

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2019 MINUTES

Thursday 14 November, 6pm – 9pm, Mott MacDonald

Present:

Trudy Myers, Joyce Lee, Steve Gibblett, Andrew Simpson, Ali Habibi, Paul Moore, Mick Jaroszewicz, Nishmin Hallam, Alison Naimo, Steve Wong, Luay Al-loos, Nick Morphett, Wayne Costin, Kevin Leedow, Bruce Hutchison, Todd Halliday, John Butterworth, Chinthana Bandara, Vinay Rao, Art Bolan, Charles Marendy, Omid Safai, Chloe Wyatt

Apologies:

Matt Harding, Max Irvine, Richard Kell, Aaron Dewberry, Tom Urquhart, Chris Carroll

1. Presidents Welcome: Joyce Lee

At 6.30pm Joyce opened the meeting.

Minutes from 2018 AGM were accepted, with no matters arising.

- ❖ *Motion raised to accept the 2018 minutes by Andrew Simpson and seconded Joyce Lee*

Joyce acknowledged the officer bearers and the commitment of all Board members, thanked the retiring Board and welcomed the new Board members.

2. Summary of the Annual Report: Joyce Lee

The 83rd Annual Report was summarised and presented to Members. A copy of this report is available at <https://www.acse.org.au/resources>

Joyce explained the review of the Articles of Association and summarised the key revisions:

- The addition of an associate membership (clause 4 and 15)
- Update to the process for new member applications (clause 5)
- Simplification of process for electing new Board members (cl. 27)
- Update to the structure for committees (clause 51)

- ❖ *Motion raised to accept the addition of Associate Membership by Paul Moore and seconded Trudy Myers*

- ❖ *Motion raised to accept revisions to the Articles of Association by Andrew Simpson and seconded Trudy Myers*

Joyce provided a summary of the Annual Report noting the following inclusions:

- Events – The continued popularity of Pub Seminars and their importance in provided professional development as well as attracting sponsors.
- Events – The addition of a Pool Competition Night to attract new younger Associate Members
- Events – The introduction of sponsorship for the awards night. Macquarie Bank came on board as a Principal Partner, with category sponsors also on board.
- Special Projects - Standardised Certifications project being conducted in response to the Opal Towers incident
- Special Projects – Establishing the ACSE Women-in-Engineering network.

3. Financial Summary, Andrew Simpson, ACSE Treasurer

Andrew Simpson presented the Financial Report as contained within the Annual Report. The following points are noted:

- The balances are healthy with funds in both the term deposit and the bank account
- The Association ran at a profit in 2019, and the level of profit is attributable to the Awards Sponsorship
- The annual budget forecast looks healthy, but an additional sponsor will need to be found to stay cash-flow positive
- Andrew is retiring from the role of Treasurer

❖ *Motion raised to accept the Financial Report by Todd Halliday and seconded Paul Moore.*

Andrew provided a summary of our **Annual Industry Partnerships** (currently 6 with another joining in January) and noted that we will be seeking Awards sponsors again in 2020.

It was also noted that the Board have unanimously agreed to continue with a **Charity Partnership** with Partner Housing.

4. Presentation of **Membership Matters**, Stephen Giblett,

Stephen provided an update on the ACSE membership numbers and presented the criteria for the new Associate Membership as well as presenting the updated criteria for Life Membership.

Certificates and an official welcome were given to 9 new senior and associate members. The 7 new life members were also announced. The remaining certificates will be posted to the other new members.

5. Election of the **2018 Board**

Acknowledgment of retiring board members, Trudy Myers (served 4 yrs) and Glen Fowlie (served 2 yrs).

Nominations for new board members were put forward as follows:

- Alison Naimo – put forward by Mick Jaroszewicz, seconded by Andrew Simpson
- Nishmin Hallam – put forward by Mick Jaroszewicz, seconded by Trudy Myers

Nominations to appoint office bearers were put forward as follows:

- Joyce Lee remains President – nominated by Andrew Simpson, seconded by Stephen Giblett
- Ali Habibi becomes Vice President - nominated by Mick Jaroszewicz, seconded by Trudy Myers
- Stephen Wong becomes Treasurer - nominated by Andrew Simpson, seconded by Stephen Giblett
- Andrew Simpson remains Company Secretary - nominated by Paul Moore, seconded by Ali Habibi

With no further nominations from the floor, the Directors and office bearers were duly elected

6. **General Business** – open to the floor for members to submit matters of note

Todd Halliday expressed concern about a lack of response from the industry to the Opal Towers incident. He felt let down by Engineers Australia and wanted more input from the ACSE into the conversation and that members needed a voice in the discussion of the issues.

Board members provided more detailed information about the standard certifications project that has been worked on all year and it was identified that ACSE members were not very aware of this project.

There was discussion about media statements and official responses. Wayne Costin stated concern that without a unified response new building plans will get rejected which would be economic disaster. He asked how clients were responding. There was a discussion about Mascot Towers and other similar problematic projects. Todd cited Peer Review work as having a role but that caution was needed around that.

Andrew cited that the New Zealand method provided a good model for NSW, where contractors take more responsibility by certifying their work. Wayne noted that there is a question of how to make the developer more responsible. There was a discussion about the impact on insurance premiums and insurance pricing becoming an issue. Mick stated that the NSW law needs to change.

It was agreed that the ACSE need to review and respond to the new draft legislation, and that the ACSE needs to publicly take a position.

The Board agreed that a special newsletter should be sent at the end of this year to the mailing list detailing the certifications project so far and including a copy of the ACSE submission to the Building Commissioner. Following that a quarterly update will be sent during 2020 to keep the discussion engaged with members.

Kevin asked if the ACSE had responded to the NSW Building Practitioners Bill which was issued and invited comment in September. ACSE have not read this and Kevin stated that he will forward it.