

**74<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE  
AUSTRALASIAN LAW ACADEMICS ASSOCIATION**

12.45.pm, Friday 5 July 2019  
Room A220, School of Law and Justice, Southern Cross University,  
Coolangatta, QLD.

**In Attendance**

**Executive members**

Professor Nick James, Bond University (Chairperson & General Treasurer)  
Professor Natalie Skead, University of Western Australia (Deputy Chairperson)  
Professor Stephen Bottomley, Australian National University (Immediate Past  
Chairperson)  
Emeritus Professor David Barker, AM, AustLII/UTS (General Secretary)  
Associate Professor Allison Gerard, Charles Sturt University (Treasurer designate)  
Associate Professor Kate Galloway, Bond University (Editor-in-Chief, LER)  
Professor William MacNeil, Southern Cross University (2018-2019 President)  
Professor Jennifer Corrin, University of Queensland  
Associate Professor Melissa Castan, Monash University  
Dr John Hopkins, University of Canterbury (NZ Executive-Chairperson)  
Dr Matthew Berkahn, Massey University (NZ Executive-Secretary)

**General members**

**Apologies**

Professor Alex Steel, University of New South Wales  
Professor Melissa De Zwart, University of Adelaide  
Professor Alberto Costi, Victoria University, Wellington

**1. Attendance and Apologies**

Professor Nick James opened the meeting at 12.45pm and welcomed participants.  
Apologies as shown above were noted.

**2. Minutes of previous meeting**

Minutes from the 73<sup>rd</sup> ALAA (ALTA) AGM Held on 6 July 2018 at Curtin University,  
Perth, WA, were tabled.

Resolved: Moved by Nick James that the draft minutes be accepted as a true Record of  
the meeting, seconded by Robin Woellner and approved by all members present.

**3. 2018-2019 President's Report**

A report regarding the 2019 ALTA Conference was presented by ALTA President  
Professor William MacNeil. He confirmed that there had been a total of 103 registrations

received for the conference. He paid tribute to the support received from the Conference's Sponsors and Promaco Conventions, the Conference Secretariat. He also mentioned the Welcome to the Country conducted by Aunty Jackie McDonald, the two outstanding plenary speakers, Professor Irene Watson and Professor Jane Kelsey, and the Plenary Session No.2. Panel consisting of Marcelle Burns, Eddie Cubillo, Dr Heron Loban, and Annette Gainsford. He thanked everyone who had contributed to the success of the Conference, both the presenters of conference papers and everyone who had participated as conference delegates. He also paid tribute to the ALAA 2019 Organising Committee in particular the Chairperson, Associate Professor Jennifer Nielsen and its members, Helen Walsh, Dr Paula Hallam, Lance Jones, Ellen Kitchen and Jane Gilmour together with the law student assistants.

Resolved: Moved by William MacNeil and seconded by Nick James, that the President's Report be approved and that both the Dean of Southern Cross University Law School and his Conference Committee be congratulated on their most successful Conference organisation. Approved by all members present.

#### **4. Chairperson's Report**

Nick James paid tribute to all who had contributed to the success of the current Conference. He thanked Professor William MacNeil and his Conference Organising Committee. He also thanked his current ALAA Executive Committee with particular reference to Melissa de Zwart who was not renominating.

He drew attention to the importance of the Executive Report particularly with regard to the relaunch of ALTA as ALAA (Australasian Law Academics Association). He emphasised that the re-branding of the Association had introduced some major changes to the structure of the Association which not only involved a change of name, but a new logo, changes in the objects of the Association and a new financial structure. The latter had meant that there had been no collection of fees for the past year. However, there was no doubt that the changes had been justified. Already 8 Law Schools had confirmed their willingness to support the new financial structure of the Association by committing to an annual institutional fee of \$2,000 per annum with another 4 Law Schools giving strong consideration to making a similar contribution. He was optimistic that the target of 20 Australian Law Schools providing institutional financial support would be reached in the near future. The re-organisation had also involved new Conference guidelines with greater involvement of the Association's Executive with the host law school conference committee, which had already worked well with the organisation of the current Conference. There has also been a complete reorganisation of the Interest Groups and the roles of the Conveners. He commended all members of the Executive who had chaired the working parties involved in this process.

