

TELECOMMUNICATIONS ASSOCIATION INC ABN 34 732 327 053

NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The ninth Annual General Meeting of the Telecommunications Association Inc. (TelSoc) will be held as follows:

Date: Tuesday, 22 November 2022

Time: 12:00 noon AEDST [Melbourne time]

Place: Online Zoom meeting only

[https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85490191986?
pwd=eUdEYi94c1RabjA0U2hSZm5jaHdmZz09](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85490191986?pwd=eUdEYi94c1RabjA0U2hSZm5jaHdmZz09)

Meeting ID: 854 9019 1986

Passcode: 084929

Business:

1. To confirm the Minutes of the eighth Annual General Meeting held on 28 October 2021.
2. To receive and consider the Annual Report of the Board, presented by the President, for the year ended 30 June 2022.
3. To receive and consider the Financial Statements of the Association and the Treasurer's Report for the year ended 30 June 2022.
4. To receive a report on the Journal, by the Managing Editor.
5. To appoint a Returning Officer for the election of Officers.
6. To elect Officers and other members of the Board to hold office until the next Annual General Meeting of the Association.
7. To consider any General Business if the majority of members at the meeting agree to consider that General Business.

Proxies:

A member may appoint another member as a proxy for the meeting. A proxy form is available on the TelSoc website. A form appointing a proxy that is sent by post or electronically to the Association is of no effect unless received by the Association by close of business (6pm) the day before the AGM. However, a form appointing a proxy may be handed to the Chairperson of the meeting before the commencement of the meeting. This may be by "technological means".

Matt O'Rourke
TelSoc Secretary

Email: matt.orourke@telsoc.org

2 November 2022

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

Date: Thursday, 28 October 2021

Time: 12:00 noon to 12:38 pm

Venue: Online via Zoom

Board Members Attending by Zoom:

Jim Holmes (President)	Tim Herring (Treasurer)	Leith Campbell (Secretary)
Matthew O'Rourke	Greg Paynter	Craig Watkins

TelSoc Members Attending by Zoom:

Will Abdo	John Burke	Michael de Percy
Frank den Hartog	Clem Doherty	Geoffrey Gerrand
Peter Gerrand	Andrew Hamilton	Peter Hitchiner
Peter Hormann	Allan Horsley	Kelvin Lillingstone-Hall
Michelle Lim	Matthew McBride	Uyen Nguyen
Venkataraman Swaminathan	José Torres Diaz	Andrew Williams

Proxies received from:

David Bellair	Paul Budde	Brian Louey-Gung
Gerry Moriarty	Ken Sayers	

Apologies:

John Costa, Barbara Noonan

Minutes of the Meeting

Dr Jim Holmes, President, in the Chair.

The Chair declared a quorum at 12:01, there being 24 members present ("by technological means" as permitted by the Victorian Associations Incorporation Reform Act 2012) and 5 proxies received: 15% of the membership, and greater than 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 seventh Annual General Meeting held on 29 October 2020

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 29 October 2020 be confirmed.

Proposed: Tim Herring

Seconded: Leith Campbell

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

2. To receive and consider the Annual Report of the Board, presented by the President, for the year ended 30 June 2021

The President spoke to the “TelSoc President’s Report on behalf of the Board, 2020-21”, which had been circulated to members.

He emphasised that the ability to attract members during the year had been limited during the COVID lockdowns. He noted that the major events of the Charles Todd Oration and the Henry Sutton Oration could not be held. The COVID restrictions had limited the possibilities for raising revenue.

He noted the continuing publication of the *Journal* and thanked Mark Gregory, who had resigned as Managing Editor in December 2020, for his contribution in establishing the *Journal* on a firm footing.

The President recognized the significant work of the Broadband Futures Forum in developing many of the outputs of the Association in 2020/2021, including policy documents, presentations and journal articles. He especially thanked John Burke for his contribution as convenor of the Broadband Futures Group.

Looking to future activities, he suggested that future events would most likely be hybrid – that is, both in person and online – given the experience of the COVID restrictions.

In closing, the President paid tribute to Professor Reg Coutts, who at the time of his death was Vice President and who had been the founding President of TelSoc.

Carried: That the Annual Report of the Board, as presented by the President, for the year ended 30 June 2021 be accepted.

Proposed: Leith Campbell

Seconded: Peter Gerrand

3. To receive and consider the Financial Statements of the Association and the Treasurer’s Report for the year ended 30 June 2021

The TelSoc Treasurer’s Report for 2020/21 had been circulated to members.

