

**MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF COPYRIGHT AGENCY LIMITED
HELD WEDNESDAY 20 NOVEMBER 2019 IN THE CORINTHIAN ROOM,
SMC CONFERENCE AND FUNCTION CENTRE, 66 GOULBURN STREET, SYDNEY, NSW**

The meeting commenced at 4.00 p.m.

Present

Author members

Christopher Pash
Helen O'Neill
Anthony Bertini
*Sarah Vorchheimer
Edmund Campion
Bruce Derwent
Giulio Iacobini
Anne Maria
Nicholson
Christopher Pash
Sarah Vorchheimer

Publisher members Australian School

Image Book Co (Sunita Adams)
Independent Scholars Association of
Australia (Christine Yeats)
Hachette Australia Pty Ltd (Sarah
Hobden)
Wentworth Concepts Pty Ltd (Jane
Curry)
Chancellor Masters and Scholars of the
University of Cambridge (Alice Warren)
*Australian Jewish Historical Society
Incorporated (Sarah Vorchheimer)
University of NSW Press Ltd (David
Bridge)

In attendance

Kim Williams (Chair)
David Barnett (Director)
Anthony Bertini (Director)
Jane Curry (Director)
Kate Harrison (Director)
Lucrezia Russell (Director)
Jason Eades (Director)
Adam Suckling (CEO)
Josephine Johnston
(Company Secretary)

Observers

Kate Haddock (Banki Haddock Fiora)	Sue Nelson
Chris Allenby (KPMG)	Charli Hutchison
Libby Baulch	Virginia Morrison
Malcolm Bell	Nicola Evans
Rosanna Arciuli	Susan Cole
Rosie Daniele	Johanna Roberts

Quorum and Order of Business

The Chair noted that a quorum was present, declared the meeting open and introduced the directors, the Chief Executive, the Company Secretary, the company's external lawyer and the auditor. The order of business would be as set out in the notice convening the meeting.

1. Apologies

Apologies were received from Adele Ferguson (director) and Dr Oliver Watts. There were no further apologies.

2. Proxies

A total of eight proxies had been received, six from author members and two from artist members. Seven proxies were held by the Chair and one was held by the CEO.

3. Declaration of nominations and election of author, publisher and artist directors

Before moving to Item 3 on the agenda, the Chair acknowledged the departure of three Directors on the Board: Lucy Russell, Anthony Bertini and Chris Pash. The Chair noted their substantial contribution to the Copyright Agency and its members, with both Lucy and Anthony serving the maximum term of nine years. Each of these directors has served on a number of committees and been active and engaged in performing their duties. In particular, the Chair commended Lucy for her long tenure on the Chair of the Audit and Finance Committee, where she had been the Chair since 2015. The Chair noted that Lucy carried a substantial and important additional workload and made a significant contribution. The Chair thanked each of Lucy, Anthony and Chris.

The Chair reported that Chris was to be replaced by Anne Maria Nicholson, who had been appointed by the Australian Society of Authors. Anne Maria is the Deputy Chair of the Australian Society of Authors. Anne Maria has a distinguished career as an author, journalist and broadcaster including long stints at the ABC.

As an Australian Publishers Association appointed director, Lucy Russell was to be replaced by Cath Godfrey. Cath is the managing Director at McGraw Hill, a major educational publisher. Cath has extensive experience in the industry having worked across many areas of print and digital publishing.

The Chair welcomed both Anne Maria and Cath.

Agenda Item 3 and 4 Presentation of Accounts and Reports, and Questions of the Auditor

The Directors' report and audited financial statements for the year ending 30 June 2019 were presented to and considered by the meeting, and members were invited to put questions to the auditor.

There were no questions of the auditor.

5. Chair's address

The Chair addressed the meeting. An edited copy of the Chair's address can be found [here](#).

6. Chief Executive Officer's report

The CEO reported Copyright Agency had revenue of \$150 million, distributed \$116 million and continued to run the organisation efficiently. It also supported a wide range of projects via the Cultural Fund covering publishing, writing and the visual arts.

The CEO reported on a strong year in licensing in 2019, which enabled clients such as education institutions, governments and business to legally use an enormous amount of copyright. The CEO reported that highlights of the year included:

- A new agreement with schools, including a commitment to work towards a better measurement system;
- Licensing over 1000 private colleges, including providing colleges with a digital version of the licence called FLEX;
- Growing licensing to Australian business by just under 10%;
- Reached commercial terms with all State and Territory Governments other than NSW;

- In visual arts, licensed a large number of galleries and fashion labels and administered the resale royalty scheme;
- Ensured that there are interim rates to apply while there is litigation in the Tribunal against universities and media monitoring organisations and communicated the impact of these rates to members.

The CEO noted that there are proceedings in the Tribunal against the State of NSW, universities and major media monitoring organisations and that these were all necessary to protect the interests of members.

In operations, the CEO reported on the business transformation project to ensure that Copyright Agency systems:

- Support invoicing and collecting revenue;
- Provide accurate data on our members and their works;
- Support distributions of payments to our members; and
- Include a modern member portal to enable our members to deal with the Copyright Agency and get the information they need in an intuitive and easy to use way.

The CEO reported that in 2019 the Copyright Agency started to upgrade the member information systems, as well as the system that store information on the relevant rights. The CEO reported that work had commenced on the third phase of the project which includes the distribution “engine”.

The CEO noted the importance to members of advocacy. The CEO noted an ongoing program of engagement with policy-makers to ensure that members are not subject to adverse changes such as those experienced in Canada some years ago. The CEO noted that the Government is considering changes to how the major digital platforms, such as Google, license the work of media publishers.

On the Cultural Fund, the CEO noted that there had been funding for a wide-range of publishers, writers and artists. The CEO reported that this included Melissa Lucashenko to write her prize-winning book *Too Much Lip*, as well as supporting the Miles Franklin Award, the Education Publishing Awards and the John Fries Award. The CEO reported that subscribers to Reading Australia had grown and were heading towards 20,000 (mostly teachers).

With respect to members, the CEO reported that activities included:

- Successful licensing of their works to enable distribution of \$116 million;
- launching or continuing necessary legal actions to protect their rights;
- advocacy for fair policy settings;
- investing in new systems while seeking to run the organisation as efficiently as possible;
- supporting outstanding projects through the Cultural Fund.

The CEO thanked the Chair, Kim Williams, and the Board for their support, guidance and dedication. The CEO thanked the senior management team and all employees at the Copyright Agency for their hard work and diligence. Finally, the CEO thanked the members for their endeavours and the licensees for agreeing licence terms.

There were no questions of the CEO.

Questions and Comments on the Management of the Company

The Chair opened the floor for questions and comments on the management of the company. There were no questions.

The meeting then closed at 4.28 pm.

Signed as a correct record.



Chair



Date