In asking the question – 'What Next?' he mentioned that previously the notional membership of the Association had been approximately 1,000 members which had included those who might have been unaware of their membership by being included on a law schools list which had not been publicised. Under the re-organisation, the new Association website had incorporated a new opt-in membership process whereby

everyone who was involved in legal education could become a member without the need for making a subscription. Already at the time of the AGM a total of 200 members had registered or re-registered as members through this process – hopefully this meant that the target of 500 total members would soon be met. The Chairperson concluded that he was optimistic that the proposals for change which had been approved at the 2018 AGM and which now had all been implemented would provide an excellent future for the Association.

Resolved that the Chairperson's Report be adopted, proposed by Nick James and seconded by William McNeil and approved by all members present.

## **5, Treasurer's Report**

See Appendix A.

Nick James emphasised the fact that, as already mentioned in his Chairperson's Report, there had been no income for the Association in the last financial year. He drew attention to the expenditure in relation to the administration of the Association and other necessary withdrawals which taken effect in respect of the Association's accounts which had been successfully audited. However, the Association had ample financial reserves and the budget for the forthcoming of \$31,400 expenditure should be met by the new forms of income designated by the new Institutional income strategy as set out in the Chairperson's Report.

Resolved that the Treasurer's Report be adopted, proposed by Nick James and seconded by William McNeil and approved by all members present.

## **6. NZ Executive Report**

The Chairperson of the NZ Executive, Dr John Hopkins, reported that it had been a comparatively quiet year for the Association in New Zealand but that the NZ Executive were implementing a strategic approach to ensuring that all NZ law schools would become greater involved in the activities of the Association. It was hoped that this would be achieved by the introduction of both a newsletter and the appointment of ALAA representatives in all NZ law schools. He was pleased to announce the nomination of a new NZ ALAA Treasurer but there was still a vacancy available on the NZ Executive Committee.

Resolved that the NZ Executive Report be adopted, proposed by John Hopkins and seconded by Matt Berkahn and approved by all members present.

## **7. Editors' Reports**

### **Legal Education Review**

Associate Professor Galloway reported that the editions of the LER had continued to be published online with it also continuing to be incorporated in a rolling publication form. This meant that it was being published within a few months from when articles were

received by the editorial committee. She commended the publication of Special Edition, Volume 28(2) LER, 'Indigenous Cultural Competency in Law' with Marcelle Burns as Guest Editor in addition to herself as Editor-in-Chief which had been launched by Her Honour Magistrate Jacqueline Payne, Brisbane Magistrates Court at the opening Conference Reception on 3 July.

### **Journal of the Australasian Law Teachers Association, now renamed the Journal of the Australasian Law Academics Association**

Professor Nick James reported that JALAA was continuing to be published with 2019 being its 11<sup>th</sup> year of publication. He mentioned that there was a vacancy available as the editor of the Journal which has an excellent opportunity for a member of the Association who wished to gain experience of legal publishing.

Proposed by Nick James and seconded by David Barker that the Editors' Reports be received.

### **8. Election of Officer Bearers**

The nominations for ALAA Office Bearers for Australia and New Zealand were as follows:

Chairperson	Nick James
Deputy Chairperson	Natalie Skead
Immediate Past Chairperson	Stephen Bottomley
General Secretary	David Barker
General Treasurer	Alison Gerard
Editor in Chief LER	Kate Galloway
Editor – JALAA	Vacant
Executive Member	Jennifer Corrin
Executive Member	Melissa Castan
Executive Member	Alberto Costi
Executive Member	Alex Steel
Executive Member	William MacNeil
Executive Member	Jennifer Nielsen
NZ Chairperson	John Hopkins
NZ Secretary	Matt Berkhan
NZ Treasurer	Toni Collins
NZ Executive Member	TBA

#### **2020 Conference Committee**

Joint-Presidents	Professor Simon Bronitt and Professor Lesley Hitchens
Conference Secretary	TBA
Conference Treasurer	TBA

NB. It was discovered at the end of the AGM that a valid nomination had been received from Professor Alberto Costi which complied in all respects for election to the General

Executive of the Association. The Chairperson therefore took executive action to confirm his re-election to the outstanding vacancy on the Committee.'

