

**TELECOMMUNICATIONS ASSOCIATION INC**  
**ABN 34 732 327 053**

**NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

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

**Date:** Thursday, 30 November 2023  
**Time:** 12:30 noon AEDT [Melbourne time]  
**Place:** Online Zoom meeting only

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85439813007?pwd=KzBLZUVqZ0NwQXILQ1pJL2ZTdkdCdz09>

Meeting ID: 854 3981 3007    Passcode: 606080

**Business:**

1. To confirm the Minutes of the ninth Annual General Meeting held on 22 November 2022.
2. To receive and consider the Annual Report of the Board, presented by the President, for the year ended 30 June 2023.
3. To receive and consider the Financial Statements of the Association and the Treasurer's Report for the year ended 30 June 2023.
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 and vote on the following resolutions:

**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.

### 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”.

Allan Horsley  
TelSoc Secretary  
10 November 2023

## **TelSoc President's Report on behalf of the Board 2022-23**

### **Coverage of this Report**

- Membership
- Board
- Events
- Journal of Telecommunications and the Digital Economy
- Internships
- Policy Development
- Community, industry and political engagement

### **Introduction**

During 2022-23 COVID restrictions were largely lifted, enabling TelSoc to make plans to resume in-person meetings, particularly for the major events, the Charles Todd Oration in Sydney and Henry Sutton Oration in Melbourne. However, as will be evident from the comments later in this report, TelSoc has not reverted to a pre-COVID normal, nor settled on some form of new normal. We are an Association that is very much in transition.

### **Membership**

TelSoc is a membership organisation, and its capacity to meet its charter of facilitating public discourse on issues, challenges and developments in the telecommunications sector depends on its having a credible membership base into the future.

As the Treasurer's report indicates, our revenue is largely linked to membership. Being a voluntary, not-for-profit organisation, our interest in revenue is simply to enable us to operate. Maximising revenue for its own sake is not what we are about, so long as we can continue to function.

Our membership has been slowly declining, reflecting what happens when former industry participants retire or lose interest. Our efforts to market the benefits of membership to a new generation of prospective members has not yet borne fruit.

During 2022-23 we sought to tap into a range of personal networks in order to reach out to a more diverse audience in terms of age, professional coverage and gender. Our first move in that direction was to ensure that the diversity is reflected in the composition of the Board. Hopefully, that process will continue into 2024.

We have never had any worthwhile results in attracting student members. As a result of the student internships that we organised in 2022-23 and in the current year, we think that we should try harder. There are some motions on the Notice Paper for this meeting that will, if passed, assist in that area.

We have not been able, yet, to establish regular lunchtime events in Melbourne. We will seek to do that in both Melbourne and Sydney during 2024. These programs offer networking opportunities that are not possible online, and encourage membership growth and retention.

## **Board**

At the 2022 AGM the candidates offering their services on the Board were fewer than the vacancies. In addition, there was no nomination for the position of Secretary. When the new board met, it appointed Allan Horsley to that position. During 2023 one of our long-serving Board members, Craig Watkins, was forced by his employment circumstances to take leave for the remainder of his term. We thank Craig for his valuable service, and hope that he might be able to re-engage in future. Also during 2023 we invited Elise Ball to join the Board. She did, and we are very appreciative of the work that she has done in that capacity since.

## **Events**

The two key events – the Henry Sutton Oration in Melbourne and the Charles Todd Oration in Sydney – are now firmly back as fixtures; but other events less so.

- Henry Sutton Oration

The Henry Sutton Oration Melbourne lunch has been traditionally run in the first half of the year. In 2022 it was run in May. However, this year it was deferred to August because of the circumstances of our preferred venue, the Angliss Restaurant. We have been pleased to support the Willam Angliss Catering College, a TAFE organisation, over the years and have always received excellent service from the staff and students.

Our 2023 Henry Sutton Orator was David Tudehope, Managing Director of Macquarie Technology Group (formerly Macquarie Telecommunications). David gave an excellent speech which focussed on the development of the sector and his strong focus on delivering high quality customer service.

