

MINUTES OF AIAM ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Zoom Meetings

20th October 2021 12.00pm

Committee present: Sharleen Jordan, Nell Thompson, Brenton Thomass, Dani Scuteri, Samantha Bell, Diana Rayment, Lauren Wilby, Tina Martin, Nishu Ellawalla

Members present: Clare Douglas-Haynes, Peter McCardle, Craig McClanahan, Gemma Ma, Margot Oorebeek, Peter Goddard, Ron Medler, Susan Hazel, Skye Peck, Steve Burgess,

The meeting was opened by the President, Brenton Thomass at 12.08pm.

1. Apologies:

Brooke Rankmore, Ann-Marie Plasto

2. Proxies received:

None

3. Minutes of the last meeting:

It was resolved that the Minutes of the last Annual General Meeting held by Zoom meetings on 27 October 2020, be confirmed.

Moved by Sharleen Jordan and Carried by Samantha Bell

4. Business arising from the previous Minutes:

Nil

5. Committee reports:

5.1 President's Report:

See attached.

5.2 Treasurers Report including Financial Statements of the Association:

There has been a delay in providing the Treasurer's report and audited financial statement however the President confirmed that the organisation is in a strong financial position. The Treasurer's report and financial statements will be presented to a special general meeting as soon as possible.

5.3 Membership Report:

Nishu Ellawalla is the current Membership Coordinator, supported by Brenton Thomass and reported that there are 317 active members with 174 of those coming from corporate members.

6. Election of AIAM Committee:

The President announced that the Secretary position was open and advised that the following nomination had been received.

- Secretary Nell Thompson

The President announced that the following nominations had been received for Ordinary Members.

Ordinary Members:

Ron Medler
Michelle Gallo

Nell Thompson accepted the Secretary role.

Moved by Brenton Thomass and Carried by Sharleen Jordan.

All Ordinary Member applications were voted in to the AIAM Committee by a unanimous vote.

7. AIAM Strategic Plan 2017-2020 update:

The AIAM Strategic Plan 2021-2026 was presented to the meeting. The Strategic Plan was adopted by the members present.

8. Other business:

8.1 The AIAM Workshops are scheduled to run again in October 2022 which will hopefully provide enough time for the threats associated with Covid-19 to subside.

8.2 Restructure of organisation – refer to attached advice.

Craig McClanahan Moved and Tina Martin Carried the motion. All members present voted by unanimous consent.

8.3 The President advised that there will be a restructure of the membership fees for the 2022 year, including a small increase. The joining fee will be removed and the annual fee for individual members will increase to \$50.

9. Close meeting

The President thanked everyone for their attendance and declared the meeting closed at 12.36pm.

Despite not having a workshop this past year, it has been busier than ever. The AIAM board has been busy behind the scenes working to deliver on webinars, advocacy and research projects, attending forums and improving our governance. I am so proud of the work the Board has done and continues to do.

This year we have delivered 10 webinars with a whopping 455 attending the webinars. This is huge achievement, so we will continue to deliver regular webinars, as the feedback we have received from our members is that these are valuable.

We have had some amazing presenters on topics including

- Animal Management 2021 style with Human Animal Support Services
- AIAM 2020 research updates
- Preventing stray and abandoned cats and dogs through Council NDN Cooperative desexing program
- Dog bite emergency department presentations
- Fenced Off-Leash Areas – A design and management overview
- West Cairns Pilot Animal Management Program
- What the new dog disease, Ehrlichiosis means for local government
- Upping your BA game, Behaviour Assessments for Poundies
- Cat management for Local Government
- Improving regulatory compliance and community engagement through animal behaviour

All of these webinars are available on our website under the members area, so if you missed them, you can watch them whenever you want.

The Board has been busy behind the scenes advocating for our members in a variety of issues including putting in submissions to the Victorian Government Animal Welfare Act review and Victorian taskforce for rehoming pets. I want to say a huge thanks to Nell for coordinating all our submissions, especially some at very short notice. It is important we have a voice and can drive change and continuous improvement.

The Board have participated in a number of forums across Australia and will be hosting an online national cat management forum to identify challenges, explore solutions, share knowledge and information and share experiences of cat management in a Local Government setting.

We have also been looking at improving our governance including moving from an association to company limited by guarantee, which we will discuss later in the AGM, developing a sponsorship policy, new financial management software and updating our strategic plan which will guide us for the next 5 years.

So with everything the Board has achieved this year, it is important to note that the Board is run by volunteers, so being able to achieve all this in their spare time is huge and I want to acknowledge the time and effort that they all put in for the love of what we do and what we are trying to achieve.

I don't want to single out anyone, but thank you to the Board which includes, Brooke, Nell, Sharleen, Di, Nishu, Dani, Ann-Marie, Tina, Sam and Lauren. I could spend all afternoon thanking you and sharing everything you do. I do want to say a special thank you to Ann-Marie, who is stepping down from the

Board after securing a job outside of animal management, thanks for your years of commitment and work for the Board it is much appreciated.

Without the whole Board working together, we would not be able achieve everything we do. I am proud of what we have delivered this year in another year of challenging circumstances, but look forward to the next 12 months and delivering even more to our members and the broader animal management community.

Thank you

Brenton Thomass

President - AIAM



Title	Australian Institute of Animal Management Membership Report
Prepared by	Nishu Ellawala – Membership Officer
Date	20 October 2021
Action item	For Information

Recommendation

Receives and notes the Australian Institute of Animal Management (AIAM) membership report for the 2020/2021 financial year.

Report

Membership Type	2020/21	2021/22 YTD	Number Increase	Percentage
Corporate Membership	19	17 (174 members)	↓2	↓11%
Individual Membership	113	126	↑13	↑11%
Total Memberships	132	143 (317 Members)	↑11	↑8%



Title	Restructure of Organisation
Prepared by	Brenton Thomass - President
Date	20 October 2021
Action item	For approval

Recommendation

That members approve:

That AIAM be converted to a Company Limited by Guarantee.

Report

The Board has been undertaking a review of all its governance structures to ensure AIAM is meeting its legal obligations as an association. Currently AIAM is registered as Incorporated Association through Consumer Affairs Victoria, as well as a Company Incorporated under the Corporations Act 2001.

As an association registered under the Associations Incorporate Reform Act 2021 in Victoria, this limits AIAM as an association to only operate within Victoria. Whereas when AIAM operates as a company incorporated under the Corporations Act 2001, this allows AIAM to operate at a national level.

Having two separate entities, whilst allows us to operate nationally and act as an association, creates a level of complexity for the Board. There is also a level of risk to the Board should activities undertaken under the association entity occur outside of Victoria.

The Board has sought legal advice regarding converting the Incorporated Association into a Company Limited by Guarantee. This would mean AIAM would be regulated under the Corporations Act only and would be able to operate nation-wide under the one entity. The legal advice has also recommended converting that AIAM register as Not-For-Profit to provide tax concessions.

Whilst a Company Limited by Guarantee have higher obligations placed on us under the Corporations Act 2001, by converting to a company will reduce the liability risk of operating under two separate entities.

It is important to note that should AIAM members support converting to a Company Limited by Guarantee, the constitution will need to be updated to reflect the changes which will be presented at a special general meeting at a later date.

Strategic Plan Alignment

Strategic Goal 5 of the draft AIAM Strategic Plan 2021-2026 is to improve the financial sustainability of AIAM by operating in an efficient, effective, and credible manner. The conversion to Company Limited by Guarentee supports this Strategic Goal.