

# MINUTES

# Blind Citizens Australia

# 45th Annual General Meeting

# Saturday, 28th November 2020 12:00pm-1:30pm AEDT

# Held Virtually, via Zoom

# Chaired by John Simpson AM, President

# Welcome

Provided by John Simpson, President, BCA

# Acknowledgement of Country

Provided by Stephen Belbin, Director, BCA

# Roll Call

Read by Naomi Barber

## Members Present

Andrew Webster, Anna Briggs, Annette Holden, Bernadette Jolley, Bill Jolley, Brendon Donohue, Carmel Jolley, Carolyn Kneale, Christine Simpson, Doug McGuinn, David Morell, Emma Bennison, Fiona Woods, Francois Jacobs, Gwen Issac, Helen Freris, Jaci Armstrong, Jan Miller, Janene Sadhu, Jennifer Parry, Jo Webber, Joanne Chua, John Danesh Krishna, John Simpson, Joyce Jones, Julee-Ann Bell, Julie Southerland, Karen Passmore, Katrina Taylor, Kevin Murfitt, Lauren Henley, Lee Smith, Linda Agnew, Lynne Davis, Maree Fenech, Marie Shang, Martin Stewart, Mark Muscat, Mick Baker, Paul Mugambi, Paul Price, Peter Gordon, Peter Rickards, Prue Watt, Ramona Mandy, Rikki Chaplin, Robyn Bousie, Ross De Vent, Sally Aurisch, Scott Erichsen, Shaun McLaughlin, Sharon Marriott, Stephen Belbin, Stephen Jolley, Steve Pitchford, Susan Thompson, Susie Rich, Terry Boyle, Tim Haggis, Vaughn Bennison, Vicki Jolley, Wendy Sara

## Associate Members and Guests (not eligible to vote):

Angela Jaeschke (staff), Belinda Johnson (Department of Health and Human Services – Victoria), Eileen Jolley (associate Member), Kathie Elliott (Staff), Ken Brandt (Associate member), Naomi Barber (Staff), Tony Grant (Staff)

## Apologies:

Barbara Williams, Barry Chapman, Geoff Shang, Greg Kennedy, Jane Britt, Jeremy Wurm, Joan Richardson, Leonie Barber, Ilona Trost, Nicola Stowe, Peter Ryan, Rachel Lazaroy, Samantha Marsh, Sondra Wibberley, Val Johnson,

# Declaration of proxies held:

Barry Chapman – Proxy directed to meeting chair

Greg Kennedy – Proxy directed to meeting Chair

### Note:

The Chairman advised that "as the meeting is being conducted online, which will make the normal voting process difficult to manage I will invite objections to each resolution and declare the resolution carried where no objection is registered.”

# Receipt and approval of minutes of the 44th Annual General Meeting held 30th November 2019:

### Questions:

None

### Resolution

That the minutes of the 44th Annual General Meeting, held on the 30th November 2019, be accepted as a true and accurate record of the meeting.

Moved: Vaughn Bennison

Seconded: Martin Stewart

Objections: None

Resolution carried.

# Annual Review 2019-2020

It was noted that both the Annual Review and Audited Financial reports are available on the BCA website and can be provided in a preferred format if requested.

## Chief Executive Officer Summary

Emma Bennison, CEO BCA provided a summary of the Annual Review, which is available from the BCA website or can be provided in alternate formats upon request.

### Questions:

Joanne Chua – thanked the CEO and Staff. Joanne reiterated how the organization has been growing and improving with the leadership provided by John and everyone involved.

John Simpson, President BCA – Thanked Joanne for her comments

Susan Thompson – Given the success of Audio Description on public broadcasting channels, where does it leave the passion for our campaign on Audio Description

Emma Bennison, CEO BCA: it is very much alive. Our strategy, in consultation with the Audio Description Working Group, has been to let things settle in and then start to look at what comes next. Our next phase is directed at the government, requesting the funding continue and also to work with the commercial broadcasters to get them on board. Emma advised BCA will achieve this through launching another element to the TV4All campaign and get members to tell us what they love about Audio Description in a video / voice recording that we can begin to share as we know the way to get attention is with numbers and feedback.

