



2017 ALTA AGM

72TH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

MINUTES

AUSTRALASIAN LAW TEACHERS ASSOCIATION

Friday 7 July 2017 at 13.15 (ACST), University of South Australia Law School, Bradley Forum, 5th Floor, Hawke Building, Adelaide, South Australia

In Attendance

Professor Stephen Bottomley, Australian National University, (Chairperson)
Professor Roman Tomasic, University of South Australia, (Immediate Past Chairperson)
Emeritus Professor David Barker, University of Technology Sydney, (Honorary Secretary)
Professor Helen Anderson, University of Melbourne, (Honorary Treasurer)
Professor Nick James, Bond University, (Editor-in-Chief, LER)
Professor Michael Adams, Western Sydney University, (Editor, ALTA Law Research Series)
Professor Jennifer Corrin, University of Queensland
Professor Paul Fairall, Curtin University
Dr Michael Spisto, Victoria University Melbourne
Assistant Professor Katherine Galloway, James Cook University

NZ Executive

Associate Professor Alexandra Sims, University of Auckland, (NZ Executive- Chairperson)
Dr John Hopkins, University of Canterbury, (NZ Executive – Secretary)
Mr Sascha Mueller, University of Canterbury, (NZ Executive – Treasurer)
Dr Matthew Berkahn, Massey University, (NZ Executive)

Apologies

Professor Dale Pinto, Curtin University, (Deputy Chair, Editor-in-Chief, JALTA)
Associate Professor Alberto Costi, Victoria University Wellington
Professor Michael Coper, Australian National University

ALTA Members

Josephine Coffey, Robin Woellner, Prue Vines, Joan Squelch, Jane Worner, Joe McIntyre, Bill McNeill, Rick Sarre, Brenda Marshall, Louse Parsons, Michelle Fernando, Pamela Taylor-Barnett, Nick Drake, Asmi Wood, Mellisa Caston Mary Heath, Bill Swann, Christine Lee, Susan Carter.



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1. Attendance/Apologies

Professor Bottomley opened the meeting at 13.15 and welcomed participants.

Apologies: Professor Dale Pinto, Emeritus Professor Michael Coper and Associate Professor Alberto Costi.

2. Minutes from 71st ALTA AGM held 8 July 2017 at Victoria University Wellington Law School, New Zealand

It was pointed out that Dr Michael Spisto who had been listed as an apology in the Minutes had actually been in attendance.

Resolved: Moved by Professor Bottomley that the draft minutes, as amended, be accepted as a true record of the meeting, seconded by Professor Robin Woellner and approved by all members present.

3. 2016-2017 President's Report – In the absence of Professor Wendy Lacey – presented by Professor Rick Sarre the Chairperson of the 2017 Conference Committee

Professor Rick Sarre submitted a report on the current ALTA Conference which had involved 125 delegates, 70 of whom had participated as conference presenters of 90 papers. There had been 100 delegates who had attended the Conference Dinner the previous evening, 6 July, in the Mortlock Library. He paid tribute to all the Sponsors, particularly to the support given by Professor Wendy Lacey, the Dean of the University of South Australia Law School and Neville Carter, the CEO of the College of Law who had sponsored the Conference Dinner. He also paid particular tribute to the 2017 Conference Committee Members – Joe McIntyre, Juliette McIntyre, Maggie Ball, Krystyna Sawon, Peter MacFarlane, Jennifer McKay, Victoria Danambasis, Roman Tomasic, Rachel Spencer, Karen Bubna-Litic and Mia Rahim.

With regard to funding he again acknowledged the generous support of not only the University of South Australia Law School and the College of Law, but also the Silver Sponsor, Oxford University Press, Bronze Sponsors, Cambridge University Press, ExamSoft, The Federation Press, Thomson Reuters', Lexis Nexis and Conference Supporter, SmartCasual.

Resolved: Moved by Professor Stephen Bottomley and seconded by Professor Robin Woellner that the President's Report be approved and that both the Dean of the University of South Australia Law School and Professor Rick Sarre and his Conference Committee be congratulated



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on the hard work which they had put in to ensure that the Current Conference would be a success.

4. Resolution to amend the Constitution

There had been two motions proposed as special resolutions to amend the Constitution of the Association:

In this respect Professor Bottomley informed the meeting that the First motion to amend Clause 1 by deleting 'Australasian Law Teachers Association' and inserting 'Australasian Legal Academics Association' had been withdrawn.

The Second motion that Within Clause 7 (d) to delete 'two' additional members and insert 'four' additional members would still be put forward for approval of the AGM. (Note: This referred to the number of co-opted members on the General Executive).

