

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

Date: Wednesday, 26 November 2025

Time: 5:00 pm to 5:45 pm

Venue: Online via Zoom

Board Members Attending by Zoom:

Michelle Lim
(President)

Sarah Alderson

Tony Neilson

Elise Ball

(Treasurer)

Crispin Blackall

Allan Horsley

TelSoc Members Attending by Zoom:

Keith Besgrove

John Laughlin

Catherine Middleton

Leith Campbell

Karen Lee

Kostas Siourthas

Peter Gerrand

Mathew McBride

Proxies received

Proxies were received from Jim Holmes (Vice President) and Rob Nicholls.

Apologies

Tim Herring sent his apologies.

Minutes of the Meeting

Michelle Lim, President, in the Chair.

The Chair declared a quorum at 17:08, there being 16 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 eleventh Annual General Meeting held on 22 November 2024

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

Carried: That the Minutes of the eleventh Annual General Meeting held on 22 November 2024 be confirmed.

Moved: Leith Campbell

Seconded: Elise Ball

2. To receive and consider the Annual Report of the Board, presented by the President, for the year ended 30 June 2025

The President presented a report on behalf of the Board. The full report is provided as an attachment to these Minutes.

She reflected on TelSoc's strategy and purpose, including channelling its resources to deliver frequent, consistent and high-quality forums. She foreshadowed that it would be necessary to continue work in 2026 on validating TelSoc's strategic intent, membership targets, and core program of activities. She noted that TelSoc continues to be a member-based organisation and is directly reliant on a credible financial membership base.

Among the highlights of the past year, she emphasised:

- The 90th year of a journal being published;
- The continuing lunchtime presentation series, some of which have been widely reported in the industry media;
- Stronger industry and stakeholder engagement, especially through participation in industry forums.

The President noted the range and diversity of experience now available on the Board and thanked Board members for their continuing activity, dedication and valuable guidance.

Carried: That the Annual Report of the Board, as presented by the President, for the year ended 30 June 2025 be accepted.

Moved: Leith Campbell

Seconded: Sarah Alderson

3. To receive and consider the Financial Statements of the Association and the Treasurer's Report for the year ended 30 June 2025

The TelSoc Treasurer's Report for 2024–2025, with the financial statements attached, had been circulated to members before the meeting.

The Treasurer had provided a table showing that the year-end cash balance for fiscal year 2024–2025 was \$5,434.61 lower than the previous year, but higher than two years ago. Income was significantly lower than the previous year, while total expenses were only slightly lower.

Income is made up of three main line items: membership fees; income from events, including the two Orations; and income from the Journal. Total membership fees were slightly higher than for 2023–2024. Income from events was lower, because the 2024 Charles Todd Oration was the only paid event held during the financial year. Income from the Journal was significantly lower, mainly due to an unpaid invoice for royalties. (The invoice has subsequently been paid.)

Expenditure was lower, mainly due to lower expenses for the Orations (as only one was held). Sundry expenses were only slightly higher. Operating costs for the Journal were significantly higher, due to higher costs for copyediting. The Treasurer noted that, for the continued successful operation of the Journal, profit from the Orations would be necessary to supplement royalty and access payments.

The cash balance at the end of June 2025 was \$45,846.40, compared to \$51,281.01 at the end of the previous financial year. The cash balance at 26 October 2025 was \$51,625.98.

The number of financial members at 26 October 2025 was 93 with 17 lifetime members, only 7 fewer members than at the end of 2023–2024.

Carried: That the Financial Statements and Treasurer’s Report for the year ended 30 June 2025 be accepted.

Moved: Tony Neilson

Seconded: Allan Horsley

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

A Report on the *Journal of Telecommunications and the Digital Economy* 2024–2025 had been circulated to members before the meeting.

The Chair noted that 2025 was the 90th year of publication of a journal by TelSoc and its predecessors.

Leith Campbell, Managing Editor of the *Journal*, spoke to the report. He outlined personnel changes that had included the resignation of Dr Michael de Percy as Editor-in-Chief and his own reappointment to the position. He particularly recommended the 2024 Charles Todd Oration by Will Irving, published in volume 12, number 4

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. He noted the continuing need for more “backroom” operators to support copyedit and production.

Carried: That the report on the *Journal of Telecommunications and the Digital Economy* 2024–2025 be accepted.

Moved: Crispin Blackall

Seconded: Kostas Siourthas

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: Crispin Blackall

Seconded: Allan Horsley

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 nine nominations received for Board positions, as follows:

- President. One nomination: Michelle Lim, who was declared elected.
- Vice President. No nominations.
- Secretary. No nominations.
- Treasurer. One nomination: Jim Holmes, who was declared elected.
- Ordinary Members. Seven nominations.

