

DATE:	Saturday, May 4, 2024
TIME:	03:00 PM
LOCATION:	Karori Community Centre



WELLINGTON MAHARASHTRIAN ASSOCIATION INCORPORATED (WMAI) AGM 2023-2024

MEETING CHAIR: Megha Barpande, President

MINUTE TAKER: Deepika Joshi-Thatte, Secretary

ATTENDEES REGISTER:

Ajinkya Pawar	Jyoti Gosavi	Nitesh Jogdand	Sayali Narawade
Ankita Vanjari	Latika Moghe	Omkar Kulkarni	Shalini Zodgekar
Arvind Zodgekar	Madhurika Kulkarni	Pooja Shinde	Shreya Pawar
Chinmay Gathoo	Makrand Velhal	Prakash Navalkar	Shreya Shaligram
Deepa Mhatre	Mangal Zodgekar	Prameela Navalkar	Simantini Pattekar
Deepika Joshi	Mangesh Karanjkar	Pushkar Prabhune	Suyash Divekar
Deepti Joshi	Megha Barpande	Rachana Pednekar	Umang Chachad
Deepti Tulpule	Minoti Kirtikar	Raji Divekar	Vaishali Kharkar
Ganesh Narawade	Mrudula Velhal	Rekha Khasnis	Vinit Sonawane
Ila Kulkarni	Nandini Raorane	Revati Nanote	Vishal Tandon
Jitendra Hushare	Neha Kuryal	Rushouti Kanade	
Juilee Bhandekar	Nilesh Gosavi	Sachin Sawant	

PROXIES:

Name	Proxy
Abhishek Joshi	Deepti Joshi
Abhishek Khokle	Megha Barpande
Anurag Nanote	Revati Nanote
Atharva Barpande	Megha Barpande
Deepak Mhatre	Deepa Mhatre
Kiran Ghate	Ganesh Narawade
Manasee Asgekar	Prachi Deshpande
Mandar Kulkarni	Ila Kulkarni
Preeti Shah	Sayali Narawade
Rajendra Zodgekar	Deepika Thatte

Name	Proxy
Rewa Dixit	Deepti Tulpule
Rohit Nanekar	Maithilee Bhandekar
Shekhar Barpande	Megha Barpande
Shweta Ghate	Sayali Narawade
Smita Agnihotri	Megha Barpande
Sugandha Bhonsule	Vaishali Kharkar
Sushant Thatte	Deepika Joshi
Varsha Vadnerkar	Maithilee Bhandekar
Yatin Kharkar	Vaishali Kharkar

AGM MINUTES

Opening - Committee member - Vishal Tandon

Introduction to WMAI, health and safety requirements, general housekeeping items and agenda for the meeting.

Vishal took the opportunity to acknowledge the absence of two community members, Baba Gosavi and Suneel Bhonsule and 2 minutes of silence was observed by everyone present. Thanks to Mrudula Velhal for a timely reminder on it.

President's Report - Megha Barpande

WMAI President, Megha Barpande welcomed the members and started with “[वामय ची गोष्ट](#)”

Wellington is home to many closely knit Marathi families where people have always joined hands to celebrate milestones, festivals and all events big and small. However there was always a regret that they were unable to watch Marathi movies in the theatre.

During one of the dinner parties at Gangakhedkar family house, a few people floated the idea of coming together and organising a Marathi movie at the theatre. Despite all the arrangements with distributors and theatre, the movie couldn't be screened due to lack of an appropriate NZ censor board certificate.

Once again a get-together was organised at the Gangakhedkar residence and the foundation of society was laid what we refer today as “Wellington Maharashtrian Association Incorporated- WMAI”.

WMAI was primarily established so that Marathi movies could be screened at the theatre and people could watch their favorite actors on the big screen.

