

**Benevolent Organisation for Development, Health & Insight**  
Founding Patron: His Holiness XIV Dalai Lama



BODHI Australia Inc  
4 Queen St,  
Campbell Town, TAS, Australia 7210  
Telephone: +61-42881-1675  
ABN: 90 575 989 334  
<http://www.bodhi-australia.com/>  
[bodhiaus@gmail.com](mailto:bodhiaus@gmail.com)

**MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**  
**SUNDAY 22 MAY 2022**  
**11.00 AM – 12.30PM (AEST)**  
**MEETING CONDUCTED ELECTRONICALLY VIA TWO SEQUENTIAL**  
**ZOOM MEETINGS (11.00AM -11.35AM, resumed at 11.50AM - 12.30PM)**

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**1. Present**

- Ms Lucia Arman, BODHI Australia President, AGM chairperson and minute taker.
- Professor Colin Butler, BODHI Australia Treasurer, Secretary and BODHI Australia and BODHI USA co-founder.
- Dr Ajay Niranjane, BODHI Australia Committee Member.
- Dr Gilles Rohan, BODHI Australia Committee Member.
- Professor Elise DeVido, BODHI Australia member and President, BODHI America.
- Mr Kulottam Chakma, BODHI Australia Community Advisor.
- Ms Melinda Mayne, BODHI Australia, Member.

**2. Apologies**

- Jane Hudspeth, BODHI Australia member and Public Officer.
- Dr John Gray, BODHI Australia member.

**3. Ordinary business:**

***3.1 to confirm the minutes of the last preceding annual general meeting and of any general meeting held since that meeting;***

- Dr Niranjane moved that the Minutes to the BODHI Australia Annual General Meeting dated 30 May 2021 be accepted as a true and accurate record. Professor Butler seconded. None opposed. Carried.

***3.2 to receive from the committee, auditor and servants of the Organisation reports on the operations and transactions of the Organisation during the last preceding financial year of the Organisation; (i.e. reports from the President, Treasurer, Communications and Gender for calendar year 2021);***

*3.2.1 President's Report*

- Ms Arman, spoke to the *President's Report* as provided in writing and submitted to all BODHI Australia AGM meeting attendees prior to the AGM (and available online at the BODHI website).

*3.2.2 Treasurer's Report*

- Professor Butler spoke to his BODHI Australia *Treasurer's Report* as provided in writing and submitted to all BODHI Australia AGM attendees prior to the AGM (and available online at the BODHI website).

*Transfer of money from fixed interest-bearing term deposits to a non-fixed bank account*

- Professor Butler advised that he was tasked last year with transferring A\$10,000-20,000 from a fixed term deposit (held with Bendigo Bank) to a BODHI Australia bank account that would allow him to readily access money if needed. Professor Butler explained that he did not follow through with the transfer because of time pressure at the AGM (mistakenly, he thought this needed to be documented in the minutes and seconded); in the end the money was not needed.
- Professor Butler advised that he would, however, still like to reduce one of BODHI Australia's term deposits (held with Bendigo Bank) by A\$10,000 and to transfer this money into another account, where the money can be immediately accessed, if necessary. Dr Niranjane moved that Professor Butler be given permission to do so. Dr Rohan seconded. None opposed. Carried.

*BODHI Australia Bank Account Signatories*

- Professor Butler discussed signatories to the BODHI Australia accounts, explaining that he, Ms Arman, and a previous BODHI Australia Committee member, Ms Emilia Della Torre were all current signatories to BODHI Australia accounts.
- Professor Butler explained that Ms Della Torre was no longer on the BODHI Australia Committee and needed to be removed as a signatory.
- Professor Butler asked if anyone else was interested and/or able to be a signatory.
- Ms Melinda Mayne (of South Australia) stated that she would be willing to undertake the task subject to her election to the BODHI Australia Committee.

- Dr Gilles Rohan said he was willing to consider being a signatory but wanted to think about it first.