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

Proposed: Allan Horsley

Seconded: Crispin Blackall

- The following were declared elected as Ordinary Members of the Board:
 - Sarah Alderson
 - Elise Ball
 - Crispin Blackall
 - James Endres
 - Allan Horsley
 - Iain Little
 - Tony Neilson

Carried: That the Board be empowered to appoint a Vice President and a Secretary from among its Ordinary Members at the earliest possible opportunity.

Proposed: Allan Horsley

Seconded: Crispin Blackall

The Returning Officer returned the chair to Michelle Lim, President.

7. To consider and vote on the resolutions concerning membership fees listed on the notice paper and agenda for the AGM

Carried: That this AGM of the Association confirms that the fee for individual members of the Association for the current year (from 1 July 2025) shall be \$120 per annum, and resolves that the fee for members from 1 July 2026 shall also be \$120 per annum.

Proposed: Tony Neilson

Seconded: Keith Besgrove

Carried: That this AGM of the Association confirms that the annual fee for other classes of membership shall be determined for the current year (from 1 July 2025) and for the year commencing 1 July 2026 by the Board of the Association.

Proposed: Elise Ball

Seconded: Kostas Siourthas

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

Leith Campbell noted the attendance of Keith Besgrove and thanked him for his recent review of a submission to the Journal.

There being no other business, the Chair thanked everybody for their participation and declared the meeting closed at 17:45.

President's Report on behalf of the Board of the Telecommunications Association Inc. (TelSoc)

2024–2025

Introduction

This report is made on behalf of the Board of TelSoc and covers the financial year ending 30 June 2025. It also provides a status report on certain items for the 2025 calendar year, and therefore references some matters outside of the 2024–2025 financial reporting period.

With a legacy dating back to 1874, TelSoc is honoured to be one of the nation's oldest continually operating learned societies. Overall, the TelSoc Board is pleased with the ongoing progress being made. We thank our members and the telecommunications community for your enthusiasm, positive engagement and ongoing support for the society's activities.

This year marked a significant milestone for the *Journal of Telecommunications and the Digital Economy* (with its predecessor the *Telecommunication Journal of Australia*) as it celebrated its 90th year of publishing. To commemorate, it released a series of new papers and also historical articles from its archives. Special credit should be made to Dr Leith Campbell, Dr Michael De Percy, Dr Jim Holmes, Simon Moorhead, as well as the Editorial Board and all past and present contributors.

The Board and I are proud that TelSoc is a not-for-profit organisation which continues to be committed to promoting public discourse for the advancement of credible telecommunications in Australia. We hope you are too.

Strategy and purpose

This year provided opportunity to reflect on some of TelSoc's mission, core strengths and values. We focused our attention to TelSoc's fundamental and key activities of disseminating information, while retaining its hallmark for creating platforms that are uniquely intimate through its smaller, more personal and individualised settings for its members and the telecommunications community.

This included channelling our resources to deliver frequent, consistent and high-quality forums and annual orations. TelSoc and its team focused on leveraging its skills, expertise and strong professional networks to provide intentionality in its topic selection, targeting expert and talented speakers, SME-hosted Q&As, and engaging media. These activities continue to attract a well-regarded, diverse, and influential audience across public and private sectors.

There was some preliminary analysis on the key activities of TelSoc and the changing and evolving profile of the sector. It is necessary for this work to continue into 2026 to assist in validating TelSoc's strategic intent, membership targets, and core program and activities in line with current and future operating capability.

Notwithstanding this, TelSoc continues to exist due to the diverse skill, significant expertise, and congenial and collaborative nature of its supporters who kindly 'give back' both individually, and as a whole.

More recently we have focused on multi-generational engagement, and increased female participation and location agnosticism to more accurately reflect the makeup of the telecommunications sector today.

Board

At the 2024 AGM, the number of candidates offering their services on the Board was at an all-time high and all eleven (11) eligible candidates were accepted and declared.

The 2024–25 board members were: Sarah Alderson, Elise Ball, Crispin Blackall, Michael De Percy, James Endres, Jim Holmes, Allan Horsley, Michelle Lim, Iain Little, Tony Neilson and Rob Nicholls. Jim Holmes and Leith Campbell have provided mentorship and support to myself, and the wider team. Elise Ball has ably completed a second term as Treasurer.

TelSoc has a diverse board in terms of skills, gender, age, and industry involvement. TelSoc and its members have also been fortunate to benefit from the strong and extensive networks of our current board members developed throughout their professional careers. For this, I am eternally grateful.

The composition, professional integrity and wide-ranging experience of our board is greatly beneficial to TelSoc and its members, and has also enabled the organisation to persist under a lean operating environment whilst making consistent progress towards TelSoc's mission and purpose.