Angela Jaeschke, GM Operations BCA: We’ve been working with both ABC, SBS, Government and partner organisations to get Audio Description on TV. That’s been a really collaborative process. We heard from ABC and SBS at BCA Connect and their passion was evident. We will leverage this and member feedback to show interest and use in the service.

### Resolution

That the Annual Review 2019-2020 be received.

Moved: Helen Freris

Seconder: Annette Holden

Objections: None

Resolution carried.

# Receipt of Audited Financial Statements and Auditor's Report.

In introducing this item John Simpson thanked Mick Baker for his service to the Board and the Finance, Audit and Risk Management (FARM) Committee.

### Questions:

Susan Thompson - asked for clarification about the application of funds following the merger of BCA and BCNSW.

John Simpson - The income received during the 2019/20 financial year from the Jeffrey Blyth Foundation included two components – approximately $104,000 from the Shirley fund, which was the earnings from the approximately $2.3 million corpus originally provided by BCNSW and around $50,000 from the general fund. The residue of BC NSW assets were included in the funds that BCA had invested during the year.

### Resolution:

That the Audited Financial Statements be received.

Moved: Mick Baker, Treasure BCA

Second: Stephen Belbin

Objections: None

Resolution carried

# Confirmation/appointment of Auditor

It was advised that prior to the 2018 AGM Dan Stubbs, then Treasurer, instigated a full review of our Auditors and went to market for quotes as part of a standard review. Brent Murphy, MCA Accounting was again reappointed as the favoured contractor at that point. A 3-year agreement was signed although inline with BCA’s Constitution the appointment is reviewed each year. The Board is recommending a continuation of Brent’s involvement this year.

### Questions:

None

### Resolution:

That Brent Murphy of MCA Accounting be appointed as Auditor for the 2020-2021 Financial Year.

Moved: Mick Baker

Second: Paul Mugambi

Objections: None

Resolution Carried

# Reports

## Jeffrey Blyth Foundation Update, incorporating the Shirley Fund

Provided by Bill Jolley, Chair, Jeffrey Blyth Foundation

Bill provided an overview of the Jeffrey Blyth Foundation and outlined the amounts BCA is to be funded during the 2020-2021 financial year from the foundation. The full report is available via the BCA Website.

John Simpson extended on behalf of the BCA Board, staff and members their thanks to Bill Jolley as he retires from the role as Trustee at the Jeffrey Blyth Foundation.

### Questions

None

### Resolution:

That the report from the Jeffrey Blyth Foundation be noted

Moved: Susan Thompson

Seconded: Stephen Belbin

Objections: None

Report noted.

## Election Report – Company Secretary

Provided by Emma Bennison, Company Secretary BCA

Board of Directors

Mick Baker has resigned from the Board of Directors

Fiona Woods, Helen Freris and Prue Watt were all reappointed for a 3 year term.

Andrew Webster was elected unopposed.

No election was required to be held.

National Policy Council

New South Wales – Lynne Davis re-elected unopposed

Western Australia - Sean McLaughlin re-elected unopposed

Tasmania - John Danes Krishna elected unopposed

Australian Capital Territory - casual vacancy exists to be filled through an Expression of Interest.

David Morell and Andrew Webster were thanked for their contributions to the NPC.

### Questions:

None

### Resolution:

That the Election Report be received.

Moved: Susan Thompson

Seconded: Katrina Taylor

Objections: None

Resolution carried

# Other business

## Amendment to BCA Membership Fee

### Questions:

Susan Thompson: are there any issues with voting if you aren’t a paid member at a certain point of the financial year?

John Simpson, President, BCA: No, and the board will be doing an additional thorough read of the constitution

Emma Bennison, CEO, BCA: if there was an annual fee there would be issues however as it’s a one off, there are no concerns. The numbers of new members have increased since reducing the fee.

### Resolution:

“Noting that Clause 8.1 of the BCA Constitution provides that the once only joining fee for Full, Associate and Junior Members is determined by the BCA Board, subject to ratification by members at an Annual General Meeting; this meeting endorses the decision of the Board to set the joining fee at $0.00 until further notice.”

Moved: Martin Stewart

Seconded: Susan Thompson

Objections: Katrina Taylor voiced an objection but declined to speak against the motion.

Resolution carried

Meeting Close 1:15pm