

## **Benevolent Organisation for Development, Health & Insight (BODHI Australia)**



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 SATURDAY 25 MAY 2024 02.00 PM – 03.00 PM (AEST) MEETING CONDUCTED ELECTRONICALLY VIA ZOOM**

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#### **1. Present**

- Ms Lucia Arman, BODHI Australia President and AGM Minute Taker.
- Honorary Professor Colin Butler, BODHI Australia Treasurer, Secretary and BODHI Australia and BODHI (US) co-founder.
- Professor Elise DeVido, BODHI Australia Executive Committee Member and President, BODHI (US).
- Dr Ajay Niranjane, BODHI Australia Executive Committee Member.
- Dr Gilles Rohan, BODHI Australia Executive Committee Member.
- Ms Jane Hudspeth, BODHI Australia, Public Officer.
- Mr Kulottam Chakma, BODHI Australia, Community Advisor.
- Dr David King, BODHI Australia member.

#### **2. Apologies**

- Ms Melinda Mayne, BODHI Australia, Executive Committee Member.
- Dr Devin Bowles, BODHI Australia Vice President.
- Dr Shanti Raman, BODHI Australia, Community Advisor.
- Dr Marty Rubin, BODHI US Board 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 Gilles Rohan moved that the Minutes to the BODHI Australia Annual General Meeting dated 20 May 2023 be accepted as a true and accurate record; Dr Ajay Niranjane, 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 2024 (focussing on 2023 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 available on BODHI Australia website).

### ***3.2.2 Treasurer's Report 2024 (focussing on 2023 calendar year)***

- Honorary 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 (available on BODHI Australia website).
- Hon. Prof. Butler explained that the BODHI Australia auditor's report, completed by Camerons Accounting and Advisors, Launceston, Tasmania 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.
- Dr Ajay Niranjane explained that a \$25K donation hoped from a potential donor who, in his work role, and in his capacity as an employee for a private sector company had won \$25K in prize money as consequence of the company entering a competition would no longer be forthcoming.

### ***3.2.3 Secretary's Report (focussing on 2023 calendar year)***

- Hon. Prof. Butler advised that BODHI Australia annual newsletter the BODHI Times No 60 was distributed to 194 recipients.
- To receive the BODHI Australia newsletter people, via Mailchimp, recipients must give permission.

### ***3.2.4 Acceptance of BODHI Australia Reports***

- All those present at the meeting moved that the reports as submitted by BODHI Australia President, Treasurer and Secretary be accepted.

## **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, Honorary Professor Butler, for the following positions: and were therefore accepted:
  - Ms Lucia Arman, BODHI Australia President.
  - Dr Ajay Niranjane, BODHI Australia Vice President.
  - Honorary Professor Colin Butler, BODHI Australia Secretary and Treasurer (both roles by the one person permissible under the BODHI Constitution).
  - Professor Elise DeVido, BODHI Australia Executive Committee Member.
  - Ms Melinda Mayne, BODHI Australia Executive Committee Member.

- Dr Gilles Rohan, BODHI Australia Executive Committee Member.
- Dr Devin Bowles, BODHI Australia Executive Committee Member.
- In her capacity as BODHI Australia President, Ms Arman thanked Dr Devin Bowles for his many years of service not only as BODHI Australia's President but later as Vice President. Dr Bowles continues his relationship with BODHI Australia as an Executive Committee member.
- BODHI Australia welcomes Dr Ajay Niranjane to the role of BODHI Australia Vice President and Ms Arman as BODHI Australia President looks forward to working with him in this capacity.

### **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. Honorary Professor Butler indicated that Camerons Accountants and Advisors are familiar with the workings of BODHI Australia and are affordable.
- Honorary Professor Butler moved a motion to continue with Camerons Accountants and Advisors, Launceston, Tasmania as the BODHI Australia auditor for the next financial year. Ms Jane Hudspeth, 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.
- Dr Gilles Rohan, moved that Ms Jane Hudspeth be re-appointed BODHI Australia's Public Officer. Professor Elise De Vido 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 Honorary 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 Ajay Niranjane moved a motion that Honorary Professor Butler continue to receive 10% of BODHI Australia annual income in 2024. Mr Kulottam Chakma seconded. None opposed. Carried.

## **4. Business Arising**

### *4.1 BODHI Australia 2022 audit report and removal of BODHI Australia Executive Committee home addresses.*

- Honorary Professor Butler formally requested Camerons Pty Ltd remove all BODHI Australia Executive Committee members' home addresses from the BODHI Australia 2022 audit report. An updated copy of the audit report was provided without the home addresses of the BODHI Australia Executive Committee and uploaded to the ACNC website prior to 30 June 2023.

*Action completed.*

#### ***4.2 Change in BODHI Australia ANZ bank account signatories***

- Honorary Professor Butler confirmed that Dr Devin Bowles has been removed as a signatory in the current BODHI Australia ANZ Bank Account. As agreed, Ms Arman, BODHI Australia President has now replaced Dr Bowles and is the second signatory on the account.

*Action completed.*

*4.3 Discount by Camerons Accounting for preparation of BODHI Australia annual auditors report as a consequence of BODHI Australia now paying for and using MYOB accounting 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.
- Honorary Professor Butler and Ms Arman both wrote to Greg Harper, Camerons Accountants and put the request to him. No response was forthcoming. Consequently, it can safely be assumed that a discount will not be forthcoming.  
*Action completed.*

## **5. Special Business**

- None.

## **6. Date and place of BODHI Australia AGM in 2025**

- The proposed face to face BODHI Australia AGM was postponed in 2024 given only a small number of BODHI Australia Executive Committee members were able to meet in Canberra in 2024.
- All going well BODHI Australia aims to hold the 2025 AGM in Canberra and where hopefully more BODHI Australia Executive Committee members might be able to attend.
- The 2025 AGM however remains a hybrid meeting with those able to attend face to face doing so and with those unable to do so can attend electronically via zoom meetings.
- 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).

## **6. Meeting closed at 3.00 pm (AEST)**