With 33 founding members, an application to the Registrar was submitted on 8th Nov 2017 to establish WMAI as a society under the Incorporated Society Act 1908 . The 1st committee comprised of 3 people:

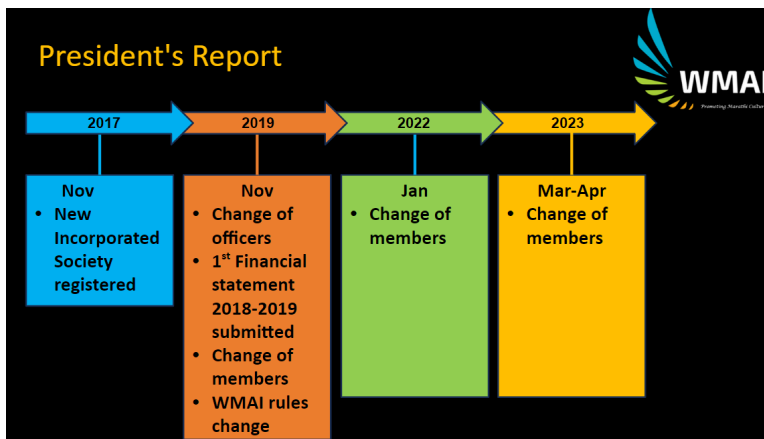
- Madhav Gangakhedkar - President
- Dayanand (Atul) Deshpande - Secretary
- Shekhar Barpande - Treasurer

Macalister Mazengarb Solicitors were engaged to define and endorse the rule book which is referred to as “WMAI Constitution”

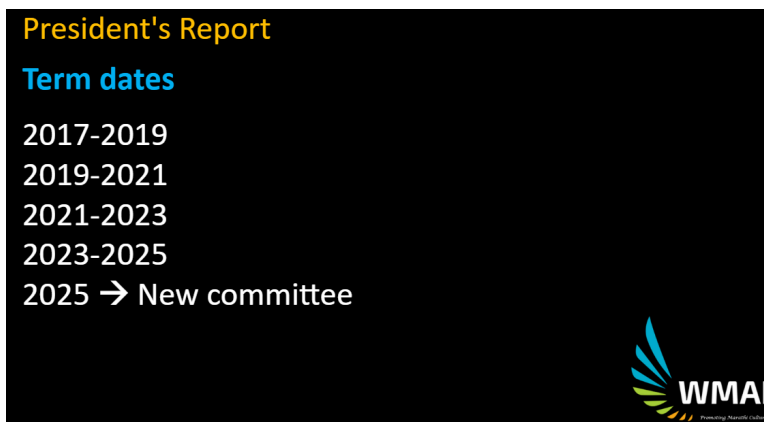
WMAI Constitution was amended twice to:

- to get IRD tax exemption as a not-for-profit organisation.
- to authorise the Executive committee to appoint / co-opt new committee members for the remainder of the term in the event when an existing member resigned.

WMAI timeline



WMAI Term Dates



Societies vs Companies

Often members of the WMAI society mention The Companies Act 1993 and Incorporated Society Act 1908 in relation to WMAI. Hence, this time, the President shared information on the legislative framework and how it applies to WMAI.

President's Report - Societies vs Companies

- Unclassified Societies Registration Act 1895 (18 sections)
- Incorporated Societies Act 1908 (41 sections)
- Incorporated Societies Act 2022 (270 sections!)

Companies Act 1993
Public Act 1993 No 105
Date of assent 28 September 1993
Commencement see section 1(2)

WMAI
Promoting Maori Culture

There are 700K+ companies registered in NZ and the common form under which these are incorporated is the Companies Act 1993. There are 24K+ companies incorporated under the Incorporated Societies Act 1908.

Often associations that are considering registration can choose to be registered under two or more of these statutes. The Companies Act 1993 is designed as a general all-purpose statute, but contains provisions,


requirements and oversights that are perhaps simply inappropriate for many incorporated societies, both because of the size of many, but also because of their non-profit motivation.

Incorporated Societies are suitable for clubs, small associations and community organisations etc with a minimum membership requirement of 15 members.

Legislative differences between the legal frameworks

President's Report - Legislation

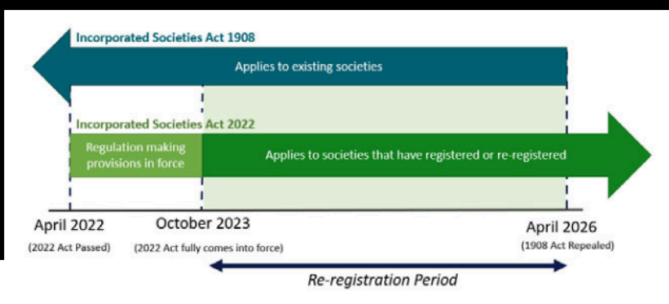
Act	Incorporated Societies Act	Companies Act
Legal Framework definition	For the incorporation of societies that are not established for the purpose of pecuniary gain	Specifically applies to companies formed for pecuniary gain (i.e., profit-making entities).
Purpose	focusing on non-profit organizations, community groups, and clubs	emphasizing profit-oriented business entities.
Changes	remained largely unchanged for over a century, except for minor amendments.	re-enacted several times, with regular amending Acts
Rules	Constitution	Memorandum and Articles of Association
# of Societies	24,000	680,000+
	710,364 companies registered in NZ	




Legislative amendment to the Incorporated Societies Act

The Incorporated Societies Act remained unchanged between centuries. The latest legislative amendment to this Act came in October 2023.

