

Annual General Meeting of the Australian Society of Authors

Time: 1pm - 2pm AEDT

Date: 11 November 2024

Chaired by: Sophie Cunningham

Forum: Zoom Video Conference

Membership present:

Sophie Cunningham (Chair), Jock Given (Treasurer), Malcolm Knox, Sarah Ayoub, Lee McKerracher, Kelly Gardiner, Leanne Hall, Jennifer Mills, Sam Elkin, Ron Dick, Kara Perrin, Hazel Edwards, Tania Blanchard

ASA Staff present:

Lucy Hayward (CEO), Lauren Anderson, Emalee Walker (Authors Legal), Victoria Chylek (Authors Legal)

Meeting Opened: 1.15pm

Welcome

1. Zoom housekeeping and an **Acknowledgement of Country** by Chair.

Meeting Open

2. A quorum of more than 10 members was confirmed and the meeting was declared open by the Chair.
3. There were no proxies to declare.
4. The ASA received apologies from the following members: Mirandi Riwoe, Dub Leffler.
5. CEO announced the results of the 2024 Director Election. The directors elected to the board for a three-year term are Sarah Ayoub, Leanne Hall, Malcolm Knox and Mirandi Riwoe. Acknowledgement and thanks given to those who stood for election: Anna Featherstone, Kathryn Powell, Sarah Schmidt and Karen Whittle-Herbert.
6. The minutes of the previous AGM, held 13 November 2023, were moved by Chair and seconded by Jock Given. Motion carried.
7. No matters arose from the previous minutes.

Chair's Report - Sophie Cunningham

8. Chair provided their report. Highlights 2024: Welcome Lucy Hayward as the new ASA CEO, paid tribute to the hard work of Olivia Lanchester, the previous CEO of almost 5 years. Discussed significant AI advocacy and the first Digital Lending Rights payments which were made this year. Noted increase of restrictions on freedom of speech. Thanks Bronwyn Bancroft and Kirsty Murray who left the Board this year. Recognised Ann James as ASA Medal recipient. No questions were asked. A motion that the Chair's report be accepted was proposed by the Chair and seconded by Sarah Ayoub. Motion carried.

Treasurer's Report - Jock Given

9. Treasurer provided their report: returned a small surplus – largely led by the RISE grant to upgrade digital infrastructure. Membership numbers stable. Revenue for activities increased, with terrific work from staff to make that happen. Expenses grew, staff expenses increased due to increase of staff number. Small increase in events expenses, due to 60th birthday celebrations. Expenses from building maintenance. No change to director fees. Thanks to Chair, Deputy Chair, and auditors, BDJ. Motion that Treasurer's report be accepted was proposed by Treasurer and seconded by Kelly Gardiner. Motion carried.

CEO Report – Lucy Hayward

10. CEO provided their report: warm thanks to Olivia, who led the team this past financial year and left our organisation in such a strong position. Advocacy has been dominated by AI, Cultural Policy, and Copyright. Publishers have announced licencing deals for AI, and there is a great need for publishing agreements to include AI clauses and corresponding right for remuneration. The ASA's income remains stable. Organisational funding from Creative Australia to be used to fund Authors Legal, Rates of Pay, Advice Service, Resources, and delivering services to increase job opportunities for illustrators. Thanks to staff and board. Motion that CEO's report be accepted was proposed by Chair and seconded by Jennifer Mills. Motion carried.

General Business

11. No general business was raised.

Closure

12. Thank you to all that attended. Chair declared the meeting closed.

Meeting closed: 1.44pm