

## Minutes for Annual General Meeting of the Board of the Telecommunications Association Inc.

**Date:** Thursday, 30 November 2023

**Time:** 12:30 to 1:40 pm

**Venue:** Online via Zoom

### Board Members Attending by Zoom:

Jim Holmes  
(President)  
Michelle Lim

Allan Horsley  
(Secretary)  
Elise Ball

Leith Campbell  
(Treasurer)

### TelSoc Members Attending by Zoom:

Sarah Alderson  
Geoffrey Gerrand  
Iain Little  
Peter Triantafilou

Crispin Blackall  
Peter Gerrand  
Rob Nicholls  
Andrew Williams

James Endres  
Andrew Hamilton  
Ken Sayers

### Proxies received from:

A proxy was received from Michael de Percy, Vice President, for exercise by the Chair.

### Apologies:

Michael de Percy sent his apologies.

### Minutes of the Meeting

Dr Jim Holmes, President, in the Chair.

The Chair declared a quorum at 12:40, there being 17 members, including proxies, present (“by technological means” as permitted by the Victorian Associations Incorporation Reform Act 2012), and being the 10% required for a quorum.

The business of the meeting, as set out in the Notice of Annual General Meeting, was confirmed.

#### 1. To confirm the Minutes of the ninth Annual General Meeting held on 22 November 2022

The Minutes of the previous Annual General Meeting had been circulated to members.

**Carried:** That the Minutes of the seventh Annual General Meeting held on 28 October 2021 be confirmed.

Proposed: Allan Horsley

Seconded: Crispin Blackall

#### 2. To receive and consider the Annual Report of the Board, presented by the President, for the year ended 30 June 2022

The President spoke to the “TelSoc President’s Report on behalf of the Board, 2022-23-22”, which had been circulated to members. He noted that for the advice of members the report covered developments since 30 June 2023 as well.

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He noted that the restrictions on TelSoc's activities and programs that applied during the worst part of the COVID pandemic had now largely lifted and that a new normal, with perhaps greater emphasis on electronic meetings via Zoom, had been established. This has allowed greater participation in events, particularly for members outside Melbourne, but had also meant that the networking and other benefits of in-person events had not resumed as before.

The President noted that, although there were new members, the longer-term decline in numbers had continued, and that the new Board would need to give special attention to increasing the diversity and depth of membership for the future.

He also observed that the main events during 2023, the Henry Sutton Oration in Melbourne and the Charles Todd Oration in Sydney, had both been well-attended. The Henry Sutton Oration was given by David Tudehope, the CEO of Macquarie Technology Group, and addressed, in particular, successful approaches to assessing satisfaction of customer experience and using that as a major incentive within the firm. The Charles Todd Oration was given by Rob Nicholls and dealt with the evolution of regulation and the capacity of regulatory approaches to deal with the demands that arise because of new technology and market circumstances. Both Orations were very well received.

The President noted that in previous years the TelSoc ongoing program of presentations and other events was sustained by the work of the Broadband Futures Group (BFG) convened by John Burke. The BFG was wound up at the end of 2022, because it had completed its primarily mission of generating substantial public discourse on the wide range of issues associated with developing a longer-term national digital communications strategy for Australia, and the burden has now been taken up by the Minister and the Department of Communications. The result is that the 2023 events program (other than the major Orations) was not as full as in earlier years. This will need to be addressed by the new Board (and active members).

The President referred especially to the work of Michael de Percy and Leith Campbell in assisting with the establishment of an internship program in 2022, which continued into 2023, involving students from the University of Canberra working on topics of special interest to TelSoc, including overseas approaches to broadband strategy and planning, and the customer experience of Starlink Low Earth Orbit satellite service in Australia.

The President noted the sad and unexpected death of John Burke in August, and noted the substantial contribution that he had made to TelSoc and the industry over many years.

He also acknowledged the contribution of retiring Board members, Craig Watkins and Leith Campbell. Craig Watkins made a contribution across the board, but particularly in relation to coordinating the lunchtime events programs in earlier years. Leith Campbell has made a similar wide contribution, beyond the role of Treasurer in the past financial year. Leith is the Managing Editor of the Journal, a very substantial volunteer task that is critical for TelSoc.

Finally, the president acknowledged and thanked all members of the Board and of TelSoc — now a fully volunteer organisation — who had given their time and effort during the year.

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The President invited other members of the current Board to comment if they wished on the progress of TelSoc over the past year. Michelle Lim observed that TelSoc was moving in the right direction, although there was more to do, and that the major events had been well received by attendees. She noted that TelSoc was now attracting a broader base of interest, with a greater diversity of interested people, and that this was welcome. Allan Horsley added that TelSoc had achieved a good position in terms of being positively engaged with the Minister, the Department and others responsible for national policy.

**Carried:** That the Annual Report of the Board, as presented by the President, for the year ended 30 June 2023 be accepted.

