
**MINUTES OF THE
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
OF THE LAW SOCIETY OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA
TUESDAY 29 OCTOBER 2013 COMMENCING AT 5.20 PM
LEVEL 36, QV1 BUILDING, 250 ST GEORGES TERRACE, PERTH**

PRESENT:

Craig Slater	Jacques Gluffre	Grace Calerina
Nicholas van Hattem	Rachel Cain	Derrek Goh
John Prior	Gayann Walker	Rosanna Hill
Emma Cavanagh	Elizabeth Needham	John Young
Nina McLaughlin	Emma Bright	Tim Mason
Richard Klimek	Clinton Russell	Ante Gelem
Simon Yamchikou	Ronald Bower	Andrew Portelli
Marie Botsis	Rachel Dawson	David Blades
Josh Spry	Kathleen McNally	Lesleigh Bower
Kaday Conteh	Konrad de Kerloy	Simon Reed
RWF Sceales	John Vaughan	Catherine Russo
J Robertson	Dr Eric Heenan	Melissa de Abreu
Glen McLeod	Alain Musikanth	Emma Taylor
Melanie Watters	Dipesh Jasmat	Caroline Christina Teo
Elizabeth Heenan	Scott Girdler	Peter Neil
David Bruns	RJ O'Connor	Andrew Bower
Robyn King	Matthew Caddy	Sam Radici
Christopher Hicks	June Kenny	Kailee Brown
Hayley Ellison	Hayley Cormann	Mae Cardaci
Matthew Briggs	Matthew Keogh	Monika Mecevic
David Jenaway	Eloise Mugford	Rachel Mounsey
Gray Porter	Yvette Fenton	John Gillett
Michelle Guy	Samuel Peace	

IN ATTENDANCE:

David Price – Executive Director
Leanne Follows – Executive Manager Corporate Services
Dominique Hansen – Executive Manager Community Services
Andrea Lace - Executive Manager Policy and Professional Services
Aine Whelan – Executive Manager Professional Development
Leanne Alberghini – Media and Communications Advisor
Sue Langmair – Personal Assistant to Executive Director and President
Francesca Giglia – Executive Support Officer/QPS Coordinator

1. APOLOGIES:

The following apologies were noted:

Belinda Lonsdale	Clare Thompson
Brendan Ashdown	Dudley Stow
Peter Jooste QC	Adam Ebell
Dr Christopher Kendall	Jessica Bayley
Steven Penglis	Maddy Boekhuysen

Bruno Camarri AM
Wayne Dawkins
Barbara Gordon
Cathryn Greville
Pamela Hass
Carmel McKenzie

William McKenzie
Ted Sharp
William Sloan
Maira Taylor
Matthew Wallis

CHAIR:

Craig Slater, as President of the Society, Chaired the meeting pursuant to Rule 43 of the Society's Constitution.

The President welcomed members and staff to the Annual General Meeting.

2. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

Motion 1: The Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of the Law Society of Western Australia held on Monday 29 October 2012 were confirmed as a true and correct record of that meeting.

Moved: Hayley Ellison

Seconded: Nicholas van Hattem

Carried

3. MATTERS ARISING FROM MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD 29 OCTOBER 2012

There were no matters arising from the minutes.

4. PRESIDENT'S REPORT, FINANCIAL ACCOUNT AND ANNUAL REPORT

The President advised that the 2012 Financial Accounts and the Annual Report have been distributed and that the Annual Report is available to members on the Law Society's website.

The President acknowledged the great work done by the staff in pulling the Annual Report together. The Annual Report highlights the important work carried out by the Society over the last year.

The President acknowledged that in relation to the Financial Accounts that there is a small deficit this year.

Motion 2 The financial accounts of the Law Society of Western Australia Inc for the year ending 30 June 2013 are adopted.

Moved: Dr Eric Heenan

Seconded: Kathleen McNally

Carried

Motion 3 The Annual Report of the Law Society of Western Australia Inc for the year ending 30 June 2013 is adopted.

Moved: Dr Eric Heenan

Seconded: Kathleen McNally

Carried

5. NEW BUSINESS

5.1 Amendment to Rule 44 of the Constitution of the Law Society of Western Australia Inc. (Constitution) - Term of elected Country Member

Rule 44 of the Constitution specifies the term for which each category of Law Society Council member is elected at annual elections.

The elected term of an Ordinary Member is two years. The elected term of the Country Member is one year.

Country Member (rule 2 of the Constitution) means an Ordinary Member who ordinarily practises outside a radius of 50 kilometres from the General Post Office, Perth.

