



# Wellington Multiple Sclerosis Society

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

Date: 21 May 2022

Time: 10.30 am (started at 10:40am)

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

Secretary: Chelsea Quinn

1. **Apologies:**

See below.

2. **A minute of silence for members who have passed away.**

3. **Minutes of 2021/57th AGM and any matters arising**

No amendments or matters arising.

Moved: Laura

Second: Steve

4. **President's Report (Laura)**

Laura read her report:

**Achievements**

- Navigating the ways in which we support people with MS and their whanau during the Covid-19 pandemic has been one of our biggest achievements this year
- Managing to sustain the presence of our CAs and our Comms and Fundraiser during such a financially trying time
- The restructure is continuing to prove successful in the improvement of our operations and in cutting down our expenditure

- Thanks to our CAs, Gillian, Katherine, and Shona for showing such professionalism and care in their interactions with those who need our support
- Thanks to Gemma our Comms and Fundraiser for her incredible work keeping our members up to date and managing our funding applications
- We've updated the Wellington MS Society's Rules, which will be reviewed and voted upon later in this meeting

### **Challenges**

- Funding has been our biggest challenge each year
- We are fortunate to have the Dorothy Hamilton Memorial Trust to be able to support us in times where we have needed to cover extra expenses
- Covid-19 has impacted the funders who supply our regular grants, which put us in a difficult financial position. However, we have been incredibly lucky to have secured a grant of \$20,000 from the Dorothy Hamilton Memorial Trust that has helped us immensely.
- There was an issue regarding donations meant for us that was sent to the MSNZ Society instead. Laura is meeting with the Society to get to the bottom of it
- The street appeal will be canceled this year due to the unpredictability and the risks associated with the current environment.
- We encourage anyone with any fundraising ideas to please email us at [info@mswellington.org.nz](mailto:info@mswellington.org.nz)

### **Hellos and Goodbyes**

- Goodbye and all the best to our CA, Katherine Jordain, who has worked with us for 5 years and to Gemma Aitchison who has been with us for 2 years in the Comms and Fundraising role
- Welcome to Lacey Reedy, our new CA and Suzie Linton, our new Comms and Fundraiser; both of whom we are fortunate to have on the WMS team.

### **Committee meetings**

- The Committee currently stands at 7 members who meet monthly over Zoom
- Chelsea has taken on the Secretary role in the Committee, to help manage any administration needs
- Laura will be stepping down as President of WMS and nominating Heather to take on the role in her place
- The Committee thanks Laura for all of her incredible work this year. We are mindful she was thrown into the role and appreciate how well she was able to acclimate to the role despite this.

### **Acknowledgements**

- Thank you to:
- Our financial supporters: the Ministry of Health, Pub Charity, NZ Lottery, T G McCarthy Trust, Jack Jeff's Charitable Trust, Nikau Foundation on behalf of the Evans & Wise Trusts, Four Winds Foundation, the Department of Internal Affairs (COGS), and of course, the Dorothy Hamilton Memorial Trust
- A big thank you for the many donations from individuals, both large and small
- Thanks to our members, their family and supporters for donations we've received through automatic payments or the IRD wages donation scheme
- Thanks to Ross for making sure our accounts are well looked after
- Thanks to our Community Advisors: Gillian, Katherine and Shona for their work in supporting people with MS
- Thanks to Gemma for the incredible work she has done
- Thanks to the Committee members
- Thanks to MSNZ to the direction and support they have given us
- A massive thank you to Anne La Flamme, our Patron, for the work she and her team do to understand MS and how to treat this disease.

Moved: Laura

Second: Chelsea

#### 5. **Treasurer's Report (Steve on behalf of Ross):**

##### **Income**

- Income for 2022 was 158k, which is highlighted by a massive \$32,000 in personal donations.
- We were unable to do the street appeal and missed out on some funding from some of our regular funders
- Many thanks for Pub Charity for funding us \$20,000 again in 2022
- As shown in the report, some of the funding we received was for specified expenditure, such as mobile phones or yoga classes

##### **Expenditure**

- Expenditure was \$175k, which was more than the year before
- It is important to note that the restructure we did in 2020 has massively reduced our expenditure in areas such as wages, communication and fundraising, office costs, and not printing the newsletter.

##### **Overall position**

- The net was a deficit of \$17,00 which is not a strong position to be in during a time where Covid-19 has affected fundraising to such an extent

**QU:** Maxine inquired about Ross' request to increase the amount of funding we have requested from the Dorothy Hamilton Memorial Trust.