- Charles Todd Oration

The Charles Todd Oration was held, after a gap of some years because of COVID, in October 2022, and we were delighted to have as the Orator, Michelle Rowland, the Minister for Communications. She canvassed a wide range of issues and interests

in her address, which was well received by the well-attended event. In the tradition of the Charles Todd Oration, her speech was followed by a question-and-answer session with the audience. An article based on the Oration was published in the March 2023 issue of the Journal.<sup>1</sup>

We have been able to maintain the level of interest in 2023 with an excellent presentation by Rob Nicholls of UNSW Business School, introduced by the Minister. This year's Charles Todd Oration and lunch was held in Sydney on 12 October, and well-attended by a very diverse audience of members and other guests.

Rob gave an excellent speech on the development of regulation from the time of the colonial administrations to the present day, and focussed on the adequacy of current regulatory tools to address the regulatory needs associated with very different markets and technologies, such as Artificial Intelligence. It is expected that an article based on the speech will appear in the December issue (Volume 11 No. 4) of the Journal.

- Other events

During the three years before June 2022, we were able to generate a lot of interest and events dealing with various issues and themes associated with the work of the TelSoc Broadband Futures Group. Initially these events were in-person or hybrid, but they became fully online once COVID restrictions were imposed after March 2021. The benefit was to extend potential audiences across the country, but at the cost of the networking and other benefits that members gained from earlier forms of live participation.

In July 2022, John Burke (Convenor of the TelSoc Broadband Futures Group) and I met with the then newly-appointed Minister and her Chief of Staff. We were keen for the Minister, her office and her Department to take on the next stage of establishing a longer-term, national digital communications plan. We have traction on that, and the Minister has arranged for important scoping work to occur in the Department. It is still proceeding. One consequence of this is that the TelSoc Broadband Futures Group has now been disbanded in its original form, and is no longer a generator of event topics and themes. The reduced numbers of lunchtime events in 2022-23 is apparent.

The events in 2022-23 were:

- Beyond NBN: Improving digital inclusion through a national Digital Communications Strategy (21 February 2023, online event)
- The role of flexibility in a distributed and renewable grid (8 December 2022, in conjunction with Engineers Australia SA Division)

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<sup>1</sup> <https://telsoc.org/journal/jtde-v11-n1/a720> or <https://doi.org/10.18080/jtde.v11n1.720>

- ACCC and the challenge of the telecommunications market (22 November 2022, online event)
- A Human-in-the-loop approach to fibre optic network design (29 November 2022, online event)
- The impacts of technology on electromagnetic spectrum trends (2 November 2022, online event)
- Aboriginal responses to the Overland Telegraph Line, 1870s–1930s (16 August 2022, online event)
- Hugh Bradlow: Post-pandemic Telecommunications (21 July 2022, online event)

### **Journal of Telecommunications and the Digital Economy**

During 2022-23, under the leadership of the Managing Editor, Leith Campbell, the Journal has continued to go 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 section editors, contributors, peer reviewers and the Editorial Advisory Board for continuing to produce a journal of such high standard. The Journal has continued to source materials from a wide diversity of locations, centres of learning and areas of expertise.

A separate report on the Journal has been provided to members.

### **Internships**

During 2022 the Board considered a proposal from Dr Michael de Percy to use students from the University of Canberra to undertake research of interest and value to TelSoc, for which they would gain credit in their courses. The Board committee to oversee the arrangements comprised Dr Michael de Percy and Dr Leith Campbell, both of whom were experienced in tertiary education. The first research covered the approaches in other countries in establishing plans and related frameworks for broadband development and for digital communications generally. A report on the research was published in the Journal at the end of 2022<sup>2</sup> and was the subject of a lunchtime online event earlier this year.<sup>3</sup>

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<sup>2</sup> De Percy, M, Campbell, L. H., & Reddy, N. *Towards an Australian Digital Communications Strategy: Lessons from Cross-Country Case Studies* JTDE, Vol 10 No. 4 (2022), <https://doi.org/10.18080/jtde.v10n4.650>

<sup>3</sup> Beyond NBN: Improving digital inclusion through a national Digital Communications Strategy (21 February 2023, online event)

A further research project is being undertaken by a student from the University of Canberra at present. This research involves the customer experience of Australian subscribers to Starlink satellite services. It will be reported on in due course, likely through the Journal and possibly via a lunchtime event.