The Treasurer noted that the accounts are prepared on a cash basis. He indicated that revenue was down because there had been no event income or donations. Expenses had been contained, so that they exceeded revenue by only \$1,844. The year-end cash balance was \$12,862. The cash balance at 22 October 2021 was \$6,252.

The Treasurer concluded that the Association is able to meet any foreseeable commitments and to continue trading.

Carried: That the Treasurer’s Report for 2020/21 be accepted.

Proposed: Tim Herring

Seconded: Peter Gerrand

Tim Herring announced that he had resigned as Executive Director with effect from 1 November 2021.

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

Carried: That the meeting recognizes the contribution of Tim Herring as Executive Director for the past seven years and thanks him for his many activities in support of TelSoc.

Proposed: Leith Campbell

Seconded: Peter Gerrand

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

A Report on the *Journal of Telecommunications and the Digital Economy 2020-2021* had been circulated to members.

Leith Campbell, as Managing Editor of the *Journal*, spoke to the report. He noted that the *Journal* encouraged contributions from industry as well as academia. He suggested that the *Journal* was attractive both to contributors, as shown by the steady stream of submissions, and to readers, as shown by the large number of articles downloaded from the TelSoc website each year. He particularly wished to recognize the ongoing contributions of Michael de Percy and Payam Hanafizadeh as the section editors of the two busiest sections of the *Journal*.

Carried: That the report on the *Journal of Telecommunications and the Digital Economy 2020-2021* be accepted.

Proposed: Leith Campbell

Seconded: Peter Gerrand

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

Carried: That Peter Hormann be appointed Returning Officer for the election of Officers at the meeting.

Proposed: Leith Campbell

Seconded: Tim Herring

Peter Hormann 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.

Carried: That this AGM agrees that the Board should consist of 4 named positions – President, Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer – and up to 6 Ordinary Members.

Proposed: Leith Campbell

Seconded: Tim Herring

The Returning Officer accepted that this motion is consistent with the Articles of Association.

Elections of Board Members:

- President. One nomination: Jim Holmes, who was declared elected.
- Vice President. One nomination: Tim Herring, who was declared elected.
- Secretary. No nominations had been received.

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

- Treasurer. One nomination: Leith Campbell, who was declared elected.
- Ordinary Members. Six nominations. The following were declared elected:
 - Craig Watkins
 - Michelle Lim
 - Matthew O'Rourke
 - Allan Horsley
 - Michael de Percy
 - Greg Paynter

There being no nominations for Secretary, the Returning Officer sought the views of the meeting.

Carried: That the Board may appoint a Secretary from among its members at a time of its choosing.

Proposed: Tim Herring

Seconded: Venkataraman Swaminathan

The Returning Officer returned the chair to the President.

The President noted that one current Board member, Barbara Noonan, would not be continuing on the Board. He thanked her for her contribution to TelSoc in the past year.

The President indicated that the Board had been meeting on the second Thursday of each month at 12.00 noon, Melbourne time. He will confirm a date and time for the first meeting of the new Board after consultation with Board members.

7. 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 12.38.

After the meeting, Peter Gerrand gave a eulogy for the late Emeritus Professor Reg Coutts, highlighting several of his many contributions to Australian telecommunications, including his leadership roles in TelSoc. Jim Holmes added details of Reg Coutts's campaign in a Federal by-election for the seat of Mayo and praised his support for democratic values. Tim Herring described his own excellent interactions with Reg Coutts. He went on to outline some TelSoc activities in 2022 to celebrate the 150th anniversary of the completion of the Overland Telegraph Line by Sir Charles Todd.

TelSoc Treasurer's Report for 2021–2022

The accounts are prepared on a strictly cash basis, rather than using accrual accounting, and are suitable for a not-for-profit organisation.

Results for the Financial Year 2021–2022

Opening Cash	\$12,862.18
Revenue	\$30,994.67
Expenses	\$19,675.29
Year End Cash Balance	\$24,181.56
Increase/(Reduction) in Cash	\$11,319.38

An Income and Expenditure summary is attached.

Notes to the Results

The main source of revenue is memberships. Income from memberships was \$22,380, comprising 149 individual memberships and one corporate membership for Symbio. Activities are planned to make a small profit or break even. The Henry Sutton Oration made a profit of \$2,550. The Charles Todd Oration was not held in 2021. The Journal made a modest profit of \$902.