In the resulting discussion on the withdrawn First Motion, both Dr John Hopkins and Professor Prue Vines expressed disappointment that the motion had been withdrawn. Professor Michael Adams was of the view that this had been the correct decision in view of the conflicting views on the proposal. Professor Nick James also supplied information from a survey that the Executive had carried out which indicated an equal balance between members who wished for a change of name of the Association and those who were of the view that the current title should be retained.

Resolved: Moved by Professor David Barker and seconded by Professor Nick James that Clause 7 (d) be amended with the deletion of 'two' additional members and the insertion of 'four' additional members.

5. Chairperson Report

Professor Bottomley endorsed the comments of Professor Rick Sarre as to the hard work which the 2017 Conference Committee has put in to ensure the success of the Conference. He also expressed his appreciation of the support which he had received from both the General Executive and the New Zealand Executive during the past year. He also expressed his appreciation on behalf of the Association to those members of the Executive who were not seeking re-election. These were:

- Professor Michael Adams (Editor-ALTA Research Series) a former ALTA Chairperson and President. An ALTA Honorary Life Member.



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- Professor Helen Anderson (Honorary Treasurer) who had served in this position for 10 years. An ALTA Honorary Life Member.
- Professor Roman Tomasic (Immediate Past Chairperson) An ALTA Honorary Life Member.

Resolved: Moved by Professor Nick James and seconded by Professor Robin Woellner that the Chairperson Report and his votes of thanks to Professor Michael Adams, Professor Helen Anderson and Professor Roman Tomasic for their long and dedicated service to ALTA be approved. This was also endorsed by acclamation of the members at the meeting.

6. Treasurer's Report – Professor Helen Anderson

Professor Anderson presented a detailed printed report which indicated that membership receipts were down from \$61,441.83 in 2016 to \$46,155.50 in 2017. This meant that an overall reduction in receipts from \$91,832.82 in 2016 to \$74,184.77 in 2017. However there had also been a reduction in payments from \$106,429.01 to \$78,393.00 which meant that the deficit of \$14,596.19 for 2015-2016 had been reduced to a deficit of \$4,208.23 for 2016-2017. However she cautioned that part of this favourable outlook had come about because the University of Newcastle had been repaying CAL monies which had been owed to the Association in receipt of copyright funds with respect to the Legal Education Review and which were now coming to an end.

Resolved: Moved by Professor Stephen Bottomley and seconded by Professor Michael Adams that the Treasurer's Report be approved, linked with a further Resolution reaffirming the earlier vote of thanks by the Chairperson for the exemplary service rendered by Professor Anderson in her role as ALTA Treasurer during the past ten years.

7. Election of Office Bearers on 2017-2018 General Executive & New Zealand Executive

7.1. The election of ALTA Office Bearers for Australia and New Zealand were as follows:

2017-2018 General Executive

Chairperson: Professor Nick James

Immediate Past Chairperson: Professor Stephen Bottomley



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Deputy Chairperson: Professor Dale Pinto

Honorary Secretary: Emeritus Professor David Barker AM

Honorary Treasurer: Professor Nick James

Editor-in-Chief LER: Assistant Professor Kate Galloway

Editor-in-Chief JALTA: Professor Dale Pinto

Editor-in-Chief ALRS: Dr Michael Spisto

Executive Member (9):

- Professor Jennifer Corrin
- Professor Paul Fairall
- Associate Professor Alberto Costi
- Professor Melissa Castan
- Associate Professor Natali Skead
- Professor William McNeil (Co-opted)
- Professor Melissa De Zwart (Co-opted)
- Professor Alex Steel (Co-opted)

New Zealand Executive 2017-2018

Chairperson: Associate Professor Alexandra Sims

Secretary: Dr John Hopkins

Treasurer: Mr Sascha Mueller

Executive Member: Dr Matthew Berkahn

2018 Conference Committee – University of Curtin Law School

2017-2018 President: Professor Paul Fairall

Conference Chairperson: Associate Professor Eileen Webb

Conference Chairperson: To be nominated

Conference Treasurer: To be nominated

Proposed as a block by Professor Stephen Bottomley and seconded by Professor Robin Woellner that all nominations as listed above be approved.



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8. Report by NZ Executive – Associate Professor Alexandra Sims

- 8.1. Associate Professor Sims stated that it had been another successful year for New Zealand ALTA members. That the finances of New Zealand ALTA were in a healthy state. The symposium which they had hoped to organise for members had not eventuated but it was expected that such an event would take place during the next academic year. She thanked all members of the New Zealand Executive for their support over the past year.

Resolved: Moved by Associate Professor Sims and seconded by Dr John Hopkins that the NZ Executive Report be approved.

