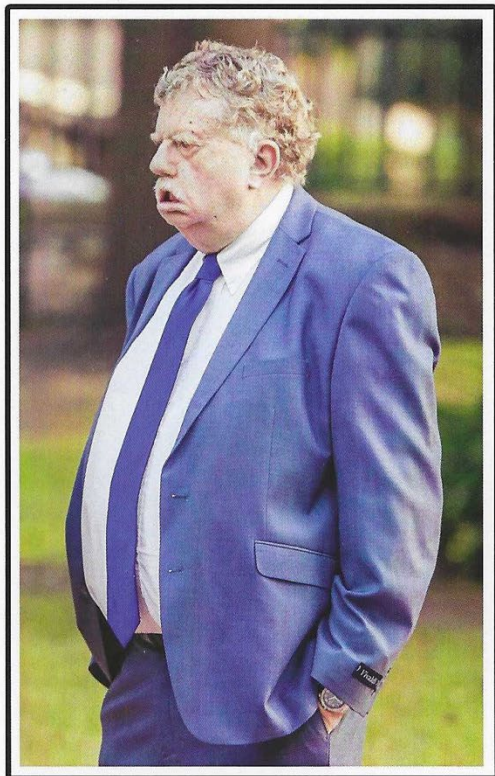
The next meeting of the Retired Associates will be held on Tuesday, 27 August 2024 at PSA House or via Zoom, commencing at the usual time of 10.30am. The meeting will be followed by a light lunch.

As Carmel McKeough will be away at this time Wayne O'Mara will be taking the minutes. The meeting closed at 12.39pm.

DRAFT

In Loving Memory of

STANLEY 'JOHN' BEAL



15th February, 1951 - 12th June, 2024
Aged 73 Years

Friday 28th June, 2024
St. Jude's Anglican Church Randwick

