



Minutes of the AIIA Victoria Annual General Meeting – Monday 11 October 2021
Held via Zoom Meeting

Due to COVID-19 and the restrictions in force on public gatherings, the AGM was held virtually.

The President, Richard Iron CMG OBE, declared the 2021 Annual General Meeting (AGM) open at 5.45pm and welcomed all members attending virtually.

A quorum was confirmed.

Present: 31

Hatice H Basarin OAM	Susan Green	Mike Moignard
John Basarin OAM	Dr Michael Henry AM	Patrick Moore
Rowan Callick OBE FAIIA,	Richard Iron CMG OBE	Peter Moylan
James Carey	David Kiernan,	John Richardson
Suzanne (Sue) Chapman	Zara Kimpton OAM	Alastair Roff
Christopher Cicutto	Christopher Lamb	Rae Sharp
Melissa Conley-Tyler FAIIA	Karla Lockett	Jessica Wayne
Judith Coultas	Kelly MacDonald	Greg Wills
Meg Davoren-Honey OAM	Will McEniry	Perry Wood
Andrew Farran	Justin Meyer	
Benjamin Freeman	Prakash Mirchandani	

Apologies:

Mr Allan Myers AC QC
Helen Freeman
Kathie Derham Moore
Dr Trevor Findlay

Proxies:

Two valid Proxies were received, as follows:

From:	In Favour of:
Kalum De Silva	Prakash Mirchandani
Nadeeshani Pathirana	Prakash Mirchandani

It was explained that Motions would be voted on using the Zoom 'Poll' facility, and that prior to each vote, as per the Constitution, the number of Proxies For, Against or Abstaining would be declared. (Also in line with the Constitution, there is no requirement to declare how many votes are cast, simply whether a Motion is carried, or not).

1. The Notice of Meeting was taken as read

2. To Approve the Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on 5 October 2020

The AGM Minutes of Meeting for 2020 were received.

Motion: that the AGM Minutes of Meeting for 2020 be adopted.

MOVED, and CARRIED

Proposer: Patrick Moore

Seconder: Sue Chapman

Minutes approved

3. Business arising from the Minutes

Zara Kimpton queried why the previous 2020 AGM Minutes mentioned that Greg Romanes had died in September 2020, but that it was not mentioned in the Annual Report. She believed that it should have been covered in the Annual Report to recognise how much he had done for AIIA Victoria. Alastair Roff clarified that it was an unfortunate oversight; Richard Iron proposed that mention be included as an addendum to the 2021-22 Annual Report.

4. To receive and consider the Annual Report of the Council.

The 2020-21 Annual Report was received.

Motion: that the Annual Report for 2021 be adopted.

MOVED, and CARRIED

Proposer – John Richardson

Seconder – Greg Wills

5. To receive and consider the Financial Statement and the Auditor's Report for the financial year ended 30 June 2021.

Motion: That the Financial Statement and the Auditor's Report be adopted.

Zara Kimpton raised that for consistency Richard Iron's post-nominals should have been included in the financial statements. Additionally, the *After Balance Date Events* paragraph mentioned "*the impact of measure imposed by the Australian Government*". Given that multiple lockdowns had also been imposed by the Victorian Government, it was felt this needed clarification. The Treasurer advised that it was too late to change the Financial Statement as it had already been signed off by the Auditors, but it was agreed to make reference in the Minutes to Australian Governments, plural.

MOVED, and CARRIED

Proposer – John Richardson

Seconder – Greg Wills

The Financial Statement and the Auditor's Report were adopted.

6. To confirm auditors for 2021-22

Motion: that May Klye & Associates be appointed to conduct an audit review for FY 2021-22

MOVED, and CARRIED

Proposer – Christopher Cicutto

Seconded – Kelly MacDonald

7. To elect Office Holders

To elect Office Holders of the Council for the 2021-22 year

To avoid any conflict of interest, Alastair Roff chaired this part of the meeting.

There was no contested ballot this year for positions of President, Vice President, Vice President and Treasurer, so the following were re-elected:

President: Richard Iron CMG OBE
Vice President: Kelly MacDonald
Vice President: John Richardson
Treasurer: Christopher Cicutto

Proposer – Patrick Moore

Seconding – Perry Wood

Motion carried, and the President resumed the Chair.

9. To elect Ordinary Members of the Council for the 2021-22 year

The following were elected:

James Carey (eligible for re-election)
Rae Sharp (standing as new council member)
Greg Wills (standing again for council, after one year away)

Zara Kimpton requested clarification on James Carey's role given that he is overseas for a year undertaking a PhD at Cambridge. Richard Iron confirmed that he is assisting with IT development and is a useful and talented member of the council. He is also working on a 'Conference Paper' series to allow early career academics to present their research and present to an audience. Even though he is not in the same time zone he can still contribute virtually.