President's Report - Legislation



Incorporated Societies Act 2022
 Public Act 2022 No 12
 Date of assent 5 April 2022
 Commencement see section 2



It is a NZ government mandate that all societies registered under the Incorporated Societies Act 1908 must be registered under the new Incorporated Societies Act 2022 by October 2025.

The period between October 2025 to April 2026 is to ensure that all existing societies are in the process of making changes to their society to transition to the new legislative framework. The Registrar has the authority to dissolve a society if it is not renewed prior to April 2026 as the old act will be repealed.

Registration and renewal fees

President's Report - Registration and fees

Service	Fee (excl. GST) ⁵	Total (incl. GST)
Application for incorporation of a society or a branch or group of branches of a registered society	\$88.89	\$102.22
Revocation under section 28(3) of the Act of a declaration of dissolution of a society (effectively 'restoration')	\$177.78	\$204.45

Service	Fee (excl. GST)
Application to incorporate a society	\$88.89
Application to restore a society to the register	\$177.78



Which legislative framework applies to WMAI?

Advice from experts in this field was sought for further clarifications and it was communicated to the members as follows:

President's Report - What does this mean for WMAI?

- WMAI is registered under the Incorporated Societies Act 1908, hence, this is the main piece of legislation that applies to our society.
- Amendments to our constitution are made at a member level (there is a clause in our constitution that explains how amendments are made), so it would involve discussions between officers and members.
- There is some correlation between the Incorporated Societies Act 2022 and the Companies Act 1993 – for example, the duties of officers of incorporated societies are similar to those of directors of companies, and the amalgamation provisions in the Incorporated Societies Act 2022 are a simplified version of those in the Companies Act.

Companies Act doesn't apply to WMAI



President's Report - AGM Attendance and Quorum

- AGM attendance quorum requirement is 40%
- Financial members of the society on the day of AGM count towards the quorum
- Only financial members can attend the AGM irrespective of the period



WMAI was established as a small community based organisation under the Incorporated Societies Act 1908 with the primary motive to watch Marathi movies at the theatre. This enabled and made it easy for the community to obtain censor board exemptions under this governing framework.

Hence, while we have followed the constitution and the overarching legislative framework, it was always referred to with a grain of salt and not necessarily enforced.

For. e.g.

- All members from the WMAI member group were given the opportunity to attend the AGM without enforcing WMAI membership renewal.
- The executive committee exercised their authority to replace the committee members vacancies due to resignations.
- Although the AGM meeting and time was communicated well in advance, the agenda was shared a week prior to the AGM.

As mentioned previously, the rule book evolved after it was 1st written in 2017 and will continue to evolve to work better for the evolving WMAI society and its members.

Sponsors and Partner acknowledgements and collaboration



The President acknowledged the relationships with partners and collaborations established by previous WMAI committees and forming new partnerships with new organisations. WMAI is looking forward to co-host an upcoming event with MigHt-I charitable trust.

Vote of thanks to committee, members and volunteers

WMAI committee members run the office voluntarily. It takes many hours of effort and thought process to organise value events for its Members and wider community.

Going above and beyond by current and past committee members was acknowledged and applauded by the President and was supported by the members.

President's Report - Current affairs



“Many hands make light work” and this is apt for our volunteers who have joined hands to make every event successful. All volunteers were thanked for their help and participation. And last but not the least, the President thanked and applauded the WMAI members for their continual support, encouragement, and appreciation.

President's Report

A Heartfelt Thank You
**TO ALL OF OUR
AMAZING VOLUNTEERS!**
We couldn't do it without you!

**THANK YOU
MEMBERS!**



Secretary's Report - Deepika Thatte-Joshi

The committee has completed one year. A thank you to all the committee members over the past year, it has been a big year and we have delivered and we delivered well.