It is proposed that Rule 44 be amended to give the Country Member the same term of office as an Ordinary Member.

The proposed amendment to Rule 44 is set out below. The sub-rule to be deleted is struck through and the sub-rules to be inserted are underlined.

Rule 44 – Terms of elected members of Council

- (a) All members of the Council must be members of the Society.
- (b) All members of the Council are to take office on the 1st day of January next following their election.
- (c) The President and the Vice-Presidents are to hold office for a term of one year.
- ~~(d) The Country Member and the junior members are each to hold office for a term of one year.~~
- (d) The Country Member is to hold office for a term of two years.
- (e) Junior members are to hold office for a term of one year.
- ~~(ef)~~ Ordinary Members of the Council are each to hold office for a term of two years, but if there are more than six positions of ordinary members of the Council to be elected at an annual election the first six persons elected are to hold office for a term of two years and the remainder are to hold office for a term of one year only.
- ~~(fg)~~ All members of the Council are to be eligible for re-election.

Motion 4 The proposed amendment to rule 44 of the Constitution of the Law Society of Western Australia Inc is approved.

Moved: Alain Musikanth

Seconded: Clinton Russell

Carried

5.2 Nominations for Life Membership

The President advised that Council have endorsed two new Honorary Life Members.

The Hon Robert Nicholson AO

The Hon Robert Nicholson AO was admitted in 1960, he joined Law Society in that year. He has been a representative for lawyers on the Law Council of Australia, he has represented them at the International Bar Association. He has been appointed by the government to inquiries into the legal profession. He was a Partner at Freehills and was elected to the Council of the Law Society in 1984 and held the position of Senior Vice President in 1985-86. He has been a member of the Senate of the University of Western Australia 1986-96. He is a Councillor for the Australasian Institute of Judicial Administration and now an Honorary Life Member with that body. He has been with the Commonwealth Administrative Appeals Tribunal and as Deputy President 1986-88. He is a founder of the WA Law Museum and an Inaugural Chairman of the Francis Burt Law Education Programme. He was a member of the Advisory Board 1987-92 and Trustee from 1987. He was the Justice of the Supreme Court of Western Australia 1988-94. He has worked with LAWASIA, Judicial Section 1993-2007. He was Chairman of the Australian Institute of Administrative Law (WA) 1994-97. He was a Chancellor at the Edith Cowan University 1997-2004 and awarded Honorary Doctor of Laws. He was President of the International Commission of Jurists (WA) 1999-2007. He was well known as the Justice of the Federal Court of Australia and Full Court of Federal Court of Australia 1995-2007. In 2002 he was awarded the Order of Australia for service to the judiciary, the law and to the community and in 2003 was awarded the National Service Medal and Centenary Medal.

Motion 5 The Hon Robert Nicholson AO is elected as a Life Member of the Law Society of Western Australia Inc.

Moved: Robert O'Connor

Seconded: Elizabeth Heenan

Carried

Her Honour Antoinette Kennedy AO

The President advised that the second nominee for an Honorary Life Membership is Her Honour Antoinette Kennedy AO. Her Honour was admitted to practice in 1968 and joined Law Society in that year. She had a successful career in private practice and joined the Independent Bar; she was second woman to do so in WA. In 1985 at age 39 she was appointed as a Judge of the District Court of WA and the first woman in Western Australia to be appointed to a superior court. In 2004 she became Chief Judge of the District Court and she held that position until 2011. She was the first woman in Western Australia to be appointed a head of jurisdiction. She was a founding member of the Women Lawyers of WA and has been their Patron since 1999. She has been a member of the Chief Justice's Gender Bias Taskforce. She has been a Member of the Senate of Murdoch University. She has chaired several projects for nurses. She has Board Memberships with the University of Notre Dame Law School; St John of God Hospital; Catholic Social Justice Commission; the Ethics Committee of Graylands Hospital; and Centenary of Women's Suffrage in WA Committee. In 2011 she was awarded the Order of Australia for distinguished service to

the law and to the judiciary, particularly in WA, through major reforms of practices and procedures in the judicial system, to professional associations, as a mentor of women in the law, and to the community. In 2012 when she was inducted into the WA Women's Hall of Fame the Past President, Dr Christopher Kendall observed that "*Antoinette Kennedy is an inspiration to all lawyers and those who aspire to practice law. During her quite remarkable career she never lost sight of community interests and the pursuit of justice for all, in all aspects of life. Her accomplishments have radically altered the way women are perceived in the profession*".

