

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

Date: Friday, 22 November 2024

Time: 12:30 to 1:23 pm

Venue: Online via Zoom

Board Members Attending by Zoom:

Jim Holmes (President)	James Endres (Secretary)	Elise Ball (Treasurer)
Allan Horsley	Michelle Lim	Rob Nicholls
Iain Little	Crispin Blackall	

TelSoc Members Attending by Zoom:

Peter Gerrand	Leith Campbell	Catherine Middleton
John Neale	Tim Herring	

Proxies received from:

Proxies were received from Andrew Hamilton, Michael de Percy (Vice President), Tony Neilson and Uyen Nguyen.

Apologies:

Michael de Percy and Tony Neilson sent their apologies.

Minutes of the Meeting

Dr Jim Holmes, President, in the Chair.

The Chair declared a quorum at 12:25, there being 17 members, including proxies, present ("by technological means" as permitted by the Victorian Associations Incorporation Reform Act 2012), and being in excess of the 10% of financial members 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 tenth Annual General Meeting held on 30 November 2023

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 30 November 2023 be confirmed.

Moved: Allan Horsley

Seconded: Rob Nicholls

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2. To receive and consider the Annual Report of the Board, presented by the President, for the year ended 30 June 2023

The President spoke to the “TelSoc President’s Report on behalf of the Board, 2023-24”, which had been circulated to members. He noted that, where appropriate, the report covered developments since 30 June 2024 as well.

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 observed that there was some evidence that volunteer organisations generally were in decline, although there were exceptions, and that the specific generational character in the case of TelSoc needed specific programs to address the issues.

The President noted the work of the enlarged Board during the past year and expressed his thanks for the excellent work that members had undertaken. He especially noted the work of John Burke who passed away suddenly in August 2023. John was not a member of the Board but for many years had contributed to the Editorial Advisory Board of the Journal and took a crucial lead to establish and coordinate the substantial work of the Broadband Futures Group from 2018 to 2023.

He also observed that the main events during 2023-24, the Henry Sutton Oration in Melbourne and the Charles Todd Oration in Sydney, had both been well attended and well received.

The Henry Sutton Oration was held in Melbourne in May 2024. The oration was delivered by Emilio Romeo, CEO and Managing Director of Ericsson Australia and New Zealand. Emilio spoke about the case and the prospects for 5G, as well as new developments in that area. He handled well a lively and, at times, willing question-and-answer session now associated with TelSoc orations.

The 2023 Charles Todd Oration fell within the year of report and the 2024 Oration has been delivered since then, on 17 October 2024.

The 2023 Charles Todd Oration was given by Rob Nicholls, now a Board member of TelSoc, 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. The 2024 Charles Todd Oration was given by Will Irving, Chief of Strategy and Transformation at NBN Co with the title, *If at first you don’t succeed...* Will’s speech dealt with the events leading up to the creation of NBN Co and prospects for the industry since then and now. Both Orations were very well received, and set a high bar for future orations.

The President referred to the lunchtime events program, which for various reasons, was not as full as previous years, but, nevertheless, covered a range of topics of interest to members. He indicated that the incoming Board will need to augment the program with in-person events in Sydney and Melbourne, which were a feature of the pre-COVID years, and which allowed for valuable member networking. He noted that events have attracted registrations from members and non-members but that the conversion of attendances to memberships still needed attention.

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The President noted from the beginning of 2025 Leith Campell would be passing the baton as Managing Editor of the Journal to Michael de Percy. He noted that Leith had contributed massively to establishing and maintaining the Journal as a quality medium for sharing knowledge within the industry, and that his contribution commenced well before he became Managing Editor. On behalf of the Board and members he thanked Leith for the extent and quality of his contribution. He also asked all members to provide assistance to Michael de Percy as incoming Managing Editor.

Finally, the President noted TelSoc's success in encouraging the Minister's Office and the Department of Communications to establish a 2035 Telecommunications Plan Team to undertake a scoping review of TelSoc's proposal for a long-term broadband (later digital communications) strategy for Australia. He noted that it was unlikely that this work would be completed before the forthcoming Federal Election. He acknowledged the contribution of Andrew Hamilton towards this work as a member of the Advocacy Committee, together with Allan Horsley.

He also thanked Iain Little on behalf of members for his work as Chair of the Technology and Policy Sub-Committee of the Board, which was currently doing good work in the area of universal service.

Carried: That the Annual Report of the Board, as presented by the President, for the year ended 30 June 2024 be accepted.

Moved: Leith Campbell

Seconded: Allan Horsley

3. To receive and consider the Financial Statements of the Association and the Treasurer's Report for the year ended 30 June 2024

The TelSoc Treasurer's Report for 2023-24, with the financial statements attached, had been circulated to members before the meeting.

The Treasurer noted that the accounts indicated that TelSoc was well placed financially. She noted that in part this was because the Journal was now closer to being self-funded with new charges for an early open-access option. In response to questions and discussion, she indicated that royalty payments made annually, but not received so far in 2024, from the Copyright Association, were being followed up. Members who had correspondence with the Copyright Association in the past, Peter Gerrand and Tim Herring, indicated their willingness to provide previous correspondence to assist in recovery of the royalty revenue.

The cash balance at the end of June 2024 was \$51,281.01, compared to \$42,168.48 at the end of the previous financial year.

Carried: That the Financial Statements and Treasurer's Report for 2023-24 be accepted.

Moved: Rob Nicholls

Seconded: Crispin Blackall

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

A Report on the *Journal of Telecommunications and the Digital Economy* 2023–2024 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. He noted that the *Journal* had been ranked Q2 by Scopus and Q3 by Scimago based on Scopus data to March 2024. He explained that these rankings needed to be sustained and improved to attract quality academic contributions.

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.

Carried: That the report on the *Journal of Telecommunications and the Digital Economy* 2023-2024 be accepted.

Moved: Michelle Lim

Seconded: James Endres

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: Jim Holmes

Seconded: Michelle Lim

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 eleven nominations received for Board positions, as follows:

- President. One nomination: Michelle Lim, who was declared elected.
- Vice President. One nomination: Jim Holmes, who was declared elected.
- Secretary. One nomination: James Endres, who was declared elected.
- 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
 - Michael de Percy
 - Allan Horsley
 - Iain Little
 - Tony Neilson
 - Rob Nicholls

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The Returning Officer clarified with John Neale that he, John, wished to make known his readiness to volunteer to assist the Board, but that he was not proposing to nominate for a Board position.

The Returning Officer returned the chair to Jim Holmes, who, as the outgoing President invited Michelle Lim to conduct the remainder of the AGM. Michell Lim, as President, assumed the Chair.

7. To consider and vote on the circulated resolution concerning membership fees in the notice paper and agenda for the AGM

The resolution was moved by Rob Nicholls and seconded by James Endres, and carried, namely:

That this AGM of the Association confirms that the fee for members of the Association for the current year (from 1 July 2024) shall be \$120 per annum, and resolves that the fee for members from 1 July 2025 shall also be \$120 per annum.

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

The President led the discussion by acknowledging the work of the outgoing President, Jim Holmes, on behalf of TelSoc over a long period, and noted that his most recent period as President over the past 4 years was his second term in the role. Other speakers made similar acknowledgments.

The President looked forward to the work of TelSoc in December and the new year, and indicated that she particularly looked forward to working with re-elected and new members of the Board and members generally.

She advised that the next meeting of the Board had been tentatively set as Tuesday, 10 December 2024, commencing at 12.30 pm. She invited any comments relating to that date and, there being none, confirmed it.

There being no other business, the Chair thanked everybody for their participation and declared the meeting closed at 1.23 pm.