

**BENEVOLENT ORGANISATION FOR DEVELOPMENT, HEALTH AND INSIGHT (BODHI)  
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING  
SUNDAY 31 MAY 2020  
11.30AM – 12.30PM AEST  
AS A CONSEQUENCE OF COVID-19 INTERSTATE TRAVEL RESTRICTIONS THIS BODHI AGM  
WAS CONDUCTED ELECTRONICALLY VIA ZOOM MEETINGS.**

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**1. Present**

- Dr Devin Bowles, BODHI President and AGM Chairperson
- Ms Lucia Arman, BODHI Vice President and AGM Minute Taker
- Professor Colin Butler, BODHI Treasurer and BODHI co-founder
- Ms Maxine Ross, BODHI Secretary
- Dr Gilles Rohan, BODHI Committee Member
- Dr Ajay Niranjane, BODHI Committee Member
- Ms Emilia della Torre, BODHI Committee Member
- Mr Kulottam Chakma, BODHI community Adviser
- Dr Bryan West, Fortress Learning and BODHI Advertiser and Member
- Dr John Gray, BODHI Member

**2. Apologies**

- Mr Brian and Mrs Geraldine Warren
- Ms Jane Hudspeth
- Professor David Shearman

**3. Confirm Previous BODHI AGM Minutes**

- Professor Colin Butler indicated there was an error in last year's BODHI Communication Report. The weekly number of visitors to the BODHI web site was not 1,500-2,000 but rather 150-200 visits.
- Maxine Ross proposed to accept the previous BODHI AGM minutes taking into account the amendment to last year's BODHI Communications Report as outlined by Professor Butler.

**4. BODHI President's Report**

- Dr Devin Bowles provided a verbal overview of BODHI's undertakings for calendar year 2019 making specific reference to BODHI two key projects (1) the Bahujan Hitay, Pune, India project and (2) the Aryaloka Computer Education project. He noted the visit to Australia by Karunadeepa and the symposium held at the ANU, attended (among others) by Mr Lhakpa Tshoko, representative of His Holiness the XIth Dalai Lama in Australasia.

**5. BODHI Treasurer's Report**

- Professor Colin Butler advised that BODHI Treasurer's report was previously distributed to BODHI Office Bearers and Committee Members via email and is also currently available on the BODHI website.

- Professor Butler provided a verbal overview of the Treasurer's financial report for the 2019 calendar year.
- It was agreed to defer to another meeting or to a special meeting the passing (and minuting) of a motion to reduce one of BODHI term deposits by either \$10,000 or \$20,000 as indicated in Item 13 of the Treasurer's 2019 financial report.

## **6. BODHI Gender Report**

- Ms Emilia della Torre explained that Dr Jane Stephens from the Green Tara Trust, Maxine Ross and herself were members of the BODHI Gender Subcommittee.
- Emilia explained that the Gender Subcommittee required a President, that Emilia della Torre was nominated and had accepted the role of President for the Gender Subcommittee.
- Emilia indicated that all would be welcome to join the Gender Subcommittee.
- Members of the Gender Subcommittee recently submitted a proposal for a joint project between BODHI and the Green Tara Trust seeking to train a small number of mental health workers in Nepal to provide counselling for women who identify as Gay, Bisexual, Lesbian, Transgender, Intersex (GLBTI).
- The proposal is currently in its fledgling stages and will require discussion and eventually BODHI approval.
- The Gender Subcommittee also have a regular column in the BODHI newsletter.
- Ms Maxine Ross identified that it would be good to have other people join the Gender Subcommittee and the participation of young people would be especially welcomed.

## **7. BODHI Communications Report**

- Professor Colin Butler provided a verbal overview of the BODHI Communications Report (this report also currently available online on the BODHI website). Key issues outlined include:
  - BODHI web pages are easy to create and manage but require a dedicated amount of time to keep up to date.
  - Suggestions for any improvements to the BODHI website are welcomed.
  - People are encouraged to "share" and to "like" content on the BODHI Facebook pages.
  - Kulottam Chakma advised that BODHI is popular with the Chakma community and is willing to share BODHI Facebook pages with the Chakma community.