Motion 6 Her Hon Antoinette Kennedy AO is elected as a Life Member of the Law Society of Western Australia Inc.

Moved: Robert O'Connor

Seconded: Gayann Walker

Carried

6. GENERAL BUSINESS

There was no general business.

7. VOTE OF THANKS

The President said it has been a great year for him as President. He has had the great support of a hard working Executive and he wished to record his thanks to Konrad de Kerloy as Senior Vice President and Matthew Keogh as Vice President. They provided great support and great commercial wisdom to him. He said he was also grateful to Elizabeth Needham as Treasurer this year and Pamela Hass as the Treasurer for last year for their great work and attention to the accounts. He said he was indebted to all members of the Council and the Executive for 2013. There are a number of Councillors who rotated through Executive and all of their assistance was gratefully received.

The President advised that there were a number of councillors who will not be on Council next year: Dr Eric Heenan is not returning and the Council will miss his attention to detail and his hard work on Council. The Council will also miss the assistance of Belinda Lonsdale who has spent many years on the Council and it will miss her criminal law perspective. Dr Christopher Kendall will not be on Council as he is retiring as Immediate Past President. The Council and the Society will however be working closely with Dr Kendall in his role on the Law Council Executive. That appointment is very important to the Law Society to keep up our communication with the rest of Australia's legal profession associations. The President also mentioned one other Councillor who will not be returning; Anthony Kay. Mr Kay has retired for health reasons. Council was very grateful for his constant attention to diplomacy and often to style.

The President announced the 2014 Executive has been settled without any opposition and advised that Konrad de Kerloy has been elected unopposed as President for 2014; Matthew Keogh has been elected unopposed as Senior Vice President for 2014 and Elizabeth Needham has been elected as Vice President for 2014.

The President then thanked the Law Society staff, in particular to the Executive Director David Price and all the hard work he has put in. He thanked Personal Assistant, Sue Langmair for her assistance throughout the

year. He said there were a number of great departments at the Law Society and each of them have worked incredibly well and he was grateful for their assistance. He mentioned specifically the CPD Team and the Executive Manager Professional Development Aine Whelan, Joanna Bryant, Kimberley Langridge in bringing CPD to members. He mentioned the Membership Team who has worked very hard to engage with members in ways different to the 1950's through the internet, through facebook and other ways including LinkedIn. This is a great way to meet and engage with newer members. He was pleased to thank the Corporate Services Team, the Executive Manager Corporate Services Kerry Harris and more recently Leanne Follows, Sim Lim and Vivienne Bone. The Policy Team and the Executive Manager Policy and Professional Services Andrea Lace and her team who he specifically mentioned in relation to the preparation of the Annual Report and he is very grateful for their very heavy lifting of some major policy statements this year.

The President said as a lawyer one of the faces of the Law Society that is often forgotten is the Francis Burt Law Education Centre. He said he was grateful to the staff that work in that area including the Executive Manager Community Services Dominique Hansen and her team. They are the shopfront of the Law Society to the community.

The President thanked all the staff for their assistance during his term.

The President thanked Herbert Smith Freehills for the use of the rooms for the Annual General meeting and providing refreshments after the meeting. He also thanked them for the commitment to pro bono work and for their support to the Law Society including earlier on this year hosting and supporting as a sponsor the Heath Black Lecture on Depression. He noted Tony Joyner's commitment as Managing Partner of this office for that support to the Law Society which is gratefully received.

Konrad de Kerloy took the chair and passed a vote of thanks on behalf of the Society and the Council to Craig Slater. He said he didn't think anyone that takes on the President's role doesn't think it's a privilege to do so, but one mustn't underestimate the enormous time and effort that has to be put in by the individual. This is more so when the individual is a sole practitioner working at the independent bar. Mr Slater has been a very steady hand and a good and fun person to work for. The achievements of the Law Society often move very slowly but sometimes crisis emerge when newspapers want commentary on and Presidents have to be on the ball to give that commentary and there is a balancing between giving the Law Society's view, giving the papers what they want and making sure that we are not out of step with the people we lobby on behalf of and the people we lobby ie the government. The meeting acknowledged this vote of thanks in the usual way.

Mr Slater said it was a great privilege and honour to be President during this year. He said he was not sad to leave it in good hands to other people. He said there is a great benefit in the Law Society growing and evolving and changing that guard every so often and he hopes that the new Executive finds the Law Society in as good a position as he found it at the beginning of the year.

There being no further business the President closed the meeting at 5.45pm.