

Annual General Meeting Minutes



Friday, 29 November 2024

Owen Dixon Chambers West, Level 11, 525 Lonsdale St, Melbourne VIC, 1pm Eastern Daylight Savings Time.

Attendees:

In person: Astrid Haban-Beer (AHB - President), Renee Bianchi (RB - Vice President), Stephanie Pasharis, Sophie Lefebvre, Kylie Weston-Scheuber.

Online via Zoom: Harriet Boothman (HB - Secretary), Shelley O'Connell (SOC), Alinta Robinson-Herbert, Emma Luck, Emma Cavanagh, Diana Costaras, Clarissa Follan, Sarah Ford, Lakshmi Sundram, Melissa Forbes, Joanna Abraham, Kendra Frew, Monica Choi

Apologies: Catherine Cheek (CC) (Treasurer); Leah Marrone, Josie Short

Proxies: received from 20 members (Sandra Karabidian, Justine Anderson, Poppy Matters, Courtney Chow, Tiah Brooks, Adeline Goay Leng Lim, Antonella Rodriguez, Margaret Cusenza, Marissa Mackie, Michelle Kate Williams, Jessie Murphy-Allen, Alison Spivey, Kyla Jade Williams, Michelle Lee Bennett, Catherine Offer, Joy Horwood, Julie Moore, Katherine Sierakowski, Catherine Cheek, Kate Bremner)

Meeting commenced: 1:06pm (AEDT) with an acknowledgement of country, and noting efforts made by AWL this year to focus on Indigenous women lawyers.

Introductory Comments	AHB noted papers are on website, HB confirmed proxies and that we have quorum.
Confirmation of the minutes 1. Confirmation of the minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on 23 November 2023	RB moved the minutes, SL seconded.
Receipt and adoption of reports 2. To receive and where necessary adopt: 2.1 The President's Report for the financial year ending June 2024; 2.2 The Secretary's Report for the financial year ending June 2024; 2.3 The Treasurer's Report for the financial year ending June 2024;	<i>President's Report (annexure A to these minutes)</i> AHB noted that Board has not yet received 2024 audited financial reports. AHB spoke to the President's report and circulated printed copies to board members. AHB particularly noted the following: • Thank you to WLA (ACT) for co-hosting the conference, led by Chair HB. ○ have not received one bit of negative feedback on the conference; ○ Justice Taylor of the ACT Supreme Court was our dinner speaker, and she was

2.4 Financial Report for the financial year ending June 2024; 2.5 Auditors' Report on the financial statements for the financial year ending June 2024.	magnificent; ○ the AWL Award went to Fleur Kingham for her tireless support of women in the profession; ○ nearly 200 attendees through conference and dinner; and ○ a number of sponsored places thanks to generosity of past presidents and senior women in the profession, and thank you to Clayton Utz, Victorian Legal Services Board and AGS. ● in addition to the conference, the board has fostered new connections with constituent bodies. ○ AHB attended events in Victoria and SA ○ RB attended event in WA ○ AHB met with Fiji Women Lawyers, who are enthusiastic to remain connected regarding ongoing gender justice dialogue between Aus and the Pacific ○ AHB held meetings with Parents at Work, Women's Agenda and the ACTU; ○ SP recently presented at the Women in Law Forum on behalf of AWL ○ Leah Marrone continued on Respect at Work Council; and ○ Emma Luck was contact for AGECEC and attended two-day symposium in August 2024, together with AHB. AHB also presented to AGECEC on priorities and strategic direction of AWL. HB also now appointed to AGECEC's board as AWL's representative. ● AWL contributed to submissions to Law Council and the Australian Bar Association on the professional rules, and also made detailed submissions to the gender-based violence rapid review (the latter authored by Sapphire Parsons of Victorian Women Lawyers). ● AHB thanks RB, HB and CC. Thank you also to Jennifer Batrouney and Fiona McLeod for their support as past presidents. Secretary's Report (Annexure B to these minutes) HB provided written Secretary's report and spoke to it. ● Noted high levels of attendance, speaks to strength of the board; ● Proxies received 20 in total, great to see such engagement from members.
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	<i>Treasurer's Report/Financial Report/Auditors Report</i> AHB presented reports in CC's absence, and spoke to the 2023 audited financial report. Thank you CC for preparing. <i>Treasurer's Report (Annexure C to these minutes)</i> • Page 8 of the audited report is a statement of comprehensive income. Total was \$91,832, noting the 2023 financial year included the Brisbane conference, so there was a lot of conference revenue. • Total expenses, noting it costs a lot to run a conference, was \$118,871. AWL technically made a loss, but because we had a lot of cash at bank as at the end of the 2023 Financial Year we remain in a healthy position. • the audited report also shows statement of changes in equity and includes notes relevant to accounting standards. • AHB asks that the 2023 Audited Report be adopted by the AGM. RB moved, SOC seconded. • Though are yet to receive the 2024 audited financial report, CC's report indicates that at the end of the financial year AWL had a bank balance of \$61,867.87. • CC recommends, in her report, that Crowe Horwath be appointed as auditors again. AHB otherwise relies on the report. RB moved the treasurer's report and accompanying profit and loss statement, seconded by SOC.
Appointment of Auditor 2024/2025 3. To appoint the auditor for the next financial year	AHB recommends we engage Crowe Horwath as auditors. RB moved and SL seconded.
Appointment of Representatives and Officers 4. To appoint the nominees of the following recognised organisations pursuant to 3.2(a) and 3.3(a) of the Company's constitution 4.1 Women Lawyers Association of New South Wales Inc. 4.2 Women Lawyers Association of Queensland 4.3 Women Lawyers of	Directors appointed as follows: Women Lawyers Association of New South Wales Inc – Renee Bianchi Women Lawyers Association of Queensland – TBC Women Lawyers of Western Australia Inc. – Emma Luck Northern Territory Women Lawyers Association Inc. – Josie Short The Women Barristers Association – Kylie Weston-Scheuber Victorian Women Lawyers' Association – Sophie Lefebvre Women Lawyers Association of South Australia –

Western Australia Inc. 4.4 Northern Territory Women Lawyers Association Inc. 4.5 The Women Barristers Association 4.6 Victorian Women Lawyers' Association 4.7 Women Lawyers Association of South Australia 4.8 Tasmanian Women Lawyers Inc. 4.9 Women Lawyers Association of the Australian Capital Territory Inc. 5. To co-opt any member or members to the Board	Shelley O'Connell Tasmanian Women Lawyers Inc. – Alinta Robinson-Herbert Women Lawyers Association of the Australian Capital Territory Inc. – Danielle Mildren. AHB coopted as a non-voting member of the Board, in the role of Immediate Past President.
Other Business	RB thanked AHB on behalf of the Board.

AGM closed: 1:46pm.