- Megha Barpande
- Madhurika Sawant-Kulkarni
- Sayali Narawade
- Vishal Tandon
- Jitendra Hushare
- Smita Shangarpawar

Communication with members and non-members was via WhatsApp groups

1. WMAI Members Group
2. WMAI - एकमेका साह्य करू Group

The WMAI website, facebook page were other modes of communication.

The committee also started the quarterly newsletter for its members. Committee member, Sayali Narawade shared some key highlights about the newsletter including:

1. Idea initiated to help get to know the community
2. Positive feedback received from the member group
3. Focus in the coming quarters on the younger generation
4. Thank you to the member group for their active participation
5. Sayali has been using her personal Canva pro membership to create and publish these newsletters.

Internal communication channels used

1. Committee group WhatsApp group
2. Team meetings via Google MeetUp or WhatsApp calls
3. In person meetings where possible.

Meeting minutes are continued to be stored in the WMAI Google drive.

Intention to relay minutes prior to meetings ending with the committee for clarity and consistency. This will include sharing of links to the minutes along with key actions via the Committee WhatsApp group.

Effective use of other relevant online tools where appropriate and required.

Events organised so far

1. Mandar Bhide Show – this was the committee's first event after taking on their roles and it was executed well. Lot of positive feedback was received for this first ever event where a Marathi Standup Comedian came to Wellington. We had 80+ people attend this function.
2. Mid-Winter Christmas Part for children – the planning for this event was shared with the group. How the committee decided on this event and planned towards it. It was also shared how the team's brainstorming worked in terms of other ideas like Raksha bandhan, Dahi handi, Jivtichi Pooja and Independence Day being added to this event. The group had then unanimously agreed that we should focus on only one event as Santa Claus was universal and our children here felt connected to this.
3. Kojagiri Pournima event – it was shared that this event was a 4 in 1 event which included Kojagiri Pournima, Diwali celebrations, Navratri as well as a Quiz for children.

Some of the feedback from the WMAI members' WhatsApp group was also shared with the group. This is what we have focused on as a team this year, getting events and movies that have brought joy for our people which has been immensely satisfying.

Movies organised so far

1. Jhimma 2
2. Baipan Bhari Deva
3. Phulrani
4. Alibaba Ani Chalishitle Chor (FY 24-25)

Some photos from the events and movies were also shared with the group.

Challenges

1. System challenges were shared:
Members need Google/gmail account to access google form
It was called out that if members have issues, they should contact one of the Committee members so that we can add you manually.
2. Event/movie planning challenges were shared:
Requirement of confirmation on number of attendees
Prompt payments to help us plan better
Last minute cancellations for movies can be very challenging as we work on pricing based on royalty to be paid and interest shown for the movies.

A reminder regarding **renewal of WMAI membership** was mentioned.

Treasurer's Report - Madhurika Sawant-Kulkarni

1. Throughout the FY 2023-2024 we have successfully organised three events and facilitated screening of three movies. Thanks to the support of the community.

2. We have maintained healthy reserves to spend for our events including venue ,catering etc. for the events. Thanks to all support from the sponsors.
3. We hosted a promotional event to attract new members where the joining fee was reduced by 50%.
4. 101 members renewed their membership, while 29 newcomers joined. With the growing support of all members, WMAI now comprises 130 members.

Account Statement FY 2023-2024

Collection

	No.	Amount
Membership Renewals	101	\$1,515.00
New Members	29	\$700.00
AGM (2022-2023) Hall - bond refund		\$300.00
7th May Mandar Bhide Show	86	\$1,825.00
Fulrani Movie screening	34	\$654.00
Baipan Bhari Deva Movie screening	114	\$1,875.00
Kids Movie + Mid Winter Christmas	93	\$140.00
Kojagiri Pournima	66	\$1,530.00
Jhimma-2 Movie Screening	59	\$980.00
Speaker Rent and Deposit		\$225.00
Mondo Travel - Airfare Sponsorship		\$311.79
Community Sponsorship - Shruti Gadgil and Rohit Maitotra		\$100.00
Oracle Hearing LTD Sponsorship		\$200.00
Holistic Finance Limited		\$500.00
Compende		\$500.00
Other (Interest, Tax)		\$122.23
Total		\$11,528.02