The main expense categories were Administration (\$11,060) and the website (\$3,417). Administrative expenses were reduced by deciding not to employ any staff. TelSoc is now an all-volunteer organization.

At the end of the financial year, TelSoc had 174 financial members (including those who had paid earlier for two years), about 9 fewer than at the end of 2020–2021.

Current Situation

Current cash balance (18 November 2022) is \$26,834.40. This is still a modest total for an organization like TelSoc. Building our cash reserves will permit TelSoc to organize larger events with greater financial risk. The number of financial members at 18 November 2022 is 146, plus 17 life members.

Leith H. Campbell
TelSoc Treasurer
November 2022

TelSoc Accounts 2021-2022

	July	August	September	October	November	December	January	February	March	April	May	June	Total
Income													
Membership-Individual	2,912.10	813.66	582.90	466.32	480.00	-	-	233.16	-	116.58	349.74	11,425.56	17,380.02
Membership-Corporate	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	5,000.00	-	5,000.00
Lectures & Presentations	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Henry Sutton Oration	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1,906.04	4,019.02	-	5,925.06
Charles Todd Oration	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Journal	27.47	-	-	1,024.30	440.00	468.62	28.62	528.69	-	-	-	28.62	2,546.32
Communications/Marketing	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Website	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Committees	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Administration	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Sundry	-	-	-	14.31	-	-	-	-	-	-	31.86	97.10	143.27
Total Income	2,939.57	813.66	582.90	1,504.93	920.00	468.62	28.62	761.85	-	2,022.62	9,400.62	11,551.28	30,994.67
Expenditure													
Membership-Individual	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Membership-Corporate	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Lectures & Presentations	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Henry Sutton Oration	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	70.00	3,305.00	3,375.00
Charles Todd Oration	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Journal	970.66	-	-	-	-	150.00	523.72	-	-	-	-	-	1,644.38
Communications/Marketing	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Website	391.95	275.00	275.00	275.00	275.00	275.00	275.00	275.00	275.00	275.00	275.00	275.00	3,416.95
Committees	-	-	132.00	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	132.00
Administration	5,000.00	-	5,000.00	-	-	60.10	1,000.00	-	-	-	-	-	11,060.10
Sundry	-	-	-	15.00	-	-	-	-	-	-	31.86	-	46.86
Total Expenditure	6,362.61	275.00	5,407.00	290.00	275.00	485.10	1,798.72	275.00	275.00	275.00	376.86	3,580.00	19,675.29
Net Cash Flow	(3,423.04)	538.66	(4,824.10)	1,214.93	645.00	(16.48)	(1,770.10)	486.85	(275.00)	1,747.62	9,023.76	7,971.28	11,319.38
Opening Balance	12,862.18	9,439.14	9,977.80	5,153.70	6,368.63	7,013.63	6,997.15	5,227.05	5,713.90	5,438.90	7,186.52	16,210.28	
Closing Balance	9,439.14	9,977.80	5,153.70	6,368.63	7,013.63	6,997.15	5,227.05	5,713.90	5,438.90	7,186.52	16,210.28	24,181.56	

Report on the *Journal of Telecommunications and the Digital Economy* 2021–2022

The Journal

The *Journal of Telecommunications and the Digital Economy* is the professional journal of TelSoc. It began when TelSoc was founded in 2013 as the *Australian Journal of Telecommunications and the Digital Economy* but dropped “Australian” from its name in 2019. It is the successor to the *Telecommunication Journal of Australia*, which was first published in June 1935.

The *Journal* publishes four issues each calendar year, in March, June, September and December. All journal content is available on the TelSoc website and is accessible without charge to TelSoc members. The Journal is managed on another website (<https://jtde.telsoc.org>) where it can be accessed, through subscription, by institutions and individuals who are not members of TelSoc.

The Journal’s Rating

The *Journal* is indexed by Google Scholar and Scopus. Disappointingly, it is now rated “Q3” (meaning it is in the third quartile of influence in a subject area) by Scimago, based on Scopus data to 2021. It was for some years rated “Q2”. The rating of “Q3” makes publication in the *Journal* less attractive to Australian academic authors.

Ratings are based primarily on citations. To help boost citations, we have been encouraging special issues, for which guest editors seek papers on a particular topic. So far, we have published one special issue and more are planned.

Publication in 2021–2022

For the financial year 2021–2022, the table shows the division of articles by section of the journal. Volume 10, no. 2, contained the first special issue.