### **Policy Development and Engagement**

As mentioned earlier, TelSoc now is able to pursue its agenda directly with the Minister, the Minister's office and the Department. Our agenda is fairly simple, even if achievement has proved to be elusive over the years, and that is that the Australian Government should take a more active part in ensuring that there is a national digital communications plan that is long-term, potentially bipartisan, and which delivers the continuity of purpose and commitment that will encourage investment and development of the sector, and also promote digital inclusion. The Department has established a 2035 Telecom Plan Team to scope this idea further, and has embarked on a series of low-key, but hopefully effective, consultations to that end. To have got to this stage is, in itself, an achievement for TelSoc.

I have to report on the sad and sudden death in August 2023 of John Burke, who did so much as the Convenor of the Broadband Futures Group to develop TelSoc's approach to longer term planning for the sector. We will miss him greatly.

Finally, I want to acknowledge the work of the Board and all of our active and interested members 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, 2023

## TelSoc Treasurer's Report for 2022–2023

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 2022–2023

Opening Cash	\$24,181.56
Revenue	\$42,323.08
Expenses	\$(24,336.16)
<b>Year End Cash Balance</b>	<b>\$42,168.48</b>
Increase/(Reduction) in Cash	\$17,986.92

An Income and Expenditure summary is attached.

### Notes to the Results

The main source of revenue is memberships. Income from memberships was \$20,066, comprising 170 individual payments. Lectures & Presentations cost \$(557): the costs were for software subscriptions (Zoom and Vimeo) and there were no paid events. The Orations are planned to make a small profit or break even. The Henry Sutton Oration was not held during 2022–2023 (the events being held in May 2022 and August 2023). The Charles Todd Oration in October 2022 made a modest loss of \$(825), due mainly to last-minute changes in the number of seats sold. The Journal made an exceptional profit of \$5,897, due to the timing of royalty payments.

The main expense categories were the website \$(3,412) and Administration \$(3,061). Administrative expenses included the last payment for an Executive Director. TelSoc is now an all-volunteer organization.

At the end of the financial year, TelSoc had 154 financial members, about 20 fewer than at the end of 2021–2022.

### Update for Current Financial Year

At 31 October 2023, the cash balance was \$42,401.11. This is a satisfactory total for an organization like TelSoc. Keeping a reasonable cash reserve permits TelSoc to organize larger events with greater financial risk.

The number of financial members at 31 October 2023 was 145, plus 17 life members.

Leith H. Campbell  
TelSoc Treasurer  
November 2023



**TelSoc Accounts 2022-2023**

	July	August	September	October	November	December	January	February	March	April	May	June	Total
<b>Income</b>													
Membership-Individual	2,685.78	233.16	1,164.60	814.86	233.16	116.58	116.58	-	233.16	-	7,227.78	7,239.84	20,065.50
Membership-Corporate	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Lectures & Presentations	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Henry Sutton Oration	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Charles Todd Oration	-	1,713.64	4,273.46	8,138.74	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	14,125.84
Journal	3,204.57	-	28.62	641.78	880.00	-	-	61.20	-	3,195.57	-	-	8,011.74
Communications/Marketing	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Website	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Committees	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Administration	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Sundry	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	120.00	120.00
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>5,890.35</b>	<b>1,946.80</b>	<b>5,466.68</b>	<b>9,595.38</b>	<b>1,113.16</b>	<b>116.58</b>	<b>116.58</b>	<b>61.20</b>	<b>233.16</b>	<b>3,195.57</b>	<b>7,227.78</b>	<b>7,359.84</b>	<b>42,323.08</b>
<b>Expenditure</b>													
Membership-Individual	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	120.00	120.00
Membership-Corporate	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Lectures & Presentations	-	-	-	-	-	-	445.90	-	111.10	-	-	-	557.00
Henry Sutton Oration	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Charles Todd Oration	-	4,356.00	-	9,645.05	950.00	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	14,951.05
Journal	1,041.03	-	-	-	-	453.23	-	620.20	-	-	-	-	2,114.46
Communications/Marketing	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Website	387.45	275.00	275.00	275.00	275.00	275.00	275.00	275.00	275.00	275.00	275.00	275.00	3,412.45
Committees	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Administration	3,000.00	-	-	-	-	-	-	61.20	-	-	-	-	3,061.20
Sundry	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	120.00	120.00
<b>Total Expenditure</b>	<b>4,428.48</b>	<b>4,631.00</b>	<b>275.00</b>	<b>9,920.05</b>	<b>1,225.00</b>	<b>728.23</b>	<b>720.90</b>	<b>956.40</b>	<b>386.10</b>	<b>275.00</b>	<b>275.00</b>	<b>515.00</b>	<b>24,336.16</b>
<b>Net Cash Flow</b>	<b>1,461.87</b>	<b>(2,684.20)</b>	<b>5,191.68</b>	<b>(324.67)</b>	<b>(111.84)</b>	<b>(611.65)</b>	<b>(604.32)</b>	<b>(895.20)</b>	<b>(152.94)</b>	<b>2,920.57</b>	<b>6,952.78</b>	<b>6,844.84</b>	<b>17,986.92</b>
Opening Balance	24,181.56	25,643.43	22,959.23	28,150.91	27,826.24	27,714.40	27,102.75	26,498.43	25,603.23	25,450.29	28,370.86	35,323.64	
Closing Balance	25,643.43	22,959.23	28,150.91	27,826.24	27,714.40	27,102.75	26,498.43	25,603.23	25,450.29	28,370.86	35,323.64	42,168.48	

