

MINUTES
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
4 April 2024 at 4.30 pm
Malthouse Chambers

Present:

Tom Cox
Kate Cuthbertson SC
Scott Royston
Mary-Anne Ryan
Cameron Scott
Greg Melik AO SC
Bruce McTaggart SC
Patrick O'Halloran (remotely)

Mark Rinaldi
Peter Slipper
Matthew Verney
Nikolas Willing
Andrew Walker
Regina Weiss
Chris Dockray
Ron Jorgensen
Philip Jackson SC

Apologies:

Proxies:

TOM COX: Regina Weiss, Maree Norton, Nikolas Willing, Jennifer O'Farrell, Michael O'Farrell

KATE CUTHBERTSON SC: Patrick O'Halloran

MARY ANN RYAN: Matthew Verney, Andrew Walker, Brian Hilliard

GREG MELIK AO SC: Peter Slipper

1. Acknowledgement of Country.

We pay our respect to the traditional and original owners of this land, the muwinina people, and pay our respect to past and present leaders.

2. Minutes of AGM

Minutes of AGM held on 17 May 2023 tabled. Tom Cox moved that they be accepted. Mary Anne Ryan seconded the motion. Carried.

3. President's Report

The President reported to the meeting. A written version of his report is **attached**.

4. Secretary/Treasurer's Report

The Acting Secretary/Treasurer tabled her report (**attached**).

5. Election of Office bearers

The following nominations equal to the number of vacancies of the Executive of the Bar Council received and taken to be elected:

(a) **President:** Tom Cox, re-elected;

- (b) **Vice-President:** Kate Cuthbertson SC, re-elected;
- (c) **Secretary/Treasurer:** Jennifer O'Farrell, nominated by Tom Cox.

There were 6 nominees for the 5 positions of ordinary member of the Bar Council. Following an election, the following members were re-elected, namely:

Scott Royston, Mary Anne Ryan, Patrick O'Halloran, Matthew Verney and Regina Weiss.

6. General Business

Following a brief discussion concerning SC/KC elections, it was proposed that Council survey its membership.

The meeting was then closed.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'K. Cuthbertson', followed by a period. The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

KATE CUTHBERTSON
Acting Secretary/Treasurer

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Since last year's AGM the Bar Council has been active in representing its members. Some highlights include:

- In June 2023 the Bar hosted a cocktail party at The Despard Gallery. While the attendance (around 45) was a bit low, the event was a great success. Many members expressed their gratitude to the Bar for putting on a long overdue social event.
- Several members attended the annual ABA conference in October on the Gold Coast. Following that meeting, the ABA has indicated a desire to subsidise the attendance of junior counsel at future conferences. I am hopeful the subsidy will be available for this year's conference in October in Queenstown, New Zealand.
- A review of our website has been an ongoing effort. It seems from feedback from our webhost that its services are underutilised by our members. Rather than conducting a costly upgrade to the website, it seems the preferred approach is that members contact Malthouse Chambers to, at least, update their membership profiles. The Council also intends to continue to improve the functionality of the website through discussions with the host.
- Last year I had two meetings with the then Attorney-General Elise Archer to see that our funding (\$25,000.00) from the Solicitors Guarantee Fund for interest free loans to new barristers would be converted into a grant for new barristers. This was met with enthusiasm by the then Attorney-General. I attempted to contact her successor, the Hon. Guy Barnett, to continue those discussions, but have not received any communication from his office. As soon as the new Attorney-General is appointed, I will contact them to further this initiative.
- In October 2023 I spoke at the ceremonial sitting for the retirement of Associate Justice Holt. I was also on the panel to appoint his successor, Magistrate Daly. As we now know, he will take up his appointment at the end of this month. I have also been asked, and accepted, to speak at the ceremonial sitting for his appointment on 29th April.
- With Regina Weiss' assistance, we have also been in the process of arranging the affiliation of the International Criminal Court Bar Association (ICCBA) with the ABA. This initiative is well underway with support having been indicated from the Presidents from both entities. I would like to thank Regina for her efforts with this initiative.

- The Bar has hosted two CPD events; “EReady briefs” and “Being Trauma Informed. Both were well attended and successful. I would like to thank Mary Anne Ryan for her efforts in organising these events.
- We have had ongoing discussions with the Chief Justice of the Federal Court, the Hon. Debbie Mortimer concerning better use of the Federal Court. This is an initiative the Bar should continue to support.
- We have also made several donations. Austlii received \$5000 representing two years of our usual annual donation. The Leah Brown First Nations Scholarship received \$2,500.
- We made representations to the Attorney General in early December last year to oppose his proposed Bill to, in part, provide the executive with power to suspend a judge of the Supreme Court. A big thank you to Kate Cuthbertson SC who shouldered much of the burden in setting out the Bar’s opposition to that part of the Bill which was subsequently withdrawn.
- We intend to put on our biennial Bar and Bench dinner at the end of winter.

More generally, our membership remains strong, as does our financial position. The Bar through various members remains active at meetings of the ABA and Law Council of Australia.

We have not organised a formal succession plan for the Bar or for the Bar Council, but this is something that needs to be done and should remain a focus of future Bar Councils.

