

**BENEVOLENT ORGANISATION FOR DEVELOPMENT, HEALTH, AND INSIGHT  
(BODHI) AUSTRALIA  
MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

**SATURDAY 20 MAY 2023  
11.00 AM – 12.00 PM (AEST)  
MEETING CONDUCTED ELECTRONICALLY VIA ZOOM**

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**1. Present**

- Ms Lucia Arman, BODHI Australia President and AGM Minute Taker.
- Professor Colin Butler, BODHI Australia Treasurer, Secretary and BODHI Australia and BODHI (US) co-founder.
- Professor Elise DeVido, BODHI Australia member and President, BODHI (US).
- Dr Ajay Niranjane, BODHI Australia Committee Member.
- Dr Gilles Rohan, BODHI Australia Committee Member.
- Ms Melinda Mayne, BODHI Australia, Member.

**2. Apologies**

- Mr Kulottam Chakma, BODHI Australia Community Advisor.
- Dr Devin Bowles, BODHI Australia Vice President.
- Dr Tony Edwards, 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 22 May 2022 be accepted as a true and accurate record. Professor DeVido 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, Secretary for calendar year 2022);***

***3.2.1 President's Report 2023 (focussing on 2022 calendar year)***

- 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 also available on BODHI Australia website).

### 3.2.2 *Treasurer's Report 2023 (focussing on 2022 calendar year)*

- Professor Butler spoke to the BODHI Australia *Treasurer's Report* as provided in writing and submitted to all BODHI Australia AGM attendees prior to the AGM (and also available on BODHI Australia web pages).
- Professor Butler explained that the BODHI Australia auditor's report, completed by Camerons Accounting and Advisors, Launceston, Tas 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 Australia President.

#### 3.2.2.1 *BODHI Australia audit report and Executive Committee home addresses*

- Professor Butler referred to the BODHI Australia audit and asked whether BODHI Executive Committee members wanted their home addresses removed from the audit report given the document will be publicly available online.
- All those present agreed to ask for their personal home addresses be removed from the BODHI Australia audit report.

#### Action

- Professor Butler to email Camerons Pty Ltd asking that all BODHI Australia Executive Committee members' home addresses be removed from the document and that an updated copy without the home addresses of the BODHI Australia Executive Committee be provided for uploading to the ACNC website.
- Once amended Professor Butler will place the BODHI Australia auditor's report in PDF format on the ACNC website prior to 30 June 2023.

#### 3.2.2.2 *BODHI Australia ANZ bank account signatories*

- Professor Butler referred to the current BODHI Australia ANZ Bank Account stating that Dr Bowles would like to be removed as a signatory, and mentioned that Dr Bowles (an apology for today's meeting) had previously circulated this wish, to the committee.
- Professor Butler proposed that Ms Arman be appointed as as the second signatory on the account, in lieu of Dr Bowles.
- Professor DeVido moved that Dr Bowles be removed from the BODHI Australia ANZ Account and that Ms Arman be appointed in his place, as the second signatory on the account. Dr Niranjane seconded. None opposed. Carried.

#### 3.2.3 *Secretary's Report*

- Professor Butler spoke to the BODHI Australia *Secretary's Report* as provided in writing and submitted to all BODHI Australia AGM attendees prior to the AGM (and also available on BODHI Australia web pages) and where he also added the following:
  - BODHI Times newsletter is distributed to 194 recipients.
  - To receive the BODHI Australia newsletter people, via Mailchimp, recipients must give permission.

- The register of BODHI Australia members to date totals 260 people.

### **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:
  - Ms Lucia Arman, BODHI Australia President.
  - Dr Devin Bowles, BODHI Australia Vice President.
  - Professor Colin Butler, BODHI Australia Secretary and Treasurer (both roles by the one person permissible under the BODHI Constitution).
  - Dr Gilles Rohan, BODHI Australia Committee Member.
  - Dr Ajay Niranjane, BODHI Australia Committee Member.
  - Professor Elise DeVido, BODHI Australia Committee Member.
  - Ms Melinda Mayne, BODHI Australia Committee Member.