Proposed: Allan Horsley

Seconded: Crispin Blackall

### 3. To receive and consider the Financial Statements of the Association and the Treasurer's Report for the year ended 30 June 2023

The TelSoc Treasurer's Report for 2022–23, with the financial statements attached, had been circulated to members before the meeting.

The Treasurer noted that the accounts are prepared on a cash basis. He indicated that the main revenue of the association was in terms of membership fees, with small contributions from the Journal. The Henry Sutton Oration was not held during the financial year and the more recent Charles Todd Oration in October 2022 was run at modest loss of \$825.

The Journal made an exceptional profit of \$5,897, due to the timing of royalty payments. The year-end cash balance was \$42,168.48, an increase of \$17,986.92 over the amount at the end of 2021–22. The cash balance at 31 October 2023 was \$42,401.11.

**Carried:** That the Financial Statements and Treasurer's Report for 2022-23 be accepted.

Proposed: Ken Sayers

Seconded: Michelle Lim

### 4. To receive a report on the Journal, by the Managing Editor

A Report on the *Journal of Telecommunications and the Digital Economy 2022–2023* had been circulated to members before the meeting.

Leith Campbell, Managing Editor of the *Journal*, spoke to the report. He noted that the *Journal* encouraged contributions from industry as well as academia, and well beyond Australia. The level of submissions has been increasing: he suggested that the *Journal* was attractive to contributors, from 61 in calendar 2020 to 209 so far in calendar 2023. He noted that there were now around 40–50 active submission at any one time.

He thanked the Section Editors, the Editorial Advisory Board and the Board of Editors for their work in volunteering their time to the Journal and making it a success.

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**Carried:** That the report on the *Journal of Telecommunications and the Digital Economy 2022-2023* be accepted.

Proposed: Michelle Lim

Seconded: Elise Ball

### 5. To appoint a Returning Officer for the election of Officers

**Carried:** That Leith Campbell be appointed Returning Officer for the election of Officers at the meeting.

Proposed: Ken Sayers

Seconded: Crispin Blackall

Leith Campbell accepted the appointment and took the chair for the elections.

### 6. To elect Officers and other members of the Board to hold office until the next Annual General Meeting of the Association

The Returning Officer announced that there had been six nominations received for Board positions, as follows:

- President. One nomination: Jim Holmes, who was declared elected.
- Vice President. One nomination: Michael de Percy, who was declared elected.
- Secretary. No nominations had been received.
- Treasurer. One nomination: Elise Ball, who was declared elected.
- Ordinary Members. Seven nominations.

**Carried:** That the Board be expanded include seven positions of Ordinary Member of the Board.

Proposed: Jim Holmes

Seconded: Elise Ball

- The following were declared elected as Ordinary Members of the Board:
  - Sarah Alderson
  - Crispin Blackall
  - James Endres
  - Allan Horsley
  - Michelle Lim
  - Iain Little
  - Rob Nicholls

There being no nominations for Secretary, the Returning Officer recommended that the incoming Board should meet early to appoint a Secretary.

The Returning Officer returned the chair to the President.

The President invited newly appointed Board members to say a few words if they wished. They introduced themselves and looked forward to participating on the Board of TelSoc.

The President indicated that the Board had been meeting on the first Wednesday of each month at 5.30 pm, Melbourne time. He will confirm a date and time for the first meeting of the new Board after consultation with Board members.

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### 7. To consider and vote on the circulated resolutions in the notice paper and agenda for the AGM

In both cases the resolutions were proposed by Jim Holmes and seconded by Elise Ball.

The resolutions, which are set out below, were both carried unanimously:

**Resolution 1:** That this AGM of the Association confirms that the fee for members of the Association for the current year (from 1 July 2023) shall be \$120 per annum, and resolves that the fee for members from 1 July 2024 shall also be \$120 per annum.

**Resolution 2:** That this AGM resolves -

(1) that there shall be two additional categories of Associate Member of the Association, namely (A) students who are 25 years of age or younger, and (B) other students, in both cases being students enrolled at any recognised secondary or tertiary educational institution in Australia who can provide evidence of their enrolment to the Board's satisfaction;

(2) that the annual fee for student membership in category A (25 and under) shall be \$0;

(3) that the annual fee for student membership in category B (all other students) shall be \$20; and

(4) that Associate Members who are student members (in either Category A or B) in both categories shall enjoy all of the rights and privileges of membership except the right to vote at general meetings of members, and at meetings of elected officials of the Association that they may be invited (by the Board) to attend, so that the Board may seek the views of student members.

### 8. To consider any General Business if the majority of members at the meeting agree to consider that General Business

There being no other business, the Chair declared the meeting closed at 1.40 pm

**These are true and correct minutes of the Meeting.**



**Dr James Robert (Jim) Holmes,  
Chair of Meeting and President, TelSoc  
4 December 2023**