### 3.2.3 Auditor's Report

- Professor Butler explained that BODHI Australia auditor's report, completed by Camerons Accounting, Launceston was circulated to all BODHI Australia Committee Members prior to the AGM for approval. It was subsequently approved by all BODHI Committee Members and formally signed off by Ms Arman, as BODHI President and by Professor Butler, as treasurer.
- Professor Butler will place the auditor's report (in PDF format) on the ACNC website prior to 30 June 2021.

### 3.2.4 Communication Report

- Professor Butler spoke to the *Communication Report* as provided in writing and distributed to all BODHI Australia AGM meeting attendees prior to the AGM (and available online at the BODHI website).
- Professor Butler noted that the two most visited web pages (in the most recent month) concerned Dr Ambedkar and Dr Maurice King second. Professor Butler however corrected that understanding, indicating that the second most visited webpage was the Bahujan Hitay Pune Project (BHPP). Dr King was third.

### 3.2.5 Gender Report

- Ms Arman spoke to the *Gender Report* as provided in writing and submitted to all BODHI Australia AGM meeting attendees prior to the AGM (and available online at the BODHI website).
- Dr Rohan, spoke about his role in the *BODHI Australia Gender sub-committee* indicating that the *BODHI Australia Gender sub-committee* still exists. Dr Rohan went onto explain that BODHI Australia's commitment to Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, Transgender, Intersex, Queer (GLBTIQ) issues were not reflected in the *Gender Report* nor reflected was the potential project proposal for the GLBTIQ community in Nepal initiated at the start of the COVID19 pandemic i.e. a training program that would train service providers and peers on how to respond positively to a person disclosing their sexual orientation.
- After some discussion all present agreed that BODHI Australia should reflect and include its commitment to GLBTIQ issues in developing countries and including BODHI Australia giving due consideration to funding projects that seek to address issues of discrimination and persecution for GLBTIQ communities in developing countries. All agreed that these issues should be reflected in the *Gender Report* and that the *Gender Report* be updated to reflect those amendments.

- All agreed that the project proposal that was on the table for discussion at the start of the pandemic in relation to GLBTIQ communities in Nepal be reflected in the *Gender Report* and given due consideration going forward as to its viability as a BODHI Australia funded project.
- Given all *BODHI Australia Committee Members* are committed to issues of gender equity and the human rights of GLBTIQ communities all agreed that the *BODHI Australia Gender sub-committee* be disbanded and that all gender and GLBTIQ issues be worked through as a collective.

### 3.2.6 *Acceptance of all BODHI Australia Reports*

- Dr Niranjane moved that (a) the *Gender Report* as prepared by Ms Arman be amended to reflect BODHI Australia commitment to working with GLBTIQ communities in developing countries; and that, the then *BODHI Australia Gender sub-committee* proposal to work with GLBTIQ communities in Nepal initiated at the start of the pandemic be reflected in the *Gender Report* and revisited as a potential BODHI Australia funded project; and that (b) the *Media Report* as prepared by Professor Butler be amended to reflect the two leading sites on the BODHI Australia webpages; and that (c) all other reports be accepted as presented at the BODHI Australia AGM . Professor DeVido seconded the motion. None opposed. Carried.

### **3.3 to elect the officers of the Organisation and the ordinary committee members;**

- Ms Arman advised that the purpose of an AGM is to elect its Office Bearers and Committee Members.
- Single nominations were received via the BODHI Australia Secretary, Professor Butler, for the following positions: and were therefore accepted:
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  - 1. Ms Lucia Arman, BODHI Australia President.
  - 2. Professor Colin Butler, BODHI Australia Secretary and Treasurer (both roles by the one person permissible under the BODHI Constitution).
  - 3. Dr Gilles Rohan, BODHI Australia Committee Member.
  - 4. Dr Ajay Niranjane, BODHI Australia Committee Member.
  - 5. Professor Elise DeVido, BODHI Australia Committee Member.
  - 6. Ms Melinda Mayne, BODHI Australia Committee Member.

#### *Vacant nominations (Vice-President and Ordinary Committee Member)*

- Mr Kulottam Chakma declined an invitation to join the BODHI Australia Committee, indicating he preferred to retain his position as BODHI Australia Community Advisor instead.
- Ms Arman explained that Dr Devin Bowles had indicated via a telephone conversation with her prior to the AGM that he was still keen to nominate for the position of BODHI Australia Vice-President.