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

- Camerons Accountants and Advisors, Launceston, Tasmania audited BODHI Australia in this financial year.
- Professor Butler indicated that Camerons Accountants and Advisors are familiar with the workings of BODHI Australia and are affordable.
- Professor Butler advised that he as BODHI Australia Treasurer and as recommended by Camerons Accountants and Advisors now use MYOB as the accounting software tool to assist with the preparation of BODHI Australia audits. MYOB interfaces with Camerons Accountant and Advisors accounting systems. BODHI Australia pays a monthly service fee to use the software.
- Dr Rohan enquired whether Camerons Accountants and Advisors would offer a discount now that BODHI Australia is using and paying for the use of MYOB. Ms Arman agreed to discuss with Greg Harper, Accounting Partner, Camerons Accountants and Advisors and would advise the BODHI Australia Executive of his reply.
- Professor Butler moved a motion to continue with Camerons Accountants and Advisors, Launceston, Tasmania as the BODHI Australia auditor for the next financial year. Dr Rohan seconded the motion. None opposed. Carried.

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

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

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

- Currently 10% of all BODHI Australia's annual income is provided to Professor Butler in recognition of the role and the many hours he undertakes in the day to day and operational management of BODHI Australia business.
- Dr Rohan moved a motion that Professor Butler's continue to receive 10% of BODHI Australia annual donations in 2023. Dr Niranjane seconded. None opposed. Carried.

#### **4. Business Arising**

##### *4.1 Adding Ms Mayne and Dr Rohan as Bendigo Bank Account Signatories*

- Ms Melinda Mayne and Dr Gilles Rohan are now formally approved signatories to BODHI Australia Bendigo Bank Accounts.

##### *4.2 BODHI Australia President's Report 2022 (for calendar year 2021): Gender Report Amendments*

- BODHI Australia's 2022 President's Report was amended to reflect the following agreed changes:
  - BODHI Australia's commitment to progressing GLBTIQ+ issues in the global South.
  - Noting that the proposed project for GLBTIQ+ women in partnership with the Green Tara Trust and NGO partner in Nepal be revisited and progressed in 2022.
- Ms Arman reported that all amendments were made and that the updated President's Report upon completion was recirculated to BODHI Australia Executive Committee Members for comment and/or approval.
- Once amended, updated and approved, the 2022 (for the calendar year 2021) President's Report was uploaded to the BODHI Australia website.

##### *4.3 BODHI Australia 2022 (for calendar 2021) Communications Report Amendments*

- Professor Butler confirmed he had amended the BODHI Australia 2022 Communication report to reflect the two leading sites on the BODHI Australia web pages.

##### *4.4 BODHI Australia Out of Session nominations for Vice President and Committee Member for 2022*

- Ms Arman in her role as BODHI Australia President reached out to Dr Bowles to ascertain his continuing interest in the role of BODHI Australia Vice President in 2022; and to Ms Maxine Ross in her continued interest as a BODHI Australia Committee Member:
  - Dr Bowles advised that he wished to continue in the role of BODHI Australia Vice President in 2022 and was subsequently appointed to the role out of session.

- Ms Maxine Ross advised she did not wish to renominate for the position of BODHI Australia Committee Member. Ms Ross was thanked for her past contribution as an Executive Committee member of BODHI Australia.

**5. Date and place of BODHI Australia 2024 A.G.M.**

- BODHI Australia Committee Members to determine the date of the next BODHI Australia AGM as the time draws closer (albeit the AGM is likely to be held sometime in May).
- Dr Niranjane suggested that the next BODHI Australia AGM be face to face, albeit recognising that not all would be able to attend.
- As many of the BODHI Australia Executive Committee members live in Canberra it was suggested hosting the AGM in Canberra next year. It was further suggested that for those who could not attend the face to face BODHI Australia AGM that they could participate online via Zoom meetings.
- Ms Arman summarised that BODHI Australia AGM's next year to be a hybrid meeting, with AGM to be held in the ACT for those who can attend face to face and online via zoom meetings for those unable to attend in person.

**6. Meeting closed at 11.55 am (AEST)**