9. Honorary Life Membership Nomination

- 9.1. Professor Stephen Bottomley

Professor Michael Adams spoke to a printed report by Professor David Barker outlining the achievements of Professor Bottomley. Professor Adams drew attention to the fact that Professor Bottomley had been an ALTA Member for over 30 years, has served both as President and Chairperson of the Executive and had been responsible for relocating the ALTA Secretariat to the ANU College of Law in 2015.

Resolution: Moved by Professor Michael Adams and second by Professor Nick James that Professor Stephen Bottomley be made an Honorary ALTA Life Member.
Approved by acclamation.

10. Report on ALTA Publications

- 10.1. Legal Education *Review (LER)*

A joint report in respect of the LER was made by Professor Nick James, the outgoing Editor-in-Chief and Assistant Professor Kate Galloway, the Editor-in-Chief designate. They drew the attention of the meeting to the fact that the *LER* has moved to a fully online publication process which should substantially reduce the cost of administration. It was also intended to reduce the time of publication of individual articles online from more than a year to only a few months from the receipt of the articles by the editorial committee.

- 10.2. *Journal of Australasian Law Teachers Association (JALTA)*

Although there was no formal report submitted by the Editor of *JALTA* it was noted that there would be an edition published based on articles arising from papers presented at the current ALTA Conference.



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10.3. ALTA Newsletter

Professor Stephen Bottomley stated that although discussions had proceeded as to whether it would be possible to publish an ALTA newsletter, no decision had as yet been made as to whether this would be feasible in the future.

Resolved: That the reports on ALTA Publications be noted

11. ALTA Interest Groups

11.1. Report by Professor David Barker

Professor David Barker tabled a printed report relating to the work which had been undertaken with Sarah Parker (ANU Secretariat) with regard to reinvigorating Interest Groups and reinstating both current Interest Group Convenors and appointing new Convenors to outstanding vacancies.

Resolved: Proposed by Professor David Barker and seconded by Professor Michael Adams that the report be received.

12. ALTA Law School Representatives

12.1. Report by Professor David Barker

Professor David Barker tabled a printed report relating to the work which had been undertaken with Sarah Parker (ANU Secretariat) with respect to reinstating Law School Representatives and appointing new Representatives to outstanding vacancies.

Resolved: Proposed by Professor David Barker and seconded by Professor Michael Adams that the report be received.

13. Venue for future Annual Conference

13.1. 2018 Conference – Curtin University Law School

It was confirmed that the 2018 ALTA Conference would take place in Perth, WA and be hosted by the Curtin University Law School.



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14. Future of ALTA

14.1. Paper presented by Professor Stephen Bottomley

Professor Stephen Bottomley submitted a proposal for a new business model used by the Corporate Law Teachers Association. This model incorporated a move to free membership and no administration costs. It was hoped that in this way ALTA might attract a broader membership base if it was free. He envisaged that the Association would still focus on the role of law academics and the retention of Interest Groups.

14.2. Paper presented by Professor David Barker

Professor David Barker submitted a paper in response to the Chairperson's paper surveying other events and programmes which ALTA could offer such as the reinstatement of the teaching workshops and greater involvement by members in Interest Group activities.

After an active wide ranging discussion among the members present at the meeting it was –

Resolved: Proposed by Professor Nick James and seconded by Professor Michael Adams that the contents of the two papers and the outcomes of the current discussion would be the start of a conversation which is was hoped would involve a majority of the ALTA Membership and lead to a more active future for the Association.

15. Report by the Chairperson of the Council of Australian Law Deans (CALD)

15.1. Presentation by Professor William McNeill

The CALD Chairperson welcomed the opportunity to re-invigorate a closer relationship between CALD and ALTA. He had also endeavoured to re-establish the convention of CALD holding one of its meetings at the same location and immediately preceding the annual ALTA Conference. He noted that there a number of Law Deans including himself who were now members of both CALD and the ALTA Executive and was of the view that this could lead to closer co-operation between the two organisations.

Resolved: Proposed by Professor Stephen Bottomley and seconded by Professor David Barker that the report by Professor William McNeill be received.



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16. In Memoriam - Tributes to deceased ALTA Members

16.1. Dr Guy Powles

Professor Jennifer Corrin paid tribute to former Honorary ALTA Life Member Dr Guy Powles (Monash University Law School) who had passed away in July 2016. Dr Powles had been a former Interest Group Convenor of the South Pacific Interest Group who had displayed a passion for the people and the law of the Pacific Islands.

16.2. Penelope Watson

Professor Prue Vines paid tribute to former ALTA Member Penelope Watson who had passed away on the 29 December 2016. Penelope had been the Convenor of the Torts and Contracts Interest Group and been a highly respected law researcher and teacher.

Resolved: To honour the achievements of both the former Dr Guy Powles and Penelope Watson and to recognise their contributions to both ALTA and Australian Legal Education.

17. Other Business.

There being no other business the meeting closed at 14.30.