



# 78<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING AGENDA

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LOCATION: 2023 ALAA Conference, University of Canterbury, C3 (Main Plenary)

DATE AND TIME: 12:30pm - 1:30pm (GMT+12), Saturday 8 July 2023

Contact: ALAA Administrator [admin@alaa.asn.au](mailto:admin@alaa.asn.au)

## 1. Welcome

**1.1 Acknowledgement of Country and First Peoples**

**1.2 Attendance and apologies**

**1.3 Confirmation of minutes of previous meeting**

*[Attachment A]*

## PART 1 - ITEMS FOR COMMUNICATION

**2. 2022/2023 President's Report - Professor Karen Scott, Acting Executive Dean, University of Canterbury, Faculty of Law**

**3. Chair's Report - Professor Natalie Skead**

**4. Treasurer's Report - Professor Natalie Skead**

**5. New Zealand Chair Report - Professor John Hopkins**

**6. Early Career Academic Network Report - Liam Elphick**

*[Attachment B]*

## 7. Editors' Reports

**6.1 Legal Education Review (LER) - Associate Professor Kate Galloway**

*[Attachment C]*

**Journal of ALAA (JALAA) - Associate Professor Jonathan Barrett**

*[Attachment D]*

## PART 2 - ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION/DECISION

**1. Natalie Skead - Honorary Life Member - David Barker**

*[Attachment E]*

- 2. Role of the President of ALAA**  
*[Attachment F]*
- 3. Election of Office Bearers and Executive Members 2023-2025:**
  - 2.1 General Executive**
    - 2.1.1 Chair**
    - 2.1.2 Immediate Past Chairperson (Designate)**
    - 2.1.3 Deputy Chairperson**
    - 2.1.4 General Secretary**
    - 2.1.5 General Treasurer**
    - 2.1.6 Editor in Chief of LER (Designate)**
    - 2.1.7 Editor in Chief of JALAA (Designate)**
    - 2.1.8 Early Career**
    - 2.1.9 Additional Executive Members (up to 5)**
  - 2.2 New Zealand Executive**
    - 2.2.1 Chair**
    - 2.2.2 Secretary**
    - 2.2.3 Treasurer**
    - 2.2.4 Additional Executive Member (1)**
- 4. 2024 Conference**  
**2024 Conference Committee**
  - 3.1. President**
  - 3.2 Conference Secretary**
  - 3.3 Conference Treasurer**
- 5. Other business**
- 6. Next Meeting**



**77<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**  
**Notes**

**LOCATION:** Monash Law Chambers, and via Video Conference  
**DATE AND TIME:** 1:00 – 2:00 pm (AEST), Saturday 09 July 2022

Item	Notes
<b>1. Welcome</b> <b>1.1 Attendance and apologies</b>	Meeting opened at 1:08pm AEST Deputy Chair Kate Galloway notified they would Chair the meeting due to Natalie Skead illness (NS in attendance) Confirmed meeting was quorate and would proceed.
<b>1.2 Confirmation of minutes of previous meeting</b> <i>[Agenda Attachment A]</i>	Moved: Jennifer Corrin Seconded: David Barker
<b>PART 1 - ITEMS FOR COMMUNICATION</b>	
<b>2. Chair's Report</b> Natalie Skead	Significant achievements for ALAA over last 12 months, main being the conference, (Committee and President), second is close partnership with CALD and ALAA in relation to awarding of ALEA and LRA Awards at the Conference Dinner. Acknowledgement of NZ and other region members for allowing us to present Australian awards in this forum. ECA Academic co-opted in 2021, which led to a change in constitution to support ECA's and this initiative has been successful and has provided a new level of engagement. Institutional membership grew by 77% in 2021/2022, across Australasia, and individual memberships are over 700 across the globe. Retained lower fee for the year which may have helped. Shortly after last years AGM the Executive adopted the councils stance on structural bias.

	<p>Following last years University safety survey, the executive drafted a statement of sexual harassment in Law (which is attached here for endorsement).</p> <p>Thankyou – Leylani Executive Officer, Jennifer McKay outgoing Treasurer during some significant and unexpected challenges, and to the full executive.</p>		
<p><b>3. 2021/2022 President’s Report</b>          Bryan Horrigan  <i>[Agenda Attachment B]</i></p>	<p>Noted all reports as they were tabled with the Agenda, and presented on slides (attached) – no comments</p>		
<p><b>4. Treasurer’s Report</b>          Jennifer McKay  <i>[Agenda Attachment C, C1 &amp; C2]</i></p>			
<p><b>5. New Zealand Chair Report</b>          John Hopkins  <i>[Agenda Attachment D]</i></p>			
<p><b>6. Editors’ Reports</b></p> <p><b>6.1 Legal Education Review (LER)</b>          Kate Galloway  <i>[Agenda Attachment E]</i></p> <p><b>6.2 Journal of ALAA (JALAA)</b>          Jonathan Barrett  <i>[Agenda Attachment F]</i></p>			
<p><b>7. Endorsement of CALD <a href="#">Statement on Australian Law’s Systemic Discrimination and Structural Bias Against First Nations Peoples</a></b></p>	<p>Endorsed without objection</p>		
<b>PART 2 - ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION/DECISION</b>			
<b>Agenda Item</b>	<b>Notes</b>	<b>Action Item</b>	<b>Responsibility</b>
<p><b>8. Proposal</b> to amend the ALAA Constitution</p>	<p>1x Abstain</p> <p>Motion carried by majority vote</p> <p>Robin Woellner requested clarification on Quorum when we have over 700 members. Clarified this is a standard quorum – rationale is that</p>		

