# Minutes of BODHI Australia annual general meeting

**held 17 April 2016, NCEPH building ANU, ACT.**

The meeting was opened at 1300 by BODHI Australia President Dr. Devin Bowles, who welcomed attendees and thanked Prof. Robyn Lucas [director of NCEPH] for the use of the room.

**Present:** Dr. Devin Bowles, Prof. Colin Butler, Emilia della Torre, Brian Warren, Geraldine Warren, Em. Prof. Adrian Sleigh.

**Apologies:** Dr. Julie Adamson, Lucia Arman, Kabita Chakma, Jenny Goldie, Dr. Gill Hall, Jane Hudspeth, Aryadharma Mathieson, Dr. Ajay Niranjane, Dr. Shanti Raman, Dr. Gilles Rohan, Luiz Ribeiro, Dr. Indira Samarawickrema, Dr. Sue Wareham.

**Minutes of 2015 AGM:**

Minutes were circulated and accepted pending any feedback.

**Business Arising:**

Matters arising to be dealt with in following general meeting.

**Reports:**

**President’s Report:**

* presented by Devin Bowles and detailing some of the changes to the functioning of BODHI in the past year. There being no questions it was proposed Colin, seconded Brian that the report be accepted. Carried.

**Treasurer’s Report:**

* presented by Colin along with the interim auditor’s report.
* Colin reported the death of Lord Avesbury [a UK member of Parliament who was responsible for a very generous donation to BODHI in 2013].
* there was discussion re the difficulty in transferring money to Bangladesh and various options were canvassed. It was agreed that the extraordinary bank fee incurred should appear in the financial statements under ‘bank charges’ and not ‘project costs’. Colin to speak to auditor.
* the assistance of the Embassy/ DFAT was raised as a way of assisting transfers to Bangladesh. Emilia and Colin to approach department.
* the decision to place some funds in a longer term deposit for a higher rate of interest was suggested. Devin to investigate rates and possible changes to conditions.
* Colin reported that we are on track to meet all audit requirements for this financial year.

Moved Devin, seconded Emilia that the report be accepted subject to matters as discussed. Carried.

**Communication Report:**

* presented by Colin
* new website working well
* assistance required to archive old website

Moved Devin, seconded Gerry that the report be accepted. Carried.

**Medical Director and Project Report:**

* presented by Colin
* discussion re projects deferred to meeting following AGM.

Moved Emilia, seconded Gerry that report be accepted. Carried.

**Changes to Constitution:**

* Devin thanked Brian for his efforts reviewing and updating the constitution.
* moved Brian, seconded Devin that the new constitution be accepted. Carried unanimously.

**Election of Office Bearers:**

Nominations received:

* President: Dr. Devin Bowles
* Vice president: Dr. Indira Samarawickrema
* Treasurer: Prof. Colin Butler
* Secretary: Mr. Brian Warren

there being no further nominations, all duly elected

**Election of ordinary committee members:**

* Emilia della Torre
* Dr. Gilles Rohan
* Kabita Chakma
* Gerry Warren

all duly elected.

**Appointment of Public Officer:**

Jane Hudspeth re-appointed.

**Appointment of Auditor:**

Continue to use Greg Harper at Camerons, Cameron St, Launceston Tas 7250.

**Proposed date of next AGM:**

14th of May 2017

Meeting closed 14.50.

**General Business:**

**Bahujan Hitay Pune Project:**

* these projects are going well and the decision was taken to continue funding.

**Moanoghar:**

* there was further discussion re. money transfers to this project and the associated problems.
* the project report and proposal for additional funding, earlier reviewed by Dr Gill Hall and Dr Indira Samarawickrema, who agreed that any sudden withdrawal of funds would be detrimental and that some funding for 2-4 years with an exit plan would be appropriate. It was decided to provide funding of A$20,000 per year for a further two years.

**SNEHA:**

* after discussion it was decided to provide A$6,000 this calendar year [teacher’s salary at new school] and reconsider further requests as they occur.

**UCEP (Underprivileged Children’s Education Programme):**

* it was decided to try to contact Tahsinah Ahmed, Dhaka, to re-establish the Denis Wright Scholarship. The decision is to provide up to A$6,000 per annum. Devin, Kabita and Colin to review applications for funding.

**Ambedkar Project:**

* a meeting is to be arranged between Devin, Colin and Dr Ajay Niranjane to discuss any possible cooperation with BODHI.

**Banchbo Project:**

* there was discussion re the possibility of some support for the village health care project in Indrananayanpur, in the Sundarbans, West Bengal, India. Colin to write to Dr. Dhires Chowdbury [Banchbo] for further information.

**ANU Law School:**

* Colin will meet with A/Prof. Mark Nolan of ANU Law School to discuss the possibility of involving Law students in BODHI’s operations to gain course credits.

**This (supplementary) meeting closed at 1600**