

## 2020 CAPAD AGM Minutes - Draft

Sunday 1 November 2020; on Zoom

Opened 1405.

1. **Welcome** and acknowledgement of country
2. **Present:** Peter Tait (Chair), Bob Douglas, Margaret Lee, Gilles Rohan, John Christensen, Sue Ingram, Karina Martin, David Purnell, Plaxy McCulloch, Petra Cram.  
**Apologies:** Fiona Tito Wheatland, Lyn Stephens, Beth Slatyer, Mark Spain

3. **Confirm Minutes** of Annual General Meeting, 25 November 2019 – Moved Peter Tait, seconded Sue Ingram; accepted unanimously.

4. **Annual Report** to members

Peter Tait highlighted some of the achievements of 2020:

It has been a wonderfully productive year in spite of the craziness that has gone down.

We have made a mark on the international stage with our input to the OECD report *Innovative Citizen Participation and New Democratic Institutions: Catching the Deliberative Wave*.

We were involved in the OstBelgian workshop with Min Reauchamp.

We have had a well attended series of Zoom Events.

We ran a professional candidate statement campaign and broke into using paid advertising. A very warm thank you to the members and supporters who contributed the \$2500ish to us to help with that. It was disappointing that the mainstream media was not interested.

We have a new look website and are embarking on a redesign of the Ideas and Resources Hub.

I really want to thank those supporters and members who have donated, put in ideas, come along to the Zoom Events. The support has really helped a lot.

Margaret Lee made a brief speech:

My name is Margaret Lee. I joined the committee at the last AGM as an “ordinary member” I had some inkling of how ‘ordinary’ I was compared to the experts I saw already on board, but no real idea of the extent of my ignorance. I had attended a U3A course on the topic and thought I’d like to know more – and my experience has taught me that the best way for me was to engage and get onto the committee.

My fellow members were all specialist in their fields and highly qualified – academics, specialists in public health and epidemiology and governance and community building – and I am such a generalist. I was a municipal librarian in my former working career – and not a reference librarian – I was a technical librarian.

So I am the quintessential *jack of all trades and master of none* – a glancing knowledge of heaps of things but depth in few.

So I have been really impressed at the depth of knowledge of my fellow committee members, their passion and commitment – and their work ethic! I was tasked to trawl through all our records for the past year and draw out the achievements that needed to go into the annual report. I was absolutely dumbstruck as I went through month after month and was made fully aware of the amount of work this handful of people had done for this organisation while maintaining their own personal and professional commitments in the world.

This is the reason I wanted to talk to you today. We have been blessed with a treasure-trove of brainpower in the committee, but they are only human, and they could use more help. I am merely a handmaiden to them. I contribute little of intellectual value and am sure amongst you there are people with really useful skills and knowledge who would be of real benefit to this committee.

I know you care, because the response to the call for financial donations to help us run those newspaper ads was really generous. Sadly, the invitation to distribute our flyers on your regular walks around your neighbourhoods (and to approach friends and relatives to assist as well) turned out to be unviable, so that is not something we see as worth trying again.

One way each of you could help, even if you are really busy, is to contact candidates who fail to engage with the Candidate Statement or to provide details of their attitudes and plans to Smartvote and other means of informing the public.

To my thinking, it is really arrogant to think that you should be able to get yourself elected to parliament without revealing your motivations and plans. In a democracy we are so often voting blind because our candidates give us only the bare minimum of information about themselves, their backgrounds and their plans for the territory. If you all did this – contact every candidate within a reasonable time of their having nominated who failed to fill in the Candidate Statement – and challenged them on this, there is a good chance we would have a much greater representation of candidates on the websites, and be able truly to ‘vote thoughtfully’ for our next Assembly member/s.

My plea to you today is to think seriously about nominating for the committee *if you have the time*. If you have skills that may be of use to us on special projects and are willing to share them with us, *circumstances at the time allowing*, please let us know. Democracy is in crisis around the world. Even in Australia, the lucky country, even here democracy is in danger. We have to be vigilant. Because of the emergence of the internet and social networks, where facts are so often ignored and ignorance spread, there has probably been no other time in history when the need to defend and support the democratic process has been so important. And CAPaD is a tangible way of being involved in that process.

Report acceptance: Moved Peter Tait, seconded Bob Douglas; accepted unanimously.

## **5. Treasurer’s Report and Audited Financial Statements**

- a. Accept Auditor's Report: Moved Margaret Lee, seconded Plaxy McCulloch; accepted unanimously.
- b. Appoint Neville Hurst as our auditor for 2021; Moved Peter Tait, seconded Bob Douglas; accepted unanimously.
- c. Peter Tait warmly thanked Mark Spain for his work as Treasurer for the year and for the good condition of the books.

## **6. Selection of Committee**

Current Board members Petra Cram, Bob Douglas and Margaret Lee are continuing into the second year of their terms. Treasurer Mark Spain is also continuing in to the second year of his term.

Beth Slatyer is not standing again.

The committee would like to thank Beth for her tremendous efforts in helping to get CAPaD going, her untiring stint as convener for five years, her vision and drive, the work she has put into all the Action Groups. We will sorely miss her. We wish her well with her time with her family.

Set out the vacancies.

Returning officer - Karina Martin appointed.

- a. Co-convenor (2 vacant positions) – Peter Tait nominated by Plaxy McCulloch, seconded Sue Ingram. No other nominations. Peter appointed.
- b. Deputy Co-convenors (2 vacant positions) – no nominations received.
- c. Secretary – no nominations received.
- d. Ordinary Member(s) (up to 6)
  - Sue Ingram, nominated Peter Tait, seconded Margaret Lee;
  - Gilles Rohan, nominated Peter Tait, seconded Plaxy McCulloch; appointed.

## **7. Other Business**

There was no other business.

Conclusion of Annual General Meeting at 1438