- BODHI Facebook pages often contain posts that are not appropriate and are subsequently removed.
- Advertising for BODHI on Facebook remains contentious. Most donors and donations come from people who know or who have met Professor Colin Butler and/or others who are known to other members of the BODHI Committee. None of the over 1000 Facebook “friends” of BODHI have ever donated, unless also known personally to Professor Butler (there are three recent examples of first-time Facebook donors to BODHI, but all three have been known personally to Prof. Butler for decades), despite being exposed to BODHI updates, potentially for over a decade. Facebook advertising would expose BODHI to Facebook subscribers who are not currently “friends” of BODHI. However, given that existing friends – despite being either selected or self-selected – have never donated (other than as noted above), it seems unlikely that people newly aware of BODHI, notified only by a paid advertisement, would donate.
- BODHI has a Twitter account. This is maintained by Professor Butler but he has currently lost the password and it is difficult to recover.
- The BODHI Newsletter (“BODHI Times”) continues to form part of BODHI communication strategies, albeit not as lengthy as it once was. The most recent edition, January 2020, was BODHI Time number 55.
- Time and resources permitting BODHI specific Youtube videos would be worth exploring.
- Ms Lucia Arman’s nephew is a musician and whose music video clips are developed gratis by media studies students at the University of South Australia. Lucia Arman will make further enquiries as to whether this might also be a resource for BODHI.

## **8. BODHI Reports**

- Dr Gilles Rohan moved a motion that all BODHI reports as presented at the BODHI AGM be accepted.
- Kullotam Chakma seconded the motion.
- This motion was carried unopposed.

## **9. Election of BODHI Office Bearers and Committee Members**

- Dr Devin Bowles advised that the purpose of an AGM is to elect its Office Bearers and Committee Members.
- Dr Bowles enquired whether any person felt disadvantaged by the modification of the BODHI Agenda on 25 May 2020 in relation to an omission by oversight of agenda item 1.4 (*i.e. Elections of committee members, public officer and appointment of auditor*).
- All present indicated unanimously that they did not in any way feel disadvantaged.

- Dr Bowles indicated that the election of BODHI Office Bearers and Committee Members proceed.
- Dr Bowles advised that only one nomination had been received for each position but that there remains capacity for the election of two more Committee Members.
- Nominations for the two vacant positions on the BODHI Committee could, according to the BODHI Constitution, be undertaken on the day, should anyone present at the AGM be interested in nominating for those positions.
- Single nominations had been received via the BODHI Secretary for the following positions; these were therefore accepted:
  - Dr Devin Bowles, BODHI President
  - Ms Lucia Arman, BODHI Vice President
  - Professor Colin Butler, BODHI Treasurer
  - Ms Maxine Ross, BODHI Secretary
  - Dr Ajay Niranjane, BODHI Committee Member
  - Dr Gilles Rohan, BODHI Committee Member
  - Ms Emilia della Torre, BODHI Committee Member

Ms Jane Hudspeth, who resides in Tasmania, is happy to be re-nominated as BODHI Public Officer. All those present agreed to nominate Jane Hudspeth as the Public Officer.

#### **10. Appointing a BODHI Auditor**

- Camerons Accountants & Advisors, Launceston, Tasmania audited BODHI in this financial year.
- Camerons are familiar with the workings of BODHI and provide their auditing service at a discounted rate. A new or different auditor would not have the same knowledge about BODHI as Camerons currently do.
- Professor Colin Butler moved a motion that Camerons Accountants & Advisors in Launceston, Tasmania be nominated as the BODHI auditor for the next financial year. Dr Ajay Niranjane seconded the motion. All agreed. This motion was carried unopposed.
- Professor Butler thanked Greg Harper from Camerons for his input over the years.

#### **11. Business Arising**

- None noted from BODHI AGM in 2019.

#### **12. Special Business**

- No special business to discuss.

#### **13. Date and place of next BODHI AGM in 2021.**

- Next BODHI AGM to be held in either March or April 2021.
- All agreed that meeting over Zoom was a good idea.
- Date and place of next BODHI AGM to be advised given the current and unfolding situation with COVID-19.

**14. Meeting Closed 12.30pm**