

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2022 MINUTES

Thursday 29 September, 6pm – 8.00pm, at Northrop

Present:

Board - *Ali Habibi, Nishmin Hallam, Mick Jaroszewicz, Andrey Kandic, Max Kraus, Joyce Lee, Paul Moore, Nick Reichinger, Mitchell Starkey, Steve Wong, Chloe Wyatt*

Members - *John Butterworth, Wayne Costin, Mike Haysler, Aaron Hughes, Bruce Hutchinson, Lillian Lee, Basam Matty, Marley Meemeduma, Les Millist, Trudy Myers, Andrew Simpson, Jie Wen*

Apologies:

Alison Naimo, Aaron Dewberry, Martin Folan

1. **Presidents Welcome:** Ali Habibi

At 6.30pm Ali opened the meeting and gave an acknowledgement of country.

- Ali acknowledged and welcomed everyone.
- Minutes from 2021 AGM were accepted

- ❖ ***Motion to accept the 2021 AGM minutes put forward by Paul Moore and seconded by John Butterworth***

2. **Summary of the Annual Report:** Ali Habibi

The 85th Annual Report was summarised and presented to Members. A copy of this report is available at <https://www.acse.org.au/resources>

The summary of the annual report included:

- Strategic Plan Update – Implementation Phase
 - o Introduction of tiered sponsorship with a higher ‘premium’ and existing ‘standard’ package.
 - o Introduction of tiered corporate membership small, medium and large firms.
 - o Five-year budget forecast developed and adopted
 - o Event and communications assistant contracted
- Summary of events
 - o Pub seminars returned to face-to-face (post Covid)
 - o Introduced ‘meet-n-mingle’ in person for Associate members
 - o Successful Annual Awards
 - o Charity Golf Day – fundraiser for Lismore Flood victims
 - o Members Forum to discuss increasing insurance issues due to DBP Act

3. **Financial Summary,** Steve Wong, ACSE Treasurer

Steve Wong presented the Financial Report as contained within the Annual Report noting that:

- The term deposit was closed as interest rates are so low. All funds are now in one account.
- The balance is healthy largely due to minimal event expenses with lockdowns and online events.
- Annual Industry Partnerships were strong - there were 2 premium partners and 7 standard partners.
- Total sponsorship income (annual partners and award sponsors) \$74,925
- Total membership income \$40,537
- Total income from event tickets \$33,221 – both Golf Day and Lawn Bowls had to be rescheduled due to heavy rain so tickets have been sold (event ticket income) but event costs will be paid in next financial year.
- Total expenses \$112,474
- The Association ran at a profit of \$20,687 in 2022.

❖ *Motion to accept the financial report put forward by Paul Moore and seconded by Mike Haysler*

4. **Membership Summary**, Joyce Lee,

Joyce provided summary of membership activity:

- 4 new senior members
- 1 new associate members
- Total members at 30 June: 110 Seniors, 17 Associates, 14 Life

Joyce gave a summary of the new corporate membership structure:

- Large Firm (over 50 structural & technical staff)
 - 9 seniors, 6 associates, 3 award submissions
- Medium Firm (20 – 50 structural & technical staff)
 - 6 seniors, 4 associates, 2 award submissions
- Small Firm (up to 20 structural & technical staff)
 - 3 seniors, 3 associates, 1 award submission

5. **Administration and Election of the 2023 Board**, Ali Habibi and Paul Moore

Ali thanked ACSE NSW for the opportunity and thanked Paul Moore for all his support as the Vice President, particularly for stepping up when Ali was on Parental Leave.

Acknowledgment of retiring board members:

- Nishmin Hallam (served 3 years) - *noted her work in facilitating the WISE (Women in Structural Engineering) network*
- Alison Naimo (served 3 years) - *noted her work in facilitating the Associates network*

Nominations for new board members were put forward as follows:

- ❖ *Martin Folan, TTW – nominated by Joyce Lee, seconded by Andrew Simpson*
- ❖ *Max Kraus, MottMac – nominated by Ali Habibi, seconded by Nick Reichinger*

Nominations to remain on the Board were put forward as follows:

Andrew Derbidge	Paul Moore
Ali Habibi	Nick Reichinger
Mick Jaroszewicz	Mitchell Starkey
Andrey Kandic	Steven Wong
Joyce Lee	

❖ *Remaining Board members - nominated by Andrew Simpson, seconded by Mike Haysler*

Nominations for office bearers were put forward as follows:

- ❖ *Paul Moore to become President – nominated by Ali Habibi, seconded by Bassam Matty*
- ❖ *Nick Reishinger to become Vice President - nominated by Joyce Lee, seconded by Paul Moore*
- ❖ *Steven Wong to remain Treasurer & Company Secretary - nominated by Andrew Simpson, seconded by Nick Reisinger*

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

6. **New President's Welcome**, Paul Moore

Paul provided an overview of his goals during his serving term:

- focus on advocacy for Structural Engineering
- raising the profile of ACSE NSW, particularly in regional NSW to encourage membership outside of Sydney.
- following the objectives in the Articles of Association which focus on improving the status of the profession

Paul thanked Chloe for all her work in keeping everything running behind the scenes.