### **9. Honorary Life Membership Nominations**

There were no Life Membership Nominations for 2019.

### **10. 2020 Conference**

Professor Nick James confirmed that the next Conference would be jointly hosted by the University of Sydney Law School and the University of Technology Law Faculty. He thanked both Professor Simon Bronitt and Professor Lesley Hitchens for agreeing that their law schools would jointly host this important event in the Association's Calendar. He was also pleased to announce that Professor Stephen Colbran, the Dean of Law, Faculty of Business and Law, Central Queensland University had agreed that the Department of Law CQU would host the 2021 Conference at the University's Melbourne Campus, whilst Dr. John Hopkins had confirmed that the University of Christchurch, New Zealand, Law School had agreed to host the 2022 Conference at Christchurch, New Zealand.

### **11. Distinguished Former Members**

#### **(a) Professor Guy Powles**

Jennifer Corrin requested that the death of longstanding member, Guy Powles, which had been reported at the 2017 AGM should be marked in an appropriate way by some form of permanent memorial marking of his contribution to the Association. She suggested that because of his great interest in the activities of the South Pacific Interest Group this could be achieved by the Bursaries granted to members of the staff of USP and PNG law schools to attend the ALAA Conference be renamed the Guy Powles South Pacific Staff Conference Bursaries.

Resolved that the ALAA USP and PNG Staff Conference Bursaries be renamed the Guy Powles Award for South Pacific Early Career Academics, proposed by Jennifer Corrin, seconded by Melissa Castan, and approved by all members present.

#### **(b) Emeritus Professor Michael Coper AO**

Stephen Bottomley, in his capacity as a former Dean of the ANU College of Law, spoke of the tremendous contribution to the Association, legal education and the legal community which had been made by the late Michael Coper who had died on 13 April of this year. He made special mention of the Memorial Service which had been held in memory of Michael on 7 May at the ANU and which had been attended by more than 250 former friends and colleagues. He expressed the hope that at some time in the immediate future the association would be able to institute some form of memorial in memory of Michael's contribution to ALTA and ALAA.

Resolved that this report be received – by acclamation of those members present.

## **12. Other Business**

Two questions were raised from the floor by members, the first concerning a request that a review be made in the ranking of law books within the University research ranking process, the other in respect of the representation of Australia, New Zealand and the South Pacific on the Commonwealth Legal Education Association.

The Chairperson agreed to take both these matters for consideration at a future meeting of the ALAA Executive Committee.

There being no other business the meeting close at 1.55 pm.

