

The President noted that there were sufficient members present to constitute a quorum. He read the notified apologies and proxies. After requesting that any additional apologies be recorded on the attendance sheet, he asked that apologies be received.

MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

Moved: Bob Lowry

Seconded: Paul Gallagher

That the Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on 16 September 2015 be accepted as a true and accurate record.

CARRIED

MATTERS ARISING

There were no matters arising from the Minutes. The President advised that the Council had belatedly submitted the return to the Office of Regulatory Services.

CORRESPONDENCE

There were no items of inwards or outwards correspondence.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

The President's Report is at Attachment 1.

The President was asked about the fate of Stephen House. He gave a brief summary of the history and pending sale. (Note that a separate letter to members was issued after the AGM to explain what was happening.)

Moved: Bob Lowry

Seconded: Heath McMichael

That the President's Report be received.

CARRIED

TREASURER'S REPORT

The President introduced the members to Mr Daniel Nichola who recently took over as the Branch's Treasurer. Mr Nichola reported that the state of the books was very strong with the Auditor's Report showing a balance of \$33907. However, he noted that the figure was inflated because it included the expenses incurred for the Annual Dinner which took place before the end of the financial year. Hence, in accrual terms, the balance of funds was around \$22000 about the same as last financial year. Mr Nichola concluded by reiterating that the Branch's finances were healthy and he was looking forward to working with the Council members in the coming months.

Moved: Brian Ely

Seconded: Heath McMichael

That the Treasurer's Report be received.

CARRIED

ELECTION OF THE 2016-2017 COUNCIL

Moved: Bob Lowry

Seconded: Heath McMichael

That Paul Gallagher be appointed Returning Officer for the 2016-2017 Council elections.

CARRIED

Paul Gallagher advised the names of financial members whom had been nominated and seconded by financial members of the ACT Branch and the positions for which they had been nominated. After determining that there were no other nominees, and advising that there was no need for elections to any position, Mr Gallagher declared the following persons elected to the nominated positions:

Robert Lowry	President
Heath McMichael	Vice President
Daniel Nichola	Treasurer
Christopher Adam	Councillor
Sacha Blumen	Councillor
Stuart Bryson	Councillor
Brian Ely	Councillor
Elmo Jacob	Councillor
Lawson Lobb	Councillor
Natalie Mobini	Councillor
Eleanor Paynter	Councillor
Claire Schwager	Councillor
Desmond Woods	Councillor

Mr Gallagher advised that the incoming Council was in a position to co-opt one ACT Branch member to join the Council during the course of the year, and if desired, nominate a second Vice President from within its ranks.

APPOINTMENT OF AUDITOR FOR 2016-2017 YEAR

Moved: Bob Lowry

Seconded: Paul Gallagher

That Mr Keith Knight of KW Knight & Associates be appointed the ACT Branch Auditor for the 2016-2017 financial year.

CARRIED

APPOINTMENT OF THE PUBLIC OFFICER

Moved: Bob Lowry

Seconded: Lawson Lobb

That Robert Lowry be appointed the Public Officer of the 2016-2017 Year. (Note that this had to be changed because Mr Lowry does not reside in the ACT. Consequently, Heath McMichael was appointed to the position at the Council meeting on 4 October 2016).

CARRIED

LODGEMENT OF THE ANNUAL RETURN

Moved: Paul Gallagher

Seconded: Elmo Jacob

That the incoming Council be authorised to lodge the Branch's Annual Return to the Office of Regulatory Services of the ACT.

CARRIED

GENERAL BUSINESS

Heath McMichael noted the nineteen year service of Paul Gallagher on the ACT Council including three or four years as a Vice President. He acknowledged the help which Paul has provided to Council on constitutional procedure and precedents having drafted the Constitution in order for the Branch to be registered under the Associations Act of the ACT. Heath noted that Paul's corporate knowledge would be sorely missed and he wished him best for all future endeavours on behalf of the Branch.

Moved: Bob Lowry

Seconded: Heath McMichael

That the appreciation of the Branch be conveyed to those retiring from the Council this year.

CARRIED

The President thanked all present for their participation in the Annual General Meeting and declared the meeting closed at 12:45 pm.

R.W. Lowry
President
26 September 2016

Heath McMichael
Vice President
26 September 2016

Attachment 1

AUSTRALIAN INSTITUTE OF INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS (ACT BRANCH)

PRESIDENT'S REPORT TO AGM 8 SEPTEMBER 2016

Natalie Sambhi was elected president at the last AGM but has since taken up a position in Western Australia so I have only been president since 7 June. Our vice presidents, Miles Kupa and Chris Farnham, will also be stepping down at this AGM due to other commitments. Consequently, I would like to express the gratitude of the Branch for the work of Natalie, Miles and Chris in keeping a vibrant program going and representing the Institute more broadly. As you may know, the National Office has been trying to dispose of the building for the last few years but those efforts have recently been derailed, at least temporarily, by complex bureaucratic and legal processes. Nevertheless, under the terms of a prospective sale the purchaser agreed that the AIIA would remain a tenant. Consequently, it would seem that the Branch can continue to use Stephen House as its meeting place for at least the next year. During her term as president, Natalie recruited several new members of Council all of whom are standing for reelection. This will enable us to keep bringing you an interesting program of activities, improve our management, and leverage our programs through social media. This requires close cooperation with the National Office that provides the website and coordinates the social media.

The Branch's finances remain strong so the Council decided to keep membership fees at current levels for the next year (the fifth year in a row). The Treasurer will present the audited statement for the FY 2015-16 at the AGM.

One of the key positions on the Council is Events Coordinator. Natalie Mobini, having assisted Garth Hughes in the past, has taken on that task for the last year with great success. Her report is as follows:

'In the last 12 months, the branch hosted 20 events, averaging two events per month, with a break for the summer period. Speakers have included senior diplomats, academics, government officials and commentators, who addressed a wide range of themes pertinent to international relations and Australia's place in the world today.

This year efforts have been made to vary the format of events, with more panel-style discussions, and to broaden the diversity of voices heard, including by hosting speakers visiting Australia from overseas. A highlight for the year was the annual dinner held in November 2015, where branch members were treated to a presentation by Mr Dennis Richardson AO FAIIA, Secretary of the Department of Defence. The Council has decided to move the timing of the annual dinner to March or April in future, in order to avoid clashing with the national conference.

Members will have noticed a lull in the event program in the early months of 2016, due largely to a transition period within the Council. It is pleasing to report that a fresh events team has now been formed, drawing on the talents and energy of new Council members, which bodes well for

the event program for the remainder of 2016 and into 2017. Council always welcomes event suggestions or offers from members of the branch.'

Lawson Lobb and Jill Harris have continued to sustain us all with snacks and drinks and we thank them for their efficient and reliable service to the Branch. Paul Gallagher is leaving after many years on Council and we thank him for his participation particularly for his assistance with administration and his wise counsel.

As a voluntary organisation, the Branch only exists because of the interest of its members. Membership has been maintained at about 280 over the year and will be maintained over the next year if your Council can continue to provide an attractive program and members spread the word and encourage others to join us.

We employ an administrative assistant for eight hours per week to process memberships and manage communications with the public, the National Office, and members. We continue to be well served in this regard by Jackie Collinson.

The AIIA website is run by the National Office and we will be working with them over the year to improve its functional performance, improve its presentation were desired, and link social media. Suggestions are welcome.

I conclude by thanking all members of the Council, past and present, for their support of the Branch over the last year.