Proposer – Patrick Moore

Seconded – Sue Chapman
Motion carried.

10. **President's Report**

The President Richard Iron welcomed new Council Members; Greg Wills, known to most as a previously long-standing Council Member, and Rae Sharp, an experienced and accomplished barrister with a background in international law. He farewelled Robyn Byrne OAM who has come to the end of her second three-year tenure on the Council and therefore, according to the Constitution, must retire. Robyn has worked tirelessly for the Institute for many years, and we defer to her regularly as having the longest and deepest corporate memory on the Council. Most recently, her work encouraging school membership and developing our offer to secondary school students studying Global Politics has been particularly successful.

It was noted with sadness that Michael Coultas OAM, a former President of AIIA Victoria from 1994-99, and leader of many past Study Tours, had died on 10 August. Zara Kimpton and John Brookes were thanked for writing his obituary in our most recent Newsletter, and Judy Coultas relayed the appreciation of the family.

It was also recorded with sorrow that long-term member Michael Cohn, who was on our 2017 Iran Study Tour, had died in April.

On a much happier note, it was announced that the Council has voted both unanimously and enthusiastically to elect our former President of six years, Patrick Moore, to be a Life Member of the Institute. Several criteria were considered in making this award: that the recipient should have given distinguished service to AIIA Victoria and is an ardent supporter and promoter of our objectives and goals; that it is someone who has represented the Institution with distinction either domestically or internationally; and that they have demonstrated outstanding and valued leadership in the Institute.

Patrick fills all these criteria ... and more. Richard noted that in the past year, his first as President, his job had been made much easier by the professionalism, financial acumen and far-sightedness of Patrick, his predecessor. He placed the Institute on a much more professional footing: the stable financial platform, that he and our Treasurer, Christopher Cicutto, have together created and sustained, has also enabled us to withstand the current Covid shock with little serious risk to our financial viability. The work that Patrick initiated on the future of Dyason House, over several years, was essential preparation for us to be able sell so successfully this year.

Patrick had of course also, almost single-handedly, organised multiple and popular study tours for the Institute that so many of our Members have enjoyed. Nowhere is too remote or too challenging! And although travel restrictions have stymied our tours for the past two years, we still hope to be able to re-jig Patrick's planned tour of the Silk Road, in the Central Asia in the future.

Richard observed that the past year has not been without its difficulties. Despite an all-too-brief relaxation of restrictions which saw a number of important in-person and hybrid events at Dyason House, the latest lockdowns have seen a raft of cancellations of some of our most popular and treasured events, including the International Careers Conference, The Sir Zelman Cowen Oration, and a number of our Young Professionals Networking Events. The Institute also rocked by the sudden and serious illness of our Executive

Director, Alastair Roff. Fortunately, only temporary; and those who stepped up to fill the gap while he was away in July and August are thanked for their efforts.

One of the major events of the year was the sale of Dyason House. Council Members Christopher Cicutto, Prakash Mirchandani and Alastair Roff were thanked for their role on the sale sub-committee. We are now working hard to find our new home, and as mentioned in the Newsletter and letter to Members, we seek to buy in this financial year and, hopefully, move in the latter half of 2022.

The President thanked the Council's executive committee, in particular Vice Presidents Kelly Macdonald and John Richardson, whose wise advice has helped us steer the Institute through some tricky times. The Institute has also benefited enormously by the enthusiasm and expertise of your Council; every Member has given their time generously in the rather odd dual role that Council Members have: both as Board Directors, working at *strategic* level, and being responsible for the *operational* delivery of various parts of our program.

And, of course, the Institute would be nothing without its Members; the President thanked all for their continuing support and interest in International Affairs.

The final thanks were to our extraordinary supporters and donors without whom we really could not survive. That we continue to thrive financially, perhaps rather surprisingly given the circumstances, is almost entirely due to your generosity and I, and the rest of the Council, cannot thank you enough.

The Institute is in good health; we are financially secure; we have very good people working for us; and we have every reason to look forward to a very successful year ahead.

Patrick Moore responded that it was an honour to become a Life Member., He had enjoyed serving the institute and the members on it. To be given the chance is a privilege, but with it came responsibility. It was making this organisation better so that other people could take it further. He wished the current council and members all the best.

There being no further questions or comments, the President declared the Annual General Meeting for 2021 closed at **18:07 (6:07pm AEDT)**.