I thank the board for their dedication, upholding our values, their trust in each other, and valuable guidance.

The remainder of my report is a summary of the following topics:

- Membership
- *Journal of Telecommunications and the Digital Economy*
- Industry and stakeholder engagement
- Events program
- Policy and regulatory involvement

If I may, I will provide in writing the list summarising these topics as an addendum to this President's report, and this will be posted online. However, firstly, I highlight some key items.

President's Report – addendum

Membership

TelSoc continues to be a member-based organisation. Historically, its ability to meet its charter of facilitating public discourse on issues, challenges and developments in the telecommunications sector was directly reliant on a credible financial membership base into the future. This remains a risk in the longer term, particularly with the profile of a loyal but ageing member base. This year our focus was one of observation, reflection, data collection and analysis — as opposed to 'flogging subscriptions'.

Despite this, the number of current financial members has decreased by just over 5% in comparison with the end of 2023–24. This indicates an encouraging slowing in the year-to-year declines, which were unfortunately observed over the past few years. The trends also showed periodic spikes in renewals in response to TelSoc's sparse direct email and phone reminders. We also saw periodic spikes in new members immediately following our events. Word of mouth remains our most effective tool.

Data shows that the size of TelSoc's financial member base is disproportionately low when compared to the larger size of its actual audience. Interestingly, TelSoc's reach

in terms of awareness, and also attendance of its activities and journal readership extend far beyond the smaller size of its financial membership base.

The size and makeup of membership appears to no longer directly correlate to its actual audience. Arguably, therefore, membership numbers are no longer a reliable sole measure of how successfully TelSoc is achieving its declared mission.

Further review is required. This mismatch between the smaller size of the financial member base compared with TelSoc's current reach, relevance of activities and industry reputation indicates promise and opportunity for what could lie ahead when planning the member structure into the future. As stated earlier, these planning areas will continue to be a focus of the board.

TelSoc will continue as a not-for-profit organisation.

Further details are available in the Financial Statements and the Treasurer's Report.

The Journal of Telecommunications and the Digital Economy

This year marked a significant milestone for the *Journal of Telecommunications and the Digital Economy* (with its predecessor the *Telecommunications Journal of Australia*) as it celebrated its 90th year anniversary of publication with the release of its March 2025 edition. In commemoration, a series of editorials and papers were released each quarter. These reflected on our legacy, and the biography section honoured industry pioneers while technological milestones were revisited in the history section. Reprints of historical articles from its archives were also included.

For contrast, a special issue from the 9th International Conference on Digital Economy (held in Morocco in 2024) titled 'Driving the Digital Economy with Cutting-edge Technologies' was published concurrently for a forward-looking perspective.

A special interest paper on the 2024 Charles Todd Oration was featured in the December 2024 issue. Titled "If At First You Don't Succeed" by Will Irving, Will candidly discusses first-hand encounters and the personalities leading to the advent of the National Broadband Network (NBN).

TelSoc aims to provide an integrated program across its various work streams — the journal, webinar forums, and in-person orations. For example, the journal featured a book review in December 2024 by Dr Jim Holmes on Dr William Webb's book, "The End of Telecom's History". Following this, TelSoc was fortunate to host a webinar to kick off the 2025 event program where members heard from Dr William Webb, and later were encouraged to participate in a Q&A.

The above is only a small snapshot of another significant year of the journal. Thank you to Dr Leith Campbell, Dr Michael De Percy, Dr Jim Holmes, Simon Moorhouse, as well as the Editorial Board and all past and present contributors. Happy 90th anniversary!

Further details are available in the report on *the Journal of Telecommunications and the Digital Economy*.

Industry and stakeholder engagement

It has been a busy year in engaging with, forming new and building on existing relationships. We have experienced good momentum particularly with the major operators, industry associations, and Government agencies. Our forums have been regularly reported on by industry media.

The Federal election in May 2025 led to a change from Minister Michelle Rowland and her team. TelSoc is at a preliminary stage of building a relationship with Minister Annika Wells and the new office.

Michelle Lim was invited and represented TelSoc at the following industry forums (among others):

- Australian IT Journalism awards, MediaConnect, March 2025.
- CommsDay Summit Sydney, "State of Telecom Industry" panel, June 2025.
- CommsDay Wholesale Congress, "Regulatory and Compliance" panel, October 2025.
- CommsDay Wholesale Congress, "View from Retailers" panel, October 2025.
- Eddison Industry Awards Judge, and Presenter of awards at ceremony in June 2025.
- ATA Industry Excellence Awards Judge, July 2025.
- TelSoc is publicly listed as a supporter of CommsDay Regional & Policy Forum in Canberra in February 2026.

TelSoc is pleased to actively contribute to the sector.

The activity was in line with the society's strategic intent, reputational management, resource availability and capacity, and board governance.

