



**Minutes of the Epilepsy Waikato Charitable Trust
AGM held at The Link Community Centre
4 Te Aroha Street, Hamilton, on
Tuesday 14th September 2021
at 6.30 pm**

Note: meeting held under COVID-19 alert-level 2 conditions

PRESENT:

TRUST BOARD	Chairperson	David Lowe
	Deputy chairperson	Jill Davies
	Treasurer	Cyril Markham
	Trustees	Faith Gibbs, Bryce Hopkins and Karl Bentley
EPILEPSY ADVISOR	Maria Lowe	
ADMINISTRATOR	Margaret Paine	
Patron	Tim Macindoe	
Visitors	Roma Lane, Chris McCasker, Tom Davies and Ross Smith	

1. WELCOME

The chairperson welcomed everyone to the AGM and confirmed there was a quorum

2. APOLOGIES

Des Hill, Jan Markham, Lorna and Lewis Bird and Helen Hopkins

Moved the apologies be accepted

David Lowe/Jill Davies

Carried

3. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of the Epilepsy Waikato Charitable Trust held on 8th September 2020, having been circulated before the meeting were taken as read.

Moved the minutes of the EWCT AGM held on 8th September 2020 be accepted as a true and correct record.

Faith Gibbs/Roma Lane

Carried

4. MATTERS ARISING

There were no matters arising

5. PATRON'S ADDRESS

Tim Macindoe addressed the meeting and said he was pleased to present his patron's report. He said he was deeply touched with the affection and support from EWCT after his defeat in parliament in the 2020 election and delighted EWCT continued to want him as patron.

He acknowledged that tonight's meeting was held under difficult conditions and the extra considerable challenges Maria has with her job and those living with epilepsy. He congratulated Maria and David Lowe on the wonderful achievement of writing and producing the book "Understanding and managing epilepsy". He said this was the first significant general guidebook to be published on the topic in decades and which he assures will be a widely appreciated and referenced work in years to come. He acknowledged the continued commitment of the trust board, so capably led by chair David Lowe and the dedicated epilepsy advisor, Maria Lowe plus the administrator, Margaret Paine and all EWCT's sponsors, donors and supporters.

Moved the patron's report be accepted
David Lowe/Bryce Hopkins

Carried

6. CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT

The chairperson's report was circulated before the meeting on the EWCT website and taken as read.

David gave a summary of his report and opened it for discussion and questions.

In his report, David thanked the board and office holders for their commitment and service throughout the year and made special mention to Antony Booker, our webmaster for his excellent work. He is especially grateful to our patron, Tim Macindoe, for his enduring support of EWCT.

He acknowledged and thanked all those who have donated to EWCT or sponsored our trust's work over the last year. EWCT is supported by donors (private individuals) and numerous funding organisations, who provide us with significant funds or in-kind support.

On behalf of the board, David thanked Maria Lowe, epilepsy advisor, for her continuing and extraordinary diligence in helping many people with epilepsy, and others associated with them, in our community.

Undoubtedly the highlight of this year has been the completion and publication of a substantial book on epilepsy. The book is the first general book on epilepsy to be published in NZ for more than 30 years. It describes at an introductory level the complex nature of epilepsy and its management. EWCT is grateful to the Harcourts Foundation for a grant for costs.

EWCT has been involved at a national level in requesting (in a petition to Parliament in 2018) that a ketogenic dietician be appointed by the Waikato DHB to help people with intractable epilepsy. This request has been unfulfilled and EWCT has laid a complaint with the Ombudsman about the Waikato DHB lack of commitment. EWCT has also been active in writing to PHARMAC on the change to funding of lamotrigine to a generic substitute (Logem) used in the treatment of epilepsy. PHARMAC has been more responsive than before and is now corresponding with EWCT about proposed drug changes on a regular basis.

Moved the chairperson's report be received – David Lowe

Chris McCasker got up and spoke of his experience with epilepsy and the wonderful help and support he got from Maria Lowe, the EWCT epilepsy advisor. He also said there was a lot of outstanding information on the EWCT website and he congratulates EWCT on an excellent organisation.

Moved the chairperson's report be accepted
Jill Davies/ Cyril Markham

Carried

7. FINANCIAL REPORT

The financial report, performance and independent report from the auditors were circulated before the meeting on the EWCT website, and taken as read.

Moved that the financial, performance and independent reports be received
Cyril Markham/Faith Gibbs

Cyril reported there was a reasonable surplus for the year.
He wanted to thank Darrell Bowler and Ashita Bhudia from Brinkworths and Associates who voluntarily prepare the monthly reports and work out the funders' finance allocations.
Cyril proposed a vote of thanks to Jill, Margaret, Darrell and Ashita for all their work in this area. Cyril Markham/David Lowe Carried

Moved the financial report, performance and independent reports be adopted.
Cyril Markham/Roma Lane Carried

8. APPOINTMENT OF AUDITORS

David Lowe moved the motion "That Owen McLeod Co Chartered Accountants and Auditors, or a substitute approved by the trustees, be appointed as auditors or reviewers of the financial accounts and service performance of EWCT for the year ending 31st March 2022"
David Lowe/Cyril Markham Carried

9. GENERAL BUSINESS

- i) Cyril proposed a vote to thanks to David for all the hard work he has put into EWCT as chairman, especially the letter writing to the Ombudsman and PHARMAC.
- ii) Tim Macindoe asked if Ross Smith, ENZ CEO, would like to address the meeting.

Ross accepted and talked about wanting to have a much better relationship with EWCT. He wished to have a board to board meeting, with invitations to Maria and himself included.

He said lack of funding was the reason ENZ didn't have an advisor in the Waikato and acknowledged EWCT covered this well and was very impressed with the output and work load Maria achieved.

He congratulated EWCT on the new book and thanked for the opportunity to address the meeting.

10. NEXT AGM

David advised that the next AGM would be on or around the 13th September 2022 (ie within 6 months of the end of the financial year: 31st March 2022).

11. CLOSE OF MEETING

The meeting closed at 7.05pm. Due to Covid conditions there were no refreshments.