She understands that despite the fact that the DHMT doesn't have much in the way of funding, the amount requested would be a great help to WMS and has emailed him back regarding this.

Moved: Steve

Second: Laura

## 6. **Community Advisors Report (Gillian, Suzie and Lacey)**

Gillian read her report

- The team has had a busy past few months
- We extend a bit thank you for the significant contributions from our CA, Katherine Jourdain and our Comms and Fundraiser, Gemma Aitchison, who have both sadly left the team in February this year.
- The Society welcomes Suzie, our new Comms and Fundraiser, who has used her extensive skill set to hit the ground running by securing a \$20,000 donation from Pub Charities Limited.
- The Society also welcomes Lacey, who joined us two weeks back as our new CA. We are very excited for her to put her extensive background in health and client services to good use in her new role.
- This year has been tough with the Covid-19 limiting the services we have been able to provide. Our main solution to cope with the limitations have been offering our services and liaising with our contacts over Zoom, phone and email. Despite this, the environment through the Covid-19 pandemic has increased the levels of vulnerability and isolation of some clients.
- The Peer Support programme has been one of our many incredible achievements this past year. On top of this, a range of online events were developed, such as recorded sessions like "Managing Stress through Yoga" or "Managing Change and Uncertainty".
- We've received an immeasurable amount of help from Anne & Imoge; who, along with the Allied Health/Rehab and Neurology teams, have been great to bounce ideas off of.
- We've adjusted our work with the members of the DHB Allied Health/Rehab and Neurology teams to be virtual.
- Our client list is rapidly growing, which is both great and tough, especially at the start of the year when we were low on staff.

- Wellington MS acknowledges the generous support of its founders and donors, for helping us achieve our mission to “Empower people with MS and their whanau to live their best lives”.
- There are some notable changes in the disease modifying therapy that means that, for newly diagnosed people with MS, these therapies could potentially serve as a way to delay the progression.
- The Operations team extends a big thanks to our clients, volunteers, the Committee, Anne La Flamme, the members of the DHB Allied Health/Rehab and Neurology Teams, the members of the Needs Assessment Service Centres, Hamish Bockett-Smith, Diane Clark-Manley, Bec Tunley. We are grateful to all of these people for helping us create positive solutions for our clients and make a real difference in the MS Community
- Suzie has extended a thanks for the Committee and her Team Lead Gillian; she is grateful to be working with someone of her calibre
- Lacey extends a massive thanks for the warm welcome she has received.

Move: Gillian

Second: Laura

7. **Updated WMS Rules (Heather on behalf of Alarna):**

The Committee extends a massive thank you to Alarna for her incredible effort on the updated WMS rules. With some help in the way of feedback from the Committee, the finalised rules had been presented to the attendees.

No issues or amendments raised.

All 19 attendees present voted to move the updated Rules.

8. **Andy Woodside Memorial Award**

Anne Woodside was present to represent the family.

Awarded to **Bec Tunely and Nick Brandon** who were unfortunately unable to attend, but both gave their thanks for the recognition.

Bec has done some incredible graphic design work for the Society and Nick has been an outstanding member and contributor to the Society. Their contributions to Wellington MS have been greatly appreciated.

9. **Confirmed**

- Committee members:

No objections to current members. Moved.  
Heather nominated for President. Moved.  
Laura nominated for Vice President. Moved.  
- Lawyers: Carter Chung Law  
- Accountants: Bennett Currie  
- Auditors: Dent and Heath

Moved: Laura  
Second : Ross

Anne La Flamme, Katharina Robichon and Mackenzie Kiernan spoke to the attendees about the work being done surrounding their research into MS and the breakthroughs the team have had regarding treatments.

**The AGM ended at 12:20pm.**

Attendees: Heather Davey, Laura Dempsey, Steve McCloskey, Suzie Linton, Mackenzie Kieran, Gillian Fry, Anne Woodside, Anne La Flamme, Chelsea Quinn, Maxine Harland, Jenny Simpson, Paul Satherley, Warwick Hollebhone, Peter North, Lindsay Watson, Ruth Tomlinson, Stephanie O'Connor, Paul Grouscho, Katharina Robichon, Lacey Reedy

Apologies: Mike Haylock, Sarndra Flay, Olive Hebron, Wendy Wallbank, Susan Palmer, Christopher Brown, Jocelyn Fagerstrom, Ross Judge, Alarna Sharratt, Eric Daubé, Shona Daubé

**The next AGM will be held on the 20 May 2023 (10.30am) at the Upper Hutt Cossie Club.**