Paul thanked Trudy Myers for persuading him to join ACSE NSW a few years ago.

7. **General Business** – open to the floor for members to submit matters for discussion.

Wayne Costin – suggested talking to Consult Australia about reaching regional engineers. Suggested ACSE could use some funds to engage a consultant for advice on reaching the regions, regaining industry status and how to shift professional perceptions.

Bassam Matty – historically engineers would provide decisions to government and ministers and then too many compromises were made. There a loss of quality of training at university level because they are commercially motivated

Paul Moore – If ACSE can increase university engagement we help attract good people to the profession

Andrey Kandic – is on an advisory committee at Western Sydney University with a role to advise on curriculum

Bassam Matty – was involved in a committee to review a university program but no changes were made or recommendations implemented.

John Butterworth – queried the ways to get involved

Mike Haysler – advised that in the past ACSE used to meet with universities (before the merge with Consult Aus). Some uni's were reluctant but UWS more interested in industry involvement than USYD.

Mike advised that others could consider different ways to find new staff – he currently has 2 refugee engineers who are "brilliant"

Ali Habibi – we had meetings with the heads of faculty before and the interest in engaging with ACSE was there but follow up was really hard. Uni's are commercialised and we can't really influence them
Bassam reference Uni of WA School of Architecture – their groups had to design and make models and then Structural Engineers were invited to assess them and discuss with students.
Andrew commented that he had a Architectural Engineering degree and SDA works with USYD – is there a marketing opportunity with emerging architects?
John asked if ACSE would consider funding university engagement activities.

Aaron Hughes – worked with Consult Aus in the past and they are good at comments for the media. Queried what about Standard Scopes as a step before standard fees.
Paul advised about ACSE (Matt Harding) previous work on standard certifications and agreed ACSE should revisit this with the Certifiers.
Andrew advised ACSE received a letter from the Certifiers peak body (Steve Watson?) Joyce might have a copy of the letter received in response to the draft certificates.

Paul Moore – keen for ACSE to do a body of work with members and broader profession to set universal fee levels. DBP Regulations have set a bar and this gives an opportunity
Andrey Kandic – suggested ACSE could work on publishing a guideline for fees as a starting point.
Andrew Simpson – architects use fee scales. We have a relationship with the Institute of Architects and could talk to them.
Wayne suggested we would need a lawyer to help bring back fee scales and guidelines.
Mike agreed that promoting fees standards is important – supportive of this focus for ACSE.

General agreement that ACSE should hold a members' forum on fee scales.

Mike Haysler – suggested we should work on an Engineers Act
John Butterworth – Could ACSE publish a recommendation and ask out members to follow it, then we have voluntarily committed and started the process.

General agreement from members present to commit to this process.

Bassam Matty – raised a concern that the Annual Awards were architecturally biased, with a request to address this and increase the focus on engineering.
Paul responded to advise that we have addressed this and the Board have discussed this concern also raised by others.
Trudy also responded that having sat on the panel she valued assessing the relationship of realising the architectural design concepts, and assured that technical prowess is considered in this context.

John Butterworth – has observed that firms have moved away from Class2 but the additional regulations are coming so where does that leave us?
Paul responded that the new regulations will cover aged care, boarding houses and all classes over time.
Ali commented that firms stay away because the developer is not the operator. We need to see the new Act as an opportunity to show engineers value in improving the standards.
Mick commented that changes are also coming for home buildings. We need to get involved as much as possible.
Wayne suggested holding a seminar to discuss and collaborate on a response.
Aaron agreed that we need to influence the rollout of the regulations to the wider industry.
Andrew – advised that ACSE sat in on the industry roundtables for the regulations but that most industry submissions were ignored.
John commented there is a lack of understanding of the regulations particularly for remedial.
Aaron asked if there could be a member's briefing about this?
John suggested some practice notes?

Mike commented that in the past ACSE paper on Awnings has been used by coroners as a precedent

Marley Meemeduma – asked about ACSE involvement with other industry bodies.

Paul explained status of relationships and those bodies that are identified in the strategic plan, goal to have events that partner with other bodies, Mick working with Structural College

John suggested ACSE could contact Strata Organisations

Mike encouraged more guest lectures to ACSE members from others

Wayne commented that engineers can reduce personal risk by joining ACSE. Also useful contact could be the Public Works Building Design Group (Service NSW)

Final comments from Mick – reminder about charity Golf Day coming up, CWA attending from Lismore.

The meeting closed at 7.45pm

