



## Australian Institute of International Affairs Victoria

### Minutes of Annual General Meeting – Wednesday 25 November, 2015

The President, Mr Patrick Moore, declared the 2015 AGM open at 5pm and welcomed all members. A quorum was confirmed.

The following apologies and proxies were noted:

<b>Apologies:</b>	Mr Andrew Farran	Mr Alastair Roff
	Mr John Allen	Mr Greg Romanes
	Mr John Richardson	Ms Pera Wells
	The Hon David Harper AM	Dr Norman Lewis
	Mrs Gillian Johnston	Dr Warren Johnston AM
	Mr Michael Coultas	Mrs Judy Coultas
	Mr Matthew Di Leo	Ms Sinead Ferris
	Ms Eileen McInnes	Ms Helen Freeman
	Mrs Kathie Derham Moore	Mr Lachlan Wills

**Proxies:** Mr Alastair Roff (Mr Patrick Moore, President)

#### **1. To Approve the Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on 27 November 2014**

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The AGM Minutes of Meeting 2014 was received.

Christopher Lamb was pleased to see the record of appreciation for Euan Crone in the 2014 AGM Minutes. Euan very generously established the Euan Crone Asia Awareness Scholarship, providing opportunity for young members to develop awareness of Asia through projects within Asia, with funding of up to \$5000 each for the successful candidates.

**Motion: that the AGM Minutes of Meeting for 2014 be adopted.**

**MOVED: Greg Wills/Robyn Byrne**

**CARRIED**

#### **2. Business arising from the Minutes**

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None.

#### **3. To receive and consider the Annual Report of the Council.**

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The 2014/15 Annual Report was received. No matters were raised.

**Motion: that the Annual Report be adopted.**

**MOVED: Greg Wills/John ML Woods**

**CARRIED**

**4. To receive and consider the Annual Balance Sheet, the accounts of the Treasurer and the Auditors report for the financial year ended 30 June 2015.**

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The President noted that a small profit was achieved for the year, and the bank balance was healthy. There were no major changes, although maintenance costs are increasing.

**Motion: That the Annual Balance Sheet and Profit & Loss statements be adopted.**

**MOVED: Greg Wills/Knut Feddersen** **CARRIED**

**5. To confirm auditors for 2016**

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Zara Kimpton OAM noted the high audit figure. Several members raised the importance of continuing with the audit, for good governance reasons.

**It was noted** that the Council will consider a review of the Auditor position, investigating a pro-bono appointment, obtaining quotes for alternative auditors, or seeking review by an accountant.

**Motion: that the existing auditors Noel May and Associates be confirmed for the 2015/2016 review audit.**

**MOVED: John ML Wood/The Hon Jim Short** **CARRIED**

**6. To elect Ordinary Members of the Council for the 2015-2016 year**

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The President read out the following list of nominations:

**Council Members**

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|-----------------------|--|
| 1. Mr Sean Jesudason  | <b>Moved: Robyn Byrne/Matthew Di Leo</b>       |
| 2. Mr Alastair Roff   | <b>Moved: Patrick Moore/Robyn Byrne</b>        |
| 3. Mr John ML Woods   | <b>Moved: Patrick Moore/Robyn Byrne</b>        |
| 4. Ms Robyn Byrne     | <b>Moved: Patrick Moore/John ML Woods</b>      |
| 5. Mrs Toni Feddersen | <b>Moved: Patrick Moore/Alastair Roff</b>      |
| 6. Dr Kay Stevens     | <b>Moved: Dr Deborah Seifert/Patrick Moore</b> |
| 7. Dr Denis Dragovic  | <b>Moved: Greg Wills/Patrick Moore</b>         |

**Motion: to accept the above nominations for Council membership.** **CARRIED**

**7. To elect the Officers of the Council for the 2015-2016 year**

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**Office Holders**

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|-----------------|---------------|--|
| President:      | Patrick Moore | <b>Moved: Greg Romanes/Alastair Roff</b>   |
| Vice President: | Breck Hilton  | <b>Moved: Patrick Moore/Alastair Roff</b>  |
| Vice President: | Cate Pickett  | <b>Moved: Patrick Moore/Sean Jesudason</b> |
| Treasurer:      | Greg Romanes  | <b>Moved: Patrick Moore/Alastair Roff</b>  |

**Motion: to accept the above nominations for the Officeholders**

**CARRIED**

**8. To deal with any other matter which is brought before the meeting by any member present and which the meeting by a four-fifths majority decides to deal with.**

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The President thanked retiring Council members Adjunct Professor Ian Howie and Michael Helman for their contributions over their six year term. New Council members and Office Holders were welcomed aboard.

Thanks were extended to all contributors, including Council members, volunteers and interns, and to Peta McDermott for doing more than the fair share of the work.

A special thanks was extended to our speakers who provided an enormous contribution.

Of particular mention was the great support provided by our donors. Since 2005 the Institute had received \$136,000 in donations and we were most appreciative of this generosity.

Reports on the use of the building would be sought. Some members were unable to attend meetings due to the number of stairs.

Council would be developing mentor roles for our intern program, and further developing relationships in the broader community.

The Institute has a depth of talent within its membership. Patrick announced the creation of an advisory board, with the Hon Jim Short as chair. Great thanks was extended to Jim.

Patrick also announced that in early 2016, Kim Beazley would assume the role of National President. An invitation would be extended to him to speak in Victoria. This was well received by attending members.

The proposed Study Tour to Japan was postponed due to low participation. More lead time was needed. Potential tours included Sri Lanka for mid-2016, Iran, South America and Norway. Feedback was welcomed. Ian Howie raised the possibility also of a visit to the Korea Peninsula, a proposal was noted from member Mark Ahn.

In response to a few enquiries on the activities of the Young Professional Forum (YPF), Sean Jesudason reported that activity had not been as busy due to the small number of members in the organising committee. However, the social media platforms had been very active, and their events attracted large numbers of attendees. The improved mentorship by Council members in 2016 would greatly assist the YPF. Members were encouraged to support the YPF by attending their events.

As acting national president, Zara Kimpton thanked Victoria for its contribution to the national office and encouraged continuing input to its programs. Of particular note was for speaker contributions to 'Australian Outlook' on the website and to the commissioning committee in general.

Euan Crone raised the matter of recognising the Australia Myanmar Institute, with printed material being useful. Zara confirmed that this had been done in the national review, which was in digital format.

There being no further questions or comments, the President declared the Annual General Meeting for 2015 closed at 6pm.