	<p>you want to achieve a balance of good governance and actually being able to carry out the governance functions of an organization.</p> <p>To achieve a quorum that represents the membership as a whole would be unfeasible. This proposal ensures the Executive is held to account because they cannot rule on their own.</p>		
<b>9. Auditors</b>	<p>Queried why Mazars tendered their resignation, Leylani confirmed this was due to Mazars not undertaking audits any longer</p> <p>Loganathan asked how many years Mazars were auditors. A minimum 5 years is likely.</p>	Seek clarification how long Mazars were auditing ALAA	Leylani Taylor
<b>10. ALAA Statement on sexual assault and harassment in law</b> [Agenda Attachment G]	No objection		
<b>11. Institutional ALAA membership fee for 2022/2023 financial year</b>	Discussion surrounding the reduced institutional membership fee of \$1,000. It was agreed that the follow-on effects of Covid-19 are still rife within the sector and that the reduced fee should remain for the 2022/2023 period, but to increase in the following year.		
<b>12. 2023 Conference</b> 10.1. 2022 Conference Committee 10.1.1 President 10.1.2 Conference Secretary 10.1.3 Conference Treasurer	<p>2023 Conference at Canterbury University in New Zealand</p> <p>New president is Canterbury Dean Karen Scott (Acting)</p>		
<b>13. Other business</b>	No other business		
<b>14. Next Meeting</b>			
<b>15. Meeting Close</b>	1:30pm		

## **ALAA EARLY CAREER NETWORK**

ECA Representative and Network Lead, Liam Elphick

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Since its formal creation in late 2022, the Early Career Academic network has grown exponentially and has created an interactive and engaged group of ECA's. The network is now in excess of 150 members and continues to grow.

### **EVENTS:**

#### **October 2022: How to Publish Your Monograph, with Hart Publishing**

Online event, via Zoom | *55 RSVP's, 30 attendees*

The Australasian Law Academics Association (ALAA) recently launched the Early Career Academics (ECA) Network. The ALAA ECA Network brings together early career legal academics across Australasia, to foster collegiality, organise events, further professional development, and ensure the needs of early career legal academics are heard, supported, and fostered.

The ALAA ECA Network is pleased to announce its first-ever event: an online seminar on How to Publish Your Monograph. The seminar will be presented by Roberta Bassi and Kate Whetter, Senior Commissioning Editors at Hart Publishing. Roberta and Kate will provide guidance on how to write a monograph proposal, how to convert your PhD to a monograph, how to pitch your proposal to an international publisher, and what to expect from the publishing and peer review process. The presentation will be followed by a Q&A session.

#### **December 2022: Early Career Academic Law Forum**

F2F at Monash Law Chambers

The inaugural Early Career Academic Law Forum is an exclusive opportunity for early career legal academics to come together in an intimate, informal and collegiate environment to build camaraderie, support, professional development, and collaborative networks across Australasia.

The Forum will provide early career legal academics with the opportunity to hear from and connect with a distinguished keynote speaker, and a panel of more senior academics who are passionate about sharing their experiences and expertise and building capacity amongst this emerging cohort of scholars.

#### **April 2023: Support for Emerging Scholars: Sharing Ideas**

Online event, via Zoom | *70 attendees*

The Australasian Law Academics Association (ALAA) Early Career Academic Network is pleased to present our first webinar of 2023. We are very lucky to be joined by Professor James Lee from King's College London to discuss 'Support for Emerging Scholars: Sharing Ideas'. Professor Lee was the Vice-Dean (Education) at KCL from 2019-2022, and has sat on numerous interview and promotion panels. He is the author of numerous leading texts, is one of the current editors of Legal Studies, and his work has been cited by courts in England, Singapore, Hong Kong, Canada and Australia.

In this webinar, Professor Lee will share his experiences and tips for early career academics, with a focus on how to share ideas and build community, before a Q&A session with attendees. Bring any and all questions you might have for Professor Lee!

The journal has some 13 submissions already for Volume 33, three of which are already published, and one is in final edits. Only two have been rejected so far and the rest are in the pipeline.

This year we have been joined by two new editorial committee members, Sascha Mueller from Canterbury University, and Helen Gibbon from UNSW.

In the interests of providing for stability and orderly succession, the editorial committee has established a new committee policy, endorsed by ALAA executive committee. In addition, following an email survey of advisory board members, we have implemented a policy for our advisory board, clarifying their role. The coming year will see the board re-engaged.

I will be stepping down as Editor-in-Chief of the LER, having served since 2016. I will continue to serve on the editorial committee as immediate past editor-in-chief. Anne Hewitt will step into the role following the AGM. Anne has been a member of the editorial committee for many years, including through career interruption. We are confident that the journal is in safe hands and will continue to go from strength to strength.