## Report on the *Journal of Telecommunications and the Digital Economy*

**2022–2023**

### 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 had a publishing history stretching back to 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 Ranking

The *Journal* is indexed by Google Scholar and Scopus. It is now ranked “Q2” (meaning it is in the second quartile of influence in a subject area) by Scopus, but only “Q3” by Scimago, based on Scopus data to 2022. The ranking is important for Australian academic authors.

Rankings 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, as well as suggesting suitable references to authors. The *Journal* currently has a citation index (ratio of citations to papers) of 1.8 and an *H* index of 12 (meaning that there are 12 papers with 12 or more citations).

### Article areas in 2022–2023

Section	Issue			
	10(3)	10(4)	11(1)	11(2)
Editorial or Foreword	1	1	1	3
Public Policy	1	2	2	
Special Interest Paper			2	
Special Issue Paper				12
Digital Economy	5	1	2	
Telecommunications	2	2	1	1
Biography or History	1	2	2	1
Review or Technical Note		1		
<b>Total items</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>17</b>

Subsequently, volume 11, number 3 has been published in September.

### Publication in 2022–2023

For the financial year 2022–2023, the table shows the division of articles by section of the journal. Volume 11, no. 2, which contained a special issue on “Women’s Participation in the Digital Economy and Digital Society”, included a Foreword by Vicki Brady, the Telstra CEO.

There were several highlights in the last financial year. A major one was the special issue on “Women’s Participation in the Digital Economy and Digital Society”. This attracted a wide range of submissions from around the world and introduced new readers and potential new authors to the *Journal*. We are seeing an increase the number of submissions to the Digital Economy section that are really focused on *Digital Society*.

The other highlights involve individual papers, published in volume 11, number 1. The first was “Aboriginal Interactions with the Overland Telegraph Line, 1870–1880” by Philip Jones from the South Australian Museum. Following the 150th anniversary of the completion of the Overland Telegraph Line in 1872, this paper offered a new perspective on the coming of the Line. The second highlight was the publication of the “2022 Charles Todd Oration” by Michelle Rowland, the Minister for Communications.

The *Journal* is growing in popularity with authors. In calendar year 2020, there were 61 submissions; in 2021, 84; in 2022, 160; and so far in 2023, there have been 209 submissions. There are usually about 40–50 active submissions at any time. Somewhat under 50% of submissions are finally accepted for publication.

### Personnel

I would particularly like to acknowledge the ongoing contribution of the Section Editors of the busiest sections: Dr Michael de Percy (Public Policy), Dr Frank den Hartog (Telecommunications) and Professor Payam Hanafizadeh (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 Abdallah Al Zoubi  
Princess Sumaya University for Technology,  
Jordan

\* Professor Trevor Barr  
Swinburne University, Australia

\* Mr John Burke†  
(resigned July 2023)

\* 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 Payam Hanafizadeh  
Allameh Tabataba'i University, Iran

\* Dr Jim Holmes  
Incyte Consulting, Australia & UK

\* Mr Allan Horsley

Dr Maria Massaro  
Korea University, Republic of Korea

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 2023