One further matter of some significance is the need for the Bar and its members to be “cyber safe”. Unfortunately in recent times the Treasurer was scammed \$4,500.00 through a phishing email. While the Bar Council did not require the Treasurer to refund that money, she did. This incident has caused the Council to consider obtaining insurance for cyber scams. We have recently sought a proposal from an insurance broker. We will continue to pursue options for insurance for the Bar and individually for its members, or perhaps for the various chambers.

Finally, I would like to thank all the members of Council for their efforts over the last year and also thank Eril and Tamara who, as always, assist the Bar with administrative support.

TOM COX
PRESIDENT

TREASURER'S REPORT

Attached is the FY2023 profit and loss statement and balance sheet for the Tasmanian Bar.

Consistently with previous years, the major source of income for the Tasmanian Bar is membership fees. In addition, since 2020, the Tasmanian Bar has been receiving a percentage of the practising certificate fees collected by the Law Society of Tasmania from barristers in order to assist us to fund our ongoing operations.

Our major expense continues to be the group life insurance scheme premium. The full amount of that premium is not reflected in the FY2023 statements as the final instalments were paid later in 2023. The expenses associated with email and website hosting, email support and maintenance of the website are now fully absorbed by the Tasmanian Bar for our local members.

Malthouse Chambers continues to provide administrative support to the Tasmanian Bar through the provision of the services of Tamara Syrett and Eril Seeger. We thank them both for their excellent work and support of the Tasmanian Bar during the last year and to the members of Malthouse Chambers for making it possible.

The Tasmanian Bar Financial Support Fund to promote diversity at the Bar was commenced in 2020. On 2 October 2020, \$60,000.00 was made available to the Tasmanian Bar from a grant from the Solicitors Guarantee Fund made by then Attorney General and Minister for Justice Elise Archer for that purpose. In FY2023, there were 3 grants of \$15,000 each made from the fund. With repayments of previous grants, the balance of the fund currently stands at \$11,136.00. A number of repayments are due this calendar year, so funds will again be available to distribute with the aim of increasing the diversity of membership of the Tasmanian Bar.

The balance of the Tasmanian Bar's main bank account is currently \$118,771.04. The principal expenses in the coming year include donations to Austlii, hosting of the Bar and Bench dinner and payment of the upcoming insurance premiums. Council is also seeking to make improvements to the website.

KATE CUTHBERTSON

VICE-PRESIDENT & ACTING SECRETARY/TREASURER

Tasmanian Bar

Balance Sheet

As of June 30, 2023

		TOTAL
Assets		
Current Assets		
Accounts receivable		
Accounts Receivable (A/R)		15,457.93
Total Accounts receivable		A\$15,457.93
Bank Account - CBA		109,795.17
Group Life Insurance Payout		0.00
Uncategorised Asset		316.46
Total Current Assets		A\$125,569.56
Total Assets		A\$125,569.56
Liabilities and shareholder's equity		
Shareholders' equity:		
Net Income		18,682.24
Opening balance equity		0.00
Retained Earnings		106,887.32
Total shareholders' equity		A\$125,569.56
Total liabilities and equity		A\$125,569.56

Tasmanian Bar

Profit and Loss

July 2022 - June 2023

	TOTAL
Income	
ABA Capitation fees	2,668.00
Group Life Insurance Premiums	5,904.66
Membership fees - interstate	6,720.00
Membership Fees - local	14,843.25
Practising Certificates	8,367.31
Total Income	A\$38,503.22
GROSS PROFIT	A\$38,503.22
Expenses	
ABA Capitation Fees Exp	3,091.20
Accounting and bookkeeping	240.00
Bank charges and fees	3.00
Email Hosting Exp	4,271.35
Insurance	11,040.43
Meals and entertainment	575.00
Telephone & internet expenses	50.00
Website Expenses	550.00
Total Expenses	A\$19,820.98
NET EARNINGS	A\$18,682.24

Tasmanian Bar

A/R Ageing Summary

As of June 30, 2023

	CURRENT	1 - 30	31 - 60	61 - 90	91 AND OVER	TOTAL
Judge Sandra Taglieri	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	36.00	A\$36.00
Law Foundation of Tasmanian Inc.	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	5,000.00	A\$5,000.00
Michael Kats	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	160.00	A\$160.00
Mr Andrew J. Woods	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	320.00	A\$320.00
Mr C. Tesoriero	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	480.00	A\$480.00
Mr Chris Gunson SC	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1,276.55	A\$1,276.55
Mr Daniel Aghion KC	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	160.00	A\$160.00
Mr Fabiano Cangelosi	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1,128.71	A\$1,128.71
Mr Ian Faulkner	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	160.00	A\$160.00
Mr Ian Freckelton KC	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	160.00	A\$160.00
Mr Justin Zeeman	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1,458.21	A\$1,458.21
Mr Matthew Goldberg	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	320.00	A\$320.00
Mr Michael G. Roberts KC	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	160.00	A\$160.00
Mr Miguel Belmar	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	160.00	A\$160.00
Mr Todd Kovacic	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1,609.46	A\$1,609.46
Mr William M Griffiths	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	393.60	A\$393.60
Ms Claire Wong	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	441.00	A\$441.00
Ms Fotina Riveros	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	470.00	A\$470.00
Ms Jessica Sawyer	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	540.80	A\$540.80
Ms Mary Anne Ryan	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	393.60	A\$393.60
Picha Djohan	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	630.00	A\$630.00
TOTAL	A\$0.00	A\$0.00	A\$0.00	A\$0.00	A\$15,457.93	A\$15,457.93