



**MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF  
AOA RESEARCH FOUNDATION LIMITED  
HELD ON 15 OCTOBER AT 3:45PM AEST  
BRISBANE CONVENTION CENTRE AND ONLINE**

<b>Chair</b>	Dr Claudia Di Bella (AOARF Board General Director) chaired the meeting on behalf of AOARF Board Chair, Dr David Martin.
<b>Acknowledgement</b>	In the spirit of reconciliation the AOA and AOARF acknowledged the Traditional Custodians of country throughout Australia and their connections to land, sea and community. Respects were paid to elders past, present and emerging, on the land of Turrbal and the Yuggera people.
<b>Apologies and proxies</b>	No apologies or proxies were noted.
<b>Minutes</b>	<b>Resolution:</b> The minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on 15 November 2023 were confirmed as a correct record of proceedings at that meeting (resolution passed).
<b>Chair's Report</b>	<p>Claudia Di Bella presented the report on behalf of Chair, David Martin.</p> <p>The Chair noted that 30 grant applications were received in total for 2024 (24 regular and 6 early career researcher applications) and congratulated the successful applicants. Seven grants, two early career researcher and five regular grants, were awarded in total. No applications for PhD scholarship were received this year.</p> <p>The Chair informed members that the AOARF is now four years into the strategic plan (extended in 2023 until 31 December 2024). There were 25 x milestones in total, of which 100% (25) have now been progressed. 18 (72%) are now fully or near completion. It was noted that those not completed will be reviewed and re-positioned as part of the new strategic plan (2025-2027). It was confirmed that planning is now underway for the new strategic plan, and based on a strategy workshop held in August 2024, a preliminary draft strategic plan is currently in development. The aim is to finalise the plan for AOA Board approval in March 2025.</p> <p>The Chair congratulated Zsolt Balogh (not in attendance), who is the recipient of the AOARF Board awarded 2024 Research Foundation Fellowship. It was noted by the Chair that Zsolt is most deserving of this award due to his outstanding contributions to research and the AOA Research Foundation.</p> <p>Further, the Chair extended her congratulations to Matthew Broadhead who has been nominated and elected as a member of the Research Advisory Committee. It was noted that an EOI has also been distributed to members for this Committee (closing 14 January 2025), specifically members from WA and QLD are encouraged to apply.</p>

The Chair expressed appreciation to her fellow 2024 members of the Foundation's Board and the members of the Research Advisory Committee for the ongoing support of the AOARF Board and Foundation.

#### **Financial Statements**

The financial reports for the year ended 30 June 2024 were presented by Adrian Cosenza (AOA CEO) on behalf of the AOARF Board and Ursula Bradshaw, AOARF Board Treasurer. The reports of the Directors and the Auditor were tabled and presented for discussion. Adrian commented on the continuing strong financial position of the AOARF, including cash flow and equity.

**Resolution:** The Financial Report and the Reports of the Directors and Auditors for the financial year ended 30 June 2024 were approved. (Resolution passed).

#### **Director Appointments**

The Chair reported to the membership that three AOA RF Board Director positions are due for expiry/renewal in October 2024.

Of these positions, two are available for election by research foundation members and one position for appointment by the AOA Board.

On behalf of the AOARF Board, the Chair congratulated nominee Matthew Broadhead who was elected to the position of General Director by the AOA Board (on 13 October 2024) for a term of four years, effective October 2024.

The Chair advised members present that Richard de Steiger has been nominated for a AOARF Member-elected Director position. The membership were requested by the Chair to ratify this nomination.

**Resolution:** The nomination for Richard de Steiger to be appointed as AOA Research Foundation General Director, for a period of four years effective October 2024, by the Research Foundation Members was ratified. (Resolution passed).

In addition, the Chair advised members present that Tom Ward has also been nominated for a AOARF Member-elected Director position. The membership were requested by the Chair to ratify this nomination.

**Resolution:** The nomination for Tom Ward to be appointed as AOA Research Foundation General Director, for a period of four years effective October 2024, by the Research Foundation Members was ratified. (Resolution passed).

On behalf of the AOA Research Foundation and the Board, Claudia Di Bella extended her sincere thanks to David Martin for his outstanding contributions and commitment to the Foundation over his 12 year tenure. She noted David Martin is retiring from the AOA Research Foundation Board as Chair and General Director, effective October 2024.

The Chair also acknowledged Roger Bingham and Catherine McDougall, who have both completed a term of four years on the AOARF Board and are retiring members, effective October 2024.

#### **Other Business**

No other business was raised.

#### **Closure**

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 4:02pm.