

Minutes of the Cambridge Society of Australia (Victoria) Inc. Annual General Meeting 2020
6:00pm, Wednesday 15th December 2021
Online via Zoom

1. Welcome & Attendance

AGM attendees: Raul Sanchez-Urribarri, Michelle Cooper, Trish Mullen, Jerry Platt, Annabelle Walker, Neville Norman, Antara Mascarenhas, Christopher Davey, Quentin van Abbe, Fabrice Boucherat, Peter Adams, Peter Baines, Richard Iron, Margaret Bullen, David Rand.

Proxies: David Rand & Annebelle Walker (both attended however had late arrival). **Apologies:** Nil

Chaired by the President, Dr Sanchez-Urribarri, the attendees constituted a quorum with over 5% of membership represented. Proceedings were officially opened online at 6:07pm.

2. Minutes from 2020 AGM & Business Arising

The 2020 AGM Minutes were tabled by the Secretary and a motion was moved by Raul and seconded by Christopher Davey, Quentin van Abbe and Trish Mullen. The motion was carried.

3. President's Report

Dr Raul Sanchez-Urribarri tabled his Presidential Report, presenting to the attendees in the second online AGM to support an inclusive approach for those still working from home. The President commented on another extraordinary year in and out of lockdown, noting that we have continued to keep our society active and engaged through online events.

The President noted the key highlights of 2021 including virtual trivia evenings and several well-timed lunch and golf events. Despite the members missing out on several planned face-to-face events over 2021, the Committee are looking forward to pursuing these and more activities in 2022 including an annual dinner and other initiatives to ensure 2022 provides more opportunities to support building on our healthy membership numbers and hopefully attract new members with our refreshed program of activities.

The President also highlighted the efforts of Committee members and thanked them by name for their continued efforts and dedication to support Melbourne's Cambridge Alumni.

The President's report was accepted unanimously. The full report can be found on the society's website here:

www.cambridgesociety.org.au

4. Treasurer's Report

The Treasurer's report was tabled by Fabrice Boucherat, acknowledging the continued contributions from Jerry Platt our previous outgoing Treasurer who has continued to support Fabrice during his initial year in the role. The Treasurer reminded attendees that the Committee previously agreed to put a hold on membership fees over the previous 12 months. With no income from annual subscriptions on the books and additional digital services fees to support online events, the result is a small decline in our assets over the past 12 months. Despite this, our overall balance is still healthy. Details as follows:

Income: \$2,316.45	Expenditure: \$3,490.97	Loss: \$1,174.520
Funds available: \$18,336.58	Liability: \$6,686.00	Net assets: \$11,650.58

It was moved by Raul and unanimously accepted that the Treasurer's financial report be adopted. The motion was carried.

5. Honorary Auditor's Report

It was also noted that an Honorary Auditor's report was not required this year as the accounts were reviewed internally with the consent of Jerry Platt.

6. Level of Annual Subscriptions

The Membership Secretary noted that individuals only joined the Society outside of lockdowns. With 260 individuals on the books, over 80% of our membership have noted that they are highly engaged in our work.

Attendees discussed the challenges for new alumni returning after graduation, emphasising the opportunity to promote various membership models to support recent graduates and maintain engagement for those who cannot attend face to face events.

7. Election of Committee and Office Bearers

Nominations were received for the following committee members and office bearers:

President: Raul Sanchez-Urribarri

Vice President: Fabrice Boucherat

Secretary: Michelle Cooper

Membership Secretary: Annabelle Walker

Treasurer: Fabrice Boucherat

Committee members:

Peter Adams (Golf)

Peter Baines (Lunches)

Trish Mullen (Social events and communication)

Antara Mascarenhas (Previous President)

Noting that a show of hands represents voting for the committee and office bearers in the online AGM, the Secretary sighted 12 of 15 hands up for moving the approval of the above nominees.

8. Other business

Oxford Society & Club membership:

Trish noted that the Oxford Society has signed a MOU with the Calvin Club, who are also keen to talk to us about being an affiliate member. This would be something that would need to be taken to the wider membership.

A motion to support in-principle agreement to progress negotiations with the Calvin Club was agreed, noting that it could be a 'home ground' for the Society moving forward, with the caveat that it be non-binding regarding the location of events across the Society. Attendees discussed the opportunity with strong support to pursue this approach.

Motion to progress negotiations moved by Trish and seconded by Neville Norman, Raul and Michelle.

ACTION: Trish to follow up with Calvin Club

Membership fees:

Neville suggested that the Committee consider a 50% membership rate to encourage new members to join the Society. to encourage new members to join the Society.

Regarding regular fees, a motion from Peter Adams, seconded by Raul, Fabrice and Peter Baines confirmed there is no appetite to increase regular membership fees.

ACTION: Follow up at February Committee meeting

Online options moving forward:

The attendees noted the trend across business and universities for adopting an on-going hybrid zoom/face to face meeting model for future events and meetings. This could include regular quiz events as they were well attended and appreciated during covid lockdowns.

ACTION: Follow up at February Committee meeting

Annual dinner 2022:

Antara & Anabelle are currently scheduling the next annual dinner and are looking for a high-profile speaker for late February, date TBC. Request to attendees to think about options that they might have in mind and share those insights with the Committee.

Vale Jerry Harcourt:

The attendees noted the recent passing of a famous economist and Cambridge personality, Jerry Harcourt. Neville will pen a note to pay tribute to his life and contributions for the next newsletter.

Meeting closed at 7:00pm