## APPENDIX A

### AUSTRALASIAN LAW ACADEMICS ASSOCIATION TREASURER'S REPORT 30 June 2019

#### Financial year 2018-2019

			2018-2019	2017-2018
<b>OPENING BALANCE</b>	1 JULY		<b>180,590.86</b>	<b>143,856.64</b>
<b>INCOME</b>	MEMBERSHIP FEES		1,200.00	58,055.00
	ALTA CONFERENCE			
	JOURNALS	SUBSCRIPTION FEES	20.00	2,812.86
		ROYALTIES	2254.32	3,543.32
		COPYRIGHT AGENCY LIMITED	489.64	625.14
	INTEREST	ONLINE SAVER	137.97	175.92
		TERM DEPOSIT	2129.70	2,631.10
	OTHER			
	<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>		<b>6425.38</b>	<b>67,843.34</b>
<b>EXPENDITURE</b>	ADMINISTRATOR		11,600.16	
	SUNDRIES INCLUDING TAX	WEBSITE	914.86	3,135.03
		LOGO	91.11	
		BUSINESS NAME		35.00
		GOOGLE APPS		11.00
		TAX	-1406.28	
	AUDIT FEES		1,845.00	1,710.00
	JOURNALS	LED TYPESETTING	0.00	330.00
		JALTA PROOFREADING, TYPESETTING	3,750.00	5,333.43
		LER BUSINESS NAME	0.00	82.00
		LER DOMAIN NAME	0.00	82.50
		LER ADMINISTRATOR	10,000.00	20,000.00
	ACCOUNT FEES	BUSINESS TRANSACTIONS	110.00	120.00
		PAYPAL	0.00	270.16
	OTHER			
	<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURE</b>		<b>26,914.85</b>	<b>31,109.12</b>
	<b>SURPLUS (DEFICIT)</b>		<b>(20,489.47)</b>	<b>36,734.22</b>
<b>CLOSING BALANCE</b>	30 JUNE		<b>160,101.39</b>	<b>180,590.86</b>

ACCOUNTS AS AT 30 JUNE	BUSINESS TRANSACTIONS		15,846.48	38,706.26
	BUSINESS ONLINE SAVER		32,483.48	32,345.51
	TERM DEPOSIT		111,190.74	108,867.29
	PAYPAL		580.69	671.80
	<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>160,101.39</b>	<b>180,590.86</b>

NOTES:

1. No membership fees were collected in 2018-2019 while ALTA/ALAA was in hiatus.
2. ALAA Conferences now operate on a breakeven basis to keep registration fees to a minimum.
3. The publication of LER Volume 28 was delayed resulting in a delay in receipt of subscription fees.
4. Term Deposit interest rate was reduced from 2.1% to 2%.
5. ALAA Administrator fees (paid to ANU) include fees for previous period.

**Budget v actual 2018-2019**

			<b>BUDGET</b>	<b>ACTUAL</b>
<b>INCOME</b>	MEMBERSHIP FEES 20 schools at \$2000 each		40,000.00	0.00
	ALTA CONFERENCE Break even		0.00	0.00
	JOURNALS	SUBSCRIPTION FEES	2,000.00	20.00
		ROYALTIES	3,000.00	2254.32
		COPYRIGHT AGENCY LIMITED	500.00	489.64
	INTEREST	ONLINE SAVER	200.00	175.92
		TERM DEPOSIT	3,000.00	2129.7
	OTHER			
	<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>		<b>48,700.00</b>	<b>6,425.38</b>
<b>EXPENDITUR E</b>	ADMINISTRATOR		10,000.00	11,600.16
	SUNDRIES		4,000.00	(400.31)
	AUDIT FEES		2,000.00	1,845.00
	JOURNALS	JALTA	5,000.00	3,750.00
		LER	20,000.00	10,000.00
	ACCOUNT FEES		400.00	110.00
	<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURE</b>		<b>41,400.00</b>	<b>26,914.85</b>
<b>SURPLUS (DEFICIT)</b>			<b>7,600.00</b>	<b>(20,489.47 )</b>



## 2019-2020 BUDGET

INCOME	MEMBERSHIP FEES 20 schools at \$2000 each		40,000.00
	ALTA CONFERENCE Break even		0.00
	JOURNALS	SUBSCRIPTION FEES	0.00
		ROYALTIES	2,500.00
		COPYRIGHT AGENCY LIMITED	500.00
	INTEREST	ONLINE SAVER	150.00
		TERM DEPOSIT	2,500.00
	OTHER		
	TOTAL INCOME		45,650.00
EXPENDITURE	ADMINISTRATOR		10,000.00
	SUNDRIES		4,000.00
	AUDIT FEES		2,000.00
	JOURNALS	JALAA	5,000.00
		LER	10,000.00
	ACCOUNT FEES		400.00
	TOTAL EXPENDITURE		31,400.00
SURPLUS (DEFICIT)			14,250.00