

**AUSTRALIAN INSTITUTE OF INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS**  
**ACT BRANCH**  
**ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**  
**HELD AT STEPHEN HOUSE – 6 SEPTEMBER 2018**

**ATTENDANCE**

Christopher Adam	Rosemary Walters	Elizabeth Oliver
Andrew Chin	Ernst Willheim	Philip Eliason
James Cotton	Alexander Willox	Keith Sayers
Phil Diak	Olivia Cable	Beatrice Gorawantschy
David Dwyer	Cameron Hawker	Alfred Reichert
Tim Johnstone	Desmond Woods	Sue Chambers
Mathew MacLean	Elmo Jacob	Penelope Wensley
Peter McCawley	Trevor Wilson	Robert Lowry
Ingrid Moses	Garth Hunt	Phil Huntley
John Moses	Marion Hunt	Heath McMichael
John Oliver	Brian Ely	Rory MacNeil
Elizabeth Oliver	Lawson Lobb	Paul Gallagher
John Tilemann	Alex Olah	
Robert Tyson	Amanda Lynch	

**APOLOGIES AND PROXIES**

Bill Farmer  
Di Johnstone  
John Kerin  
Paul Lindwall  
Matthew Neuhaus  
June Verrier

There being a quorum, the President opened the meeting at 12:30 pm

**ENDORSEMENT OF THE MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING**

That the Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on 12 September 2017 be accepted as a true and accurate record.

Moved: Paul Gallagher

Seconded: Rory MacNeil

**CARRIED**

**MATTERS ARISING**

There were no matters arising from the Minutes

## **CORRESPONDENCE**

No outstanding correspondence was reported.

The President noted Stephen House which had previously been owned by National Office had been sold and, as a result, the AIIA is now a tenant. The ACT Branch has a secure three-year contract for use of Stephen House.

## **PRESIDENT'S REPORT**

The out-going President, Bob Lowry, thanked Council for its faithful service to the Branch during his presidency.

## **TREASURER'S REPORT**

The Treasurer noted an operating loss of \$10,000 for the previous year. He suggested the incoming Council look at cost of membership and events over the next six months to get back into surplus.

A question was raised regarding how increasing membership fees might impact on efforts to attract new members. The President responded that the membership numbers historically sit between 200 and 300. He informed the meeting that the Branch was looking at ways to strengthen student membership, for example by attending both ANU and University of Canberra O-Week events. He also referred to the decline in membership numbers caused by a drop off in new members who had signed up under the DFAT Graduate Program over recent years. The arrangement with DFAT Graduates was no longer in place but the Branch was looking at other ways to boost youth membership, in particular by recruiting members of DFAT's New Colombo Plan alumni. The President concluded that maintaining membership numbers was not of itself an institutional problem. He suggested the incoming Council look at launching a membership drive.

## **APPOINTMENT OF RETURNING OFFICER**

The President nominated Paul Gallagher to act as Returning Officer for the election of the ACT Branch Council for the 2018-2019 period.

Proposer: Peter McCawley

Secunder: Natalie Mobini

**CARRIED**

## **ELECTION OF THE 2018-19 COUNCIL**

The President informed the meeting there was no contest for the position of Branch President. Cameron Hawker had intended to run for president but withdrew his nomination due to an administrative oversight that precluded his candidature.

The Returning Officer announced the names of financial members who had been nominated and seconded by financial members of the ACT Branch for positions on Council. He noted that the Branch constitution allowed for a further four positions on

Council and called for any nominations from the floor. Cameron Hawker accepted a Council position from the floor.

Proposer: Bob Lowry

Seconded: Rory MacNeil

**CARRIED**

After determining that there were no other nominees, the Returning Officer declared the following persons elected to the nominated positions:

Heath McMichael	President
Sacha Blumen	Vice President
Natalie Mobini	Vice President
Philip Huntley	Treasurer
Christopher Adam	Councillor
Phil Diak	Councillor
Brian Ely	Councillor
Elmo Jacob	Councillor
Cameron Hawker	Councillor
Lawson Lobb	Councillor
Rory MacNeil	Councillor
Eleanor Paynter	Councillor

The Returning Officer called on the incoming President to continue the meeting's agenda. The incoming President, Heath McMichael, expressed his gratitude to members on his appointment and his willingness to listen to ideas for events and other activities from the broad membership. On behalf of all members of the Branch, he also thanked outgoing President, Bob Lowry, for his leadership of the Branch over the previous two years.

#### **APPOINTMENT OF AUDITOR**

That Mr John Beard be appointed the ACT Branch Auditor for the 2018-2019 financial year.

#### **APPOINTMENT OF THE PUBLIC OFFICER**

That Heath McMichael continue in the position of Public Officer for the 2018-2019 financial year.

Moved: Paul Gallagher

Seconded: Lawson Lobb

**CARRIED**

## LODGEMENT OF ANNUAL RETURN TO OFFICE OF REGULATORY SERVICES

The President advised the Branch would lodge an Annual Return for 2017-2018 following the AGM. He noted the requirement to lodge Annual Returns with the ACT Government is currently under review.

Moved: Paul Gallagher

Seconded: Phil Huntley

**CARRIED**

## GENERAL BUSINESS

No matters arising

The President declared the meeting closed at 12:51pm.

Heath McMichael

President

6 September 2018