- Ms Arman also explained that Ms Maxine Ross had also indicated via SMS communications prior to the AGM that she was interested in nominating as a BODHI Australia Committee member.
- The BODHI Australia Constitution allows positions to remain vacant until the next AGM; and including co-opting members to join the BODHI Australia Committee outside of session.
- Ms Arman proposed she make contact with Dr Bowles and Ms Ross to seek their continued interest in the above-mentioned roles; and from there, if still keen, co-opt them to join the BODHI Australia Committee.
- All present agreed that Ms Arman should proceed as indicated.

#### **3.4 to appoint the auditor and determine his or her remuneration;**

- Cameron's Accountants and Advisors, Launceston, Tasmania audited BODHI Australia in this financial year.
- Professor Butler indicated that there are risks in selecting another auditor as they would not be as familiar with the workings of BODHI Australia. Camerons are not overly expensive and therefore affordable.
- Professor Butler moved a motion to continue with Cameron's Accountants and Advisors, Launceston, Tasmania as the BODHI Australia auditor for the next financial year. Ms Mayne seconded the motion. None opposed. Carried.

#### **3.5 to appoint a Public Officer;**

- Ms Jane Hudspeth, who resides in Tasmania, is happy to be re-nominated as BODHI Australia's Public Officer.
- Professor Butler moved that Ms Jane Hudspeth be re-appointed BODHI Australia's Public Officer. Dr Niranjane seconded. None opposed. Carried.

#### **3.6 to determine the remuneration of servants of the organisation;**

- Currently 7.5% of all BODHI Australia's annual income (minus donations made by BODHI Committee Members in recognition of the contribution already made to BODHI by Committee Members) are provided to Professor Butler in recognition of the role he undertakes in the day to day and operational management of BODHI business.
- Dr Niranjane commented that Professor Butler should receive 7.5% of all BODHI annual income and including annual donations received by the BODHI Australia Committee Members.
- Mr Kulottam Chakma interjected stating Professor Butler's remuneration should be reviewed and proposed he instead be given 10% of BODHI

Australia annual donations and including any annual donations received by BODHI Australia Committee Members.

- Mr Kulottam Chakma proposed a motion that Professor Butler's receive 10% of BODHI Australia annual donations, including donations received by BODHI Australia Committee Members. Dr Niranjane seconded. None opposed. Carried.

#### **4. Business Arising (if any).**

##### *BODHI Australia Bank Account Signatories*

- Given Ms Mayne's successful nomination and election to the BODHI Australia Committee Ms Mayne's capacity to become a BODHI Australia signatory was confirmed.
- Dr Gilles Rohan (of ACT) stated he would be willing to be a fourth signatory but only to be engaged as a last resort and providing no one else was available to assist.
- Ms Arman moved a motion that the above be accepted. Professor DeVido seconded. None opposed. Carried.

#### **4. Special Business.**

- Nothing to report.

#### **5. Date and place of BODHI Australia 2023 A.G.M.**

- BODHI Australia Committee Members to determine the date of the next BODHI AGM as the time draws closer.
- Dr Niranjane requested that whilst it had been convenient to meet online, over the past two years, and especially while the COVID19 pandemic was raging in Australia, that it would be good in the future for the BODHI Australia AGM to be face to face, at least every second year.
- Dr Rohan remarked that COVID19 was still present in the community and that infection rates in Australia continue to be high. Dr Rohan suggested that face to face BODHI Australia AGM be delayed until effective vaccine exists, and/or COVID19 infections no longer posed a threat. In the interim, in order to protect against infection, BODHI Australia AGM's should be held via Zoom.
- Ms Arman forwarded a motion to continue to hold BODHI Australia's AGMs online, but then face to face, every second year, when there is an effective COVID19 vaccine or until such time as COVID19 infection rates no longer pose a threat in Australia.

#### **6. Meeting closed at 12.30pm**