Thanks to all committee members who have served with me, especially to Nick James and Natalie Skead who have provided unwavering support. I note, too, the continued support of Bond University Faculty of Law for hosting the journal, and the work of Rochelle Vincent, our publications officer.

Kate Galloway  
Editor in Chief, LER  
6 June 2023

### **Editorial Committee**

The editorial committee comprises the board members of ALAA, from time to time. Members of the editorial committee have requisite knowledge of Australasian (and Pacific) law and legal systems to provide appropriate support to the editor.

### **Volume 15 (2022)**

JALAA 2022 included seven articles. One submission was rejected.

A call for papers for volume 16 (2023) will be published before the conference.

### **Copyeditor**

Barbara Graham, who has edited JALAA since 2019, has taken up post-graduate studies. Two potential replacements have been identified.

Jonathan Barrett  
Editor in Chief, JALAA  
12 June 2023



**Nomination for ALAA - Honorary Life Membership  
Professor Natalie Skead**

Professor Natalie Skead is the current Dean and Head of School of the University of Western Australia Law School where she is a highly regarded teacher and researcher.

Natalie has given long and distinguished service to ALTA and ALAA, making a major contribution since becoming its Deputy Chairperson in 2018. During this time Natalie worked extremely hard in nurturing the early career academics and encouraging them to contribute to the activities of the Annual ALAA Conferences.

On becoming the ALAA Chairperson in 2020 she faced up to the challenges which faced the Association when Universities were affected by the Covid pandemic. This curbed many of the activities of ALAA, particularly the holding of its Annual Conference in 2020. This meant the cancellation of the 2020 Conference and the 2021 Conference being held virtually.

However since that time the Association was able to hold its Conference at Monash in 2022 in person and virtually.

Natalie has ensured that both the Association and its Committee have worked extremely hard in the interests of the membership, in particular she has ensured ALAA has improved its contact with the Council of Australia Law Deans. She has also increased the focus of the Association on the interests of First Nations academic law staff.

Professor Natalie Skead should be congratulated on her achievements at ALAA during her time as both a member and Chairperson and Deputy Chairperson of the Association's Executive Committee.

It is recommended that due to the exemplary service which she has rendered to the Association that Professor Natalie Skead be nominated at the 2023 ALAA AGM as an Honorary Life Member of ALAA.

**Emeritus Professor David Barker**

**ALAA Secretary**

**7 July 2023**

## ALAA CONSTITUTION

### ROLE OF PRESIDENT

*4. b. The members of the General Executive shall be a President, a Chairperson, an immediate past Chairperson, a Deputy Chairperson, a Conference Secretary, a Conference Treasurer, a General Secretary, a General Treasurer, an Early Career Academic, and five other members; and, as long as the Legal Education Review and Journal of the Australasian Law Academics Association is published and supported by ALAA, the Editor-in-Chief shall be an ex-officio member.*

*8. a. There shall be an Annual General Meeting of the Association and such Special General Meeting as may be summoned by the President. Fourteen days notice shall be given to members of the holding of a General Meeting.*

*9. The Association shall hold an Annual Conference which shall be organised by the President, the Conference Secretary, and the Conference Treasurer acting with the advice of the General Executive*

Under the Constitution, the President is responsible for organising the Annual Conference (clause 9), is a member of the General Executive (clause 4.b) and is able to call Special General Meetings (clause 8.a) and, possibly, the AGM (the drafting is ambiguous in this regard).

Although there is no reference to this in the Constitution, historically and under the current arrangements the role of President of ALAA is occupied by the Dean of the law school that is to host the next conference. It is assumed that a key purpose of this arrangement is to ensure that the ALAA General Executive is kept informed about the planning of each annual conference so that the General Executive can exercise appropriate oversight.

In corporate governance terms this is an anomalous, if not ambiguous, arrangement. With the exception of clauses 8.a. and 9, the President of ALAA has no special role to exercise in relation to the Association. Indeed, as we know, in practice the task of organising the conference is typically done by one or more academics below the level of Dean (presumably, at the request of the Dean). Nor is the Presidency an elected position, unlike the other senior roles on the General Executive.

The way in which Deans have exercised their Presidential role has varied - some have attended General Executive meetings, in recent years, most have not. That is not a criticism; the job of Dean has become very demanding over the years.

In practice and according to the Constitution, the key leadership functions in the Association fall to the elected Chairperson, which is the way the Association has been run. However, an outside observer would be forgiven for assuming that this was the job of the person bearing the title of President.

To ensure transparent, effective and efficient corporate governance of the Association, the position of the President should be clarified, revised.

#### RECOMMENDATION 1

1. The position of President be discontinued.
2. To ensure a connection between the General Executive and the conference host, provision be made in the Constitution for the hosting law school to nominate one person to be seconded to the ALAA General Executive for a period of 18 months commencing 12 months prior to the conference and terminating 6 months after the conference.
3. The Constitution specify that the responsibility of the seconded position is limited to matters relating to the conference, with no voting input on other matters.