Article areas in 2021–2022

Section	Issue			
	9(3)	9(4)	10(1)	10(2)
Editorial	1	1	1	2
Public Policy	2	2	2	1
Special Interest Paper		1	1	1
Special Issue Paper				12
Digital Economy	2	3		
Telecommunications	3	2	3	1
Biography or History	3	1	2	1
Review or Technical Note		1		
Total items	11	11	9	18

Subsequently, volume 10, number 3 has been published in September.

The undoubted highlight of the last financial year was the publication of the first special issue on “Digital Technologies and Innovation”. The guest editors are associated with the International Conference on the Digital Economy. Future special issues related to the themes of that conference may be possible.

The *Journal* is growing in popularity with authors. In calendar year 2020, there were 61 submissions; in 2021, 84; and so far in 2022, there have been 143 submissions. There are usually about 20–25 active submissions at any time. Somewhat under 50% of submissions are finally accepted for publication.

Personnel

Subsequent to the 2021–2022 financial year, Dr Frank de Hartog has joined the editorial team as Section Editor, Telecommunications. Consequently, Dr Michael de Percy, who had held that role for several years, has moved to be Section Editor, Public Policy. These changes align the positions with the interests and expertise of the editors.

I would particularly like to thank Dr de Percy and Professor Payam Hanafizadeh for their contribution to the *Journal* in 2021–2022 as Section Editors of the two busiest sections, Telecommunications and Digital Economy.

The *Journal* has an Editorial Advisory Board, drawn from TelSoc members, and a Board of Editors, whose members encourage submissions, help to arrange reviews, and commission specific papers. Editors are drawn from around the world, with a bias towards Australia and its region. The full list of editorial personnel is the following.

Managing Editor

Dr Leith H. Campbell, RMIT University

Section Editors

Dr Frank den Hartog, University of New South Wales, Canberra (*Telecommunications*)

Dr Michael de Percy, University of Canberra (*Public Policy*)

Professor Payam Hanafizadeh, Allameh Tabataba'i University (*Digital Economy*)

Professor Peter Gerrand, University of Melbourne (*Biography; History of Telecommunications*)

Dr Jim Holmes, Incyte Consulting (*Book Reviews*)

Board of Editors

Assoc. Professor Sultana Lubna Alam
Deakin University, Australia

Professor Payam Hanafizadeh
Allameh Tabataba'i University, Iran

Professor Abdallah Al Zoubi
Princess Sumaya University for Technology,
Jordan

* Dr Jim Holmes
Incyte Consulting, Australia & UK

* Professor Trevor Barr
Swinburne University, Australia

* Mr Allan Horsley

* Mr John Burke

Dr Maria Massaro
Korea University, Republic of Korea

* Dr Leith Campbell
RMIT University, Australia

* Mr John Costa

Dr Frank den Hartog
University of NSW, Canberra, Australia

* Dr Michael de Percy
University of Canberra, Australia

* Professor Peter Gerrand
University of Melbourne, Australia

Professor Catherine Middleton
Ryerson University, Canada

* Dr Murray Milner
Milner Consulting, New Zealand

Assoc. Professor Sora Park
University of Canberra, Australia

Mr Vince Pizzica
Pacific Strategic Consulting, USA

Professor Ashraf Tahat
Princess Sumaya University for Technology,
Jordan

* denotes a member of the Editorial Advisory Board. The President of TelSoc is, *ex officio*, a member of the Editorial Advisory Board (if not otherwise a member).

Comments and feedback to any of the editorial team are always welcome.

Leith H. Campbell
Managing Editor
November 2022

TelSoc President's Report on behalf of the Board 2021-22

Coverage of this Report

- Membership
- Events
- Journal of telecommunications and the Digital Economy
- TelSoc Broadband Futures Group
- Policy Development
- Community, industry and political engagement

Introduction

The continuation of the COVID-19 pandemic, especially during the first half of the financial year, has provided TelSoc with continuing challenges and some opportunities. In part this has been a continuation of the circumstances in 2020-21.

Membership

As the Treasurer's Report indicates, our revenue is linked to membership subscriptions, although, with the conduct of the Henry Sutton Oration in May as an in-person event in Melbourne, less than during the preceding two years. Unfortunately, the membership base is ageing and is declining as former industry participants retire or lose interest. We have not been able to market the benefits of membership to a new generation of prospective members and will have to address that more systematically in 2023.

One of the perceived advantages of membership has been the opportunity to network through physical lunchtime and other meetings, and that has been denied us during COVID restrictions, especially in Victoria and NSW. We have had a successful Charles Todd Oration in Sydney in October and the prospects for improvement in this respect are much better in 2023.