Crispin Blackall, on behalf of the board, led the engagement with the commercial sector given his extensive and current networks. This has greatly helped re-activate bi-lateral relationships across the industry with TelSoc.

Elise Ball and Sarah Alderson made terrific contributions across many facets. I thank them for their professionalism.

Our representatives continued to connect with some staff at various universities in Melbourne, Canberra and Sydney amid a period of significant structural change seen in tertiary institutions.

Overall, we are pleased with the uplift in external engagement. We are cautious in setting expectations for future periods given what is required to maintain such momentum. Notwithstanding this, the positive reception towards TelSoc and its' activities, is both encouraging and pleasing.

Events program

TelSoc (and its predecessors) has a longstanding role in fostering debate and learning throughout changes in science, technology and engineering, since 1874. Notably, Alexander Graham Bell, the inventor of the telephone, delivered one of the Society's early lectures in 1910.

TelSoc has prioritised these traditions in 2024–25.

This included channeling the Societies resources to deliver frequent, consistent and high-quality forums and annual orations. TelSoc and its team focused on providing intentionality in its topic selection, targeting expert and talented speakers, SME-hosted Q&As, and engaging media.

Our core activities:

In person and ticketed:

- Charles Todd Oration, Sydney.

- Henry Sutton Oration, Melbourne.

Online and free of charge:

- Monthly forums, each including a talk followed by hosted Q&A.

As indicated earlier in this report, TelSoc strived to maintain its hallmark for creating platforms that are uniquely intimate through its smaller, more personal and individualised settings for its members and the telecommunications community.

Our approach is framed by “the four R’s”: respectful, robust, reliable and relevant.

These activities continue to attract a well-regarded, diverse, and influential audience across public and private sectors.

Program of Events in 2024–25

- **Charles Todd Oration:** 17 October 2024. Orator – Will Irving, Chief of Strategy and Transformation at NBN Co: “If at first you don’t succeed...”
- **Henry Sutton Oration:** 21 August 2025. Orator – John Ierachi, Enterprise Executive at Telstra: “Telstra’s Connected Future 30: Lessons from the Past, Vision for the Future.”

Webinar Forums:

- Dr William Web (UK speaker), “Is it really the end of telecoms history?” March 2025.
- Luke Coleman CEO Australian Telecoms Association (ATA), “Election Preview: The telecoms industry agenda for the 48th parliament”, April 2025.
- Carol Bennett, CEO ACCAN, “From payphones to LeoSats: Where to next for the USO and consumers”, May 2025.
- Dan Lloyd, CEO, and Isobel Haddow, Head of Memberships, Space Industry Association of Australia (SIAA), “Australia’s Future: Optimising Terrestrial and Non-terrestrial capability to ensure national communications resilience”, June 2025.
- Alex Orange, VP Technology & Spectrum, OmniSpace LLC, “Satellite direct-to-device connectivity: To MSS D2D, or to IMT D2D? Is that the question?” July 2025.
- Dr Chris Marsden, Professor of Artificial Intelligence & the Law, Monash University, “AI and Digital Sovereignty in the Time of Trump”, August 2025.
- Amit Nagpal Partner, Aetha Consulting UK, “Can telcos really stop scammers? A comparison of global initiatives”, September 2025.
- Kristy Sparrow, Founder, Better Internet for Regional, Rural and Remote (BIRRR), and Sam Dimarco, General Manager, NBN Co, “No Choice, no voice: Regional Connectivity”, November 2025.

The 2025 Henry Sutton Oration was sold out. The next Charles Todd Oration will be held in 2026.

Special acknowledgements to Jim Holmes, Crispin Blackall and Elise Ball. Thank you also to Rob Nicholls, Iain Little, Sarah Alderson, James Endres, Leith Campbell and the whole TelSoc team for your support.

Policy involvement and special projects

Policy and regulatory involvement

TelSoc's policy sub-committee debated and developed an ambitious universal service proposal. The board approved the policy brief for release in May 2025.

TelSoc continues to firmly believe in the need for a 2035 telecommunications plan, as previously advocated to government. In 2024, we received a summary of its findings from the DITRCA.

TelSoc has contributed to various industry forums to inform and shape policy.

Special project – new website

For many organisations in the digital age, much activity is via their websites. TelSoc is no exception. TelSoc increasingly relies on its website to perform core activity and operations. For example:

- information tool for corporate identity and brand;
- central interface for newsletters and communications;
- membership portal management and payments;
- journal submissions and management, and publication access; and
- event promotion and bookings.

Funding for a special project was approved to develop a new website. Work is underway with the third-party developer and is due for release in 2026. The sub-committee is being led by Tony Neilson and Jim Holmes.

Michelle Lim

President

26 November 2025