Expenses

	No.	Amount
AGM (2022-2023) AGM Expenses		\$351.71
Income tax for the period ending 31 March 2023		\$130.57
New Membership Refunds Processed	2	\$10.00
WMAI Website Hosting Subscription Yearly Plan		\$233.78
Mandar Bhide Show		\$1,807.29
Fulrani Movie		\$614.32
Baipan Bhari Deva Movie		\$1,139.68
Kids Movie + Mid Winter Christmas		\$599.07
Kojagiri Pournima		\$1,322.51
Jhimma-2 Movie		\$954.00
Migrant Heritage (Visa Processing and Air Fare for future event)		\$3,000.01
Womens Day Sponsorship		\$200.00
Speakers Hire deposit refund		\$225.00
Other (Interest, Tax)		\$55.01
Total		\$10,642.95

Account Balance

	Amount
Opening Balance	\$1,456.52
Collection	\$11,528.02
Expenses	-\$10,642.95
Account Balance	\$2,341.59

Movies



फुलराणी

Monterey Cinema
Upper Hutt, Sunday 11th June 2023
Wellington 1 PM

For tickets contact WMAI Comittee
www.wmai.site

Collection

	No.	Per Person	Amount
Members	29	\$18.50	\$536.50
Non Members	5	\$23.50	\$117.50
Total	34		\$654.00

Expenses

	Amount
Movie Royalty	\$251.32
Cinema Hall	\$363.00
Total	\$614.32

Profit / Loss

	Amount
Collection	\$654.00
Expenses	-\$614.32
Total	\$39.68

Collection

	No.	Per Person	Amount
Members	67	\$15.00	\$1,005.00
Non Members	40	\$20.00	\$800.00
Total	114		\$1,875.00

Expenses

	Amount
Movie Royalty	\$439.68
Cinema Hall	\$700.00
Total	\$1,139.68

Profit / Loss

	Amount
Collection	\$1,875.00
Expenses	-\$1,139.68
Total	\$735.32



Collection

	No.	Per Person	Amount
Members	43	\$16.00	\$688.00
Non Members	12	\$21.00	\$252.00
Children (5-15 Years)	4	\$10.00	\$40.00
Total	59		\$980.00

Expenses

	Amount
Movie Royalty	\$504.00
Cinema Hall	\$450.00
Total	\$954.00

Profit / Loss

	Amount
Collection	\$980.00
Expenses	-\$954.00
Total	\$26.00



Events

Collection

	No.	Per Person	Amount
Members	65	\$20.00	\$1,300.00
Non Members	21	\$25.00	\$525.00
Community Sponsorship - Shruti Gadgil and Rohit Malhotra			\$100.00
Airfare Sponsorship - Mondo Travel			\$311.79
Total	86		\$2,236.79

Expenses

	Amount
Royalty Fee	\$804.00
Venue Hire, The Fringe Bar	\$150.00
NZ Immigration Fees	\$200.00
Airfare (Sponsored by Mondo Travels)	\$311.79
Mandar Bhide Lunch	\$37.78
Gift for Mandar Bhide	\$53.40
Food	\$222.72
Other (Parking etc)	\$27.60
Total	\$1,807.29

Profit / Loss

	Amount
Collection	\$2,236.79
Expenses	-\$1,807.29
Total	\$429.50



Calling all the kids to Celebrate Mid-winter X-mas!
 Venue: St. Teresa School Hall
 Date: Sunday 27th August
 Time: 12-3:30 pm

We request you to bring a plate with you to share & spread the joy!
 BYO drinks (non-alcoholic only)

Dress up creatively in Red, White, Green and Blue!
 Enjoy!

Still? I am coming to visit kids!

JUST HAVE FUN

Collection

	No.	Amount
Members	30	-
Non Members	26	-
Kids (0 - 15 Years)	37	-
Comprende Sponsorship		\$140.00
Total	93	\$140.00

Expenses

	Amount
Venue Hire, st Teresa Hall	\$125.00
Kids Food / Groceries	\$171.71
Disposables	\$90.86
Gifts for kids	\$136.40
Other	\$75.10
Total	\$599.07

Profit / Loss

	Amount
Collection	\$140.00
Expenses	-\$599.07
Total	-\$459.07

- Manage and Maintain Accounts
- File IRD and Companies Office return Annually
- Payment reconciliation per event
- Costing per event
- Handover

Committee member changes

The President acknowledged the contributions of Madhurika and Smita who have left the committee and warmly welcomed our new committee members:

1. Rewa Dixit (Treasurer)
2. Chinmay Gathoo (Committee Member)

The committee's contact details

1. Megha Barpande - President - 027 216 3203
2. Deepika Joshi Thatte - Secretary - 022 671 9099
3. Rewa Dixit - Treasurer - 021 0527 809
4. Chinmay Gathoo - Committee Member - 027 213 2644
5. Jitendra Hushare - Committee Member - 022 044 1562
6. Sayali Narawade - Committee Member - 021 128 7792
7. Vishal Tandon - Committee Member - 021 107 9711

Plans for 2024-2025

Upcoming events

1. Sharad Ponshe Vyakhyan (Saturday 19 July 2024 – Please save the date)
2. Event planned – TBC (Saturday 17 August 2024 – Please save the date, more details to follow)

Movie update

1. Nach Ga Ghooma
2. Juna Furniture
3. Swargandharva

Table of events over the past years

Items → Year↓	Movie	Event
2017/18	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Faster Fene 2. Aamhi doghi 3. Aapla manus 4. Gulabjaam 5. Bucket List 6. Farjand 	
2018/19	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Take care good night 2. Bhai 1 3. Bhai 2 4. Anandi Gopal 5. Bucket List 6. Farjand 	
2019/20	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Miss u mister 2. Dhurala 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Sunandan Lele 2. Ayushawar bolu kahi
2020/21		<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Ashadi Ekadashi 2. International Women's day
2021/22	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Jhimma 2. Pandu 3. Panghrun 4. Pawankhind 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Yoga Day 2. Independence Day 3. Steps walking challenge
2022/23	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Kashmir Files 2. Chandramukhi 3. Me Vasantao + Maharashtra day 4. Valvi 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Cultural day 2. Meet and greet
2023/24	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Fulrani 2. Baipan Bhari Deva 3. Jhimma 2 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Mandar Bhide stand-up comedy 2. Mid-winter Christmas 3. Kojagiri Pournima
2024/25	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Chalistale Chor 2. Nach ga Ghuma (Planned) 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Sharad Ponkshe Vyakhyan (Planned) 2. 17th August event (Planned)

Suggestions

Event ideas

1. More festivals celebrated under WMAI banner
2. Organise events every 6 months - staggered events
3. Smaller events (meet and greet potentially in November). Invite new members to organise an event
Chai Gappa session
4. Annual Sports Day and picnics

Membership and new people

1. Consideration for attracting more members.
 - a. **Comment noted:** Add new people to WMAI Ek Meka Sahai Karun and Welly Girl Power WA groups
2. Bringing people back is challenging after they have attended the first event
 - a. **Comment noted:** Ownership is also on the new people
3. New people felt very isolated when moved to NZ, maybe update the website (if you are new to NZ)
 - a. **Comment noted:** WMAI email address already on the website + help page could be added.

Communication

1. Other members responding to comments and questions instead of committee not required, committee should acknowledge the message on the group to confirm receipt and that they will get back after discussing with committee.
 - a. **Response:** Privately message committee member(s), or note at the top of the message 'requesting response from committee members'. Committee can respond to the question and respond to the wider group for visibility.

Legislation

1. The community is not really interested to know about the legislation and legal requirements, just give a simple yes or no answer for queries
 - a. **Response:** When queries are raised with legislative references then challenging to answer. Implementation of legislation - operating as a community or as a legal entity
2. Simplify the constitution. There is no way to file a complaint, disputes can't be raised.
3. Create a FAQ document
 - a. **Response:** This is what has been done.
4. Transparent process for bringing new members to the committee ensuring an inclusive approach
5. Opportunity to volunteer
 - a. **Response:** People who confirm their attendance for an event are approached to volunteer at events
6. Clarity on process for interim appointment of members
 - a. **Response:** Committee exercised authority (as per constitution) to choose new members based on mutual consent. Self nominated members who did not make it to committee were approached in priority and then other members were approached as suggested by each committee member.
7. Election process needs to be reviewed (self nomination process)
 - a. **Response:** This process has evolved over the years. Members were able to self-nominate and nominate others. The latter didn't work well as nominated members were not necessarily ready to take responsibility. Hence every member has an equal opportunity to nominate themselves for the WMAI committee. If no nominations were received the opportunity is opened to everyone at or prior to AGM.

Conclusion

WMAI AGM meeting concluded at 5.00 pm.