Events

In 2022 we have been able to resume some physical events, notably the Charles Todd Oration (including the presentation of the Charles Todd Medal to David Piltz) and the Henry Sutton Oration.

In 2021-22 we have continued with a combination of online lunchtime events and online forums associated with the various broadband issues and themes associated with the work of the TelSoc Broadband Futures Group. The advantage is that these events have involved speakers and audiences well beyond Melbourne

and Sydney. The disadvantage is that they do not serve to build on the networking benefits of physical events.

The events which TelSoc ran in 2021-22 were:

- The Heritage of Telecommunications – A Sustainable Approach, (21 July 2021, online event)
- TelSoc Broadband Futures Forum: LEOs and how they differ from GEOs – OneWeb’s plan in Australia, (11 August 2021, online event)
- TelSoc Broadband Futures Forum: Affordability of Broadband Services, (25 August 2021, online event)
- Radiofrequency Interference to Radar, (21 September 2021, online event)
- The Cloud, IOT and 5G – How the Cloud is transforming Transport, Cities and Industry through Edge and IOT Technologies, (5 October 2021, online event)
- TelSoc Broadband Futures Forum: Australian Broadband Advisory Council (ABAC) Agri-Tech Report, 21 October 2021, online event)
- TelSoc Broadband Futures Forum: 5G Trends and Developments, presented by Ericsson and Telstra, (23 November 2021)
- TelSoc SA Chapter Joint Technical Program – Renewable Energy Presentation, (24 November 2021)
- Taking the Digital Economy Strategy (DES) to the Next Stage, (17 March 2022, online event)
- TelSoc Broadband Futures Forum: ABAC e-Health Report, (28 March 2022, online event)
- Regional Communications and Shared Infrastructure – NSW and New Zealand, (13 April 2022, online event)
- LEO Satellite Services in Australia, (3 May 2022, online event)
- 2022 Henry Sutton Oration presented by Gavin Williams, NBN Co, (26 May 2022)

Journal of Telecommunications and the Digital Economy

During 2021-22, under the leadership of the Managing Editor, Leith Campbell, the Journal has gone from strength to strength, with four issues for the period. Sourcing articles and peer reviews, and producing a Journal of the requisite high standard and reach is a major task. On behalf of the Board and the members, I want to recognise the substantial work of Leith as Managing Editor, the sectional editors, contributors, peer reviewers and the Editorial Advisory Board for continuing to produce a journal of such high standard.

TelSoc Broadband Futures Group (BFG)

The former NBN Futures Group continued to pursue broadband issues and themes in its work during 2022, under the new title, TelSoc Broadband Futures Group.

A major milestone for TelSoc was achieved after the May 2022 Federal Elections, when John Burke and I were able to meet with the new Minister for Communications, Michelle Rowland and her Chief of Staff to discuss the notion of a National Broadband Strategy (now referred to as the National Digital Communications Strategy). This builds on our previous work on broadband planning and especially on the publication in October 2020 of our paper, *Towards a National Broadband Strategy for Australia, 2020–2030*. As a result of that meeting, we now have a firm commitment by the Minister to have her office take the concept further and to scope out how it might be progressed. Importantly, for TelSoc, we now have a very useful linkage with Government of the kind that we have not had previously.

Following a review of its activities, future work and resources (all volunteer), the Broadband Futures Group recommended, and the Board has accepted, that it should cease to operate in its present form, and, instead be reorganised into more specifically target work groups, namely:

- Advocacy and Stakeholder Engagement
- Major Events
- Forums
- Assessment of Progress towards a National Digital Communications Strategy

At the end of 2021 TelSoc's Broadband Futures Group prepared and published an End of Year Report which assessed the extent to which Australia had progressed in achieving the sort of strategy and broadband outcomes envisaged in the 2020 paper, *Towards a National Broadband Strategy for Australia, 2020–2030*. In summary, there had been progress by that point, including the completion of the initial NBN rollout, but there was clearly much that remains to be done in both the demand and supply dimensions. TelSoc is planning to produce a further End of Year Report for 2022 in December. We have the services of a tertiary student from the University of Canberra (the work will be credited towards her degree) to assist in research for the report.

I want to acknowledge the work of the Board and all of our committees during the year. We are a voluntary organisation and can only continue to make a contribution through continued effort of our members as volunteers.

Jim Holmes
President, TelSoc

November, 2022