

**AUSTRALIAN INSTITUTE OF INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS
(ACT BRANCH)
HELD AT STEPHEN HOUSE – 12 SEPTEMBER 2017**

ATTENDANCE

Robert Lowry	Alastair McKenzie
Heath McMichael	James Cotton
Daniel Nichola	Michael Flynn
Stuart Bryson	Keith Sayers
Brian Ely	Martin Gordon
Elmo Jacob	Auriol Weigold
Lawson Lobb	June Verrier
Natalie Mobini	John Kerin
Ian Dudgeon	John Tilemann
Paul Gallagher	Peter McCawley
Rebecca Banagala	Trevor Wilson
Jill Harris	Robert Tyson
Simon Cullen	Craig Hodges
	Bill Fisher
	Fred Peppinck
	Jeremy Rees

APOLOGIES & PROXIES

Denis O'Dea
Christopher Adam
Sacha Blumen
Eleanor Paynter
Claire Schwager
Desmond Woods

There being a quorum the president opened the meeting at 17:00 pm.

MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

Moved: Peter McCawley

Seconded: Elmo Jacobs

That the Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on 8 September 2016 be accepted as a true and accurate record.

CARRIED

MATTERS ARISING

There were no matters arising from the Minutes.

CORRESPONDENCE

There were no items of inwards or outwards correspondence.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

The President's report is at Attachment 1.

Moved: Heath McMichael

Seconded: Ian Dudgeon

That the President's Report be received.

CARRIED

TREASURER'S REPORT

The President presented the audited annual accounts (see Branch website) and explained that the loss recorded on the balance sheet was due to expenses for the 2015-16 Annual Dinner being paid in the following financial year.

He also informed the meeting that because the Branch still has a healthy balance the Council had decided not to raise subscriptions for this FY.

Moved: Heath McMichael

Seconded: Brian Ely

That the Treasurer's Report be received.

CARRIED

ELECTION OF THE 2016-2017 COUNCIL

The President invited Mr Ian Dudgeon to act as returning officer for the election of the ACT Branch Council.

Mr Dudgeon 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 Mr Dudgeon declared the following persons elected to the nominated positions:

Robert Lowry	President
Heath McMichael	Vice President
Denis O'Dea	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

APPOINTMENT OF AUDITOR FOR 2017-2018 YEAR

Moved: Paul Gallagher

Seconded: Peter McCawley

That Mr John Beard be appointed the ACT Branch Auditor for the 2017-2018 financial year.

CARRIED

APPOINTMENT OF THE PUBLIC OFFICER

Moved: Bob Lowry

Seconded: Lawson Lobb

That Heath McMichael be appointed the Public Officer of the 2017-2018 Year.

CARRIED

GENERAL BUSINESS

June Verrier thanked the Branch for acquiring a new PA system.

Moved: Paul Gallagher

Seconded: Ian Dudgeon

That the audited financial statement be forwarded to the Office of Regulatory Services.

CARRIED

The President thanked all present for their participation in the Annual General Meeting and declared the meeting closed at 17:45 pm.

R.W. Lowry
President
12 September 2016

Heath McMichael
Vice President
12 September 2016

Attachment 1

AUSTRALIAN INSTITUTE OF INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS (ACT BRANCH)

PRESIDENT'S REPORT TO AGM 12 SEPTEMBER 2017

The last FY was one of great turbulence internationally and domestically satiating pessimists, testing the resilience of optimists, and providing a surfeit of grist for the media mill, commentators, and organisations like ours. In this febrile setting, Council tried to maintain a tempo of at least two meetings per month on a great variety of topics. We also sought to give Sub-Saharan Africa a little more coverage than it normally gets and will do the same for South America in the New Year.

The National Executive succeeded in finalizing the sale of Stephen House and secured a three year lease on its current premises with the option of another three. Consequently, the ACT Branch will continue to meet there, with some exceptions, through the coming years.

As you are aware, the National Executive also authorized the redesign of the website and that is now complete although teething problems sometimes occur. If you have any problems please report them to our office or Council members so that we can make your communications and the information provided there as easy to use and access as is possible.

The Branch's finances remain strong so the Council decided to keep membership fees at current levels for the next year (the sixth year in a row). The Treasurer will present the audited statement for the FY 2016-17 at the AGM. The major expenditure since the end of the FY has been about \$2700 for a new PA system.

Social media is of growing importance to the dissemination of the wealth of information, analysis and opinions provided by speakers and to the continued vitality of the Branch. We are currently experimenting with using iphones to record meetings and post them to the website. When technical issues are resolved we hope to broadcast talks live as well. We have also acquired a new banner as a more lively backdrop to our events.

As you know, the Branch is run by volunteers. The current Council, with the exception of Desmond Woods and Daniel Nichola, are standing for re-election unopposed. I would like to express the appreciation of the membership to Desmond and Daniel, the outgoing Treasurer, for their work and support over the last year.

Consequently, there are several vacancies on the Council for which we seek nominations from young and old alike. In particular, we need someone to work with Dr Natalie Mobini who does the programing and publicity for events. Having at least two people doing this job ensures that

we can cover absences more easily. Natalie can teach any skills required so no special expertise is necessary.

We hosted 26 events through the year with one of the highlights being the annual dinner held in March, where branch members were treated to a presentation by Ms Francis Adamson, Secretary of the Department of Foreign and Trade. Another dinner will be conducted about the same time next year. Suggestions on possible speakers can be sent to Heath McMichael (hmmcmichael@tpg.com.au).

Lawson Lobb and Jill Harris, ably assisted by Brian Ely when they were travelling the world, have continued to sustain us all with snacks and drinks and we thank them for their efficient and reliable service to the Branch.

As a voluntary organisation, the Branch only exists because of the interest of its members. Membership has risen by 38 over the year (most Individual/diplomatic and Student Graduates) to a total of 398 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. It should be noted however that this number is inflated, as in previous years, by 40 one year complimentary memberships given to DFAT graduate recruits.

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, especially over the last year with the change in website and the tidyHQ management site.

National President Kim Beazley will be stepping down the National AGM in October. He has given great service to the institute as both an administrative leader and supporter of the AIIA's National and Branch programs. We thank him for his service and wish him well for the future. The name of the new National President will be announced soon.

I conclude by thanking all members of the Council, past and present, for their support of the Branch over the last year. I also thank members for their support and welcome suggestions about subjects and speakers/activities that the Council should consider.

Bob Lowry
President

12 September 2017