

**MINUTES OF THE 102nd ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF
THE AUSTRALIAN VETERINARY ASSOCIATION LIMITED**

Held via Zoom Online Platform
on Thursday 8th MAY 2025 at 6:30pm

Welcome and Acknowledgement to Country

The President, Dr Sally Colgan welcomed attendees to the AVA Annual General Meeting and offered an Acknowledgement of Country.

Moment of Silence

The President took the opportunity to hold a moment of silence in memory of AVA members who have passed during the last year.

Present

AVA President (Chair), AVA Directors, Company Secretary, CEO, members.

Apologies

Member apologies were received and noted.

Introductions: AVA Directors

- Dr Sally Colgan President
- Prof. James Gilkerson Vice President
- Dr Diana Barker Director
- A/Prof David Beggs Director
- Dr Gemma Chuck Director
- Prof. Margaret Reilly Director
- Dr Geeta Saini Director
- Dr Mark Schipp Director
- Dr Tracy Sullivan Director

Acknowledgement: AVA staff

The President acknowledged the work of CEO Melissa King and AVA staff.

Acknowledgement: AVA Presidents

The President acknowledged the AVA Division and Special Interest Group Presidents and thanked them for their work on behalf of the Association.

Procedural matters

The procedures for moving and seconding items, voting processes and questions were outlined.

The President advised that only financial full members, life members and overseas members are entitled to vote. Financial members are those who have paid their 2025 membership subscriptions.

The President advised that those in other categories comprising honorary fellows, honorary members, student members and associate members are welcome to attend as observers of the meeting but may not vote.

In accordance with the AVA Constitution, the Company Secretary (Mr Michael Ghattas) confirmed that a quorum was present for the meeting.

Declaration of proxies

The Company Secretary declared that there were no general proxies received for this meeting.

Item A: Minutes of 20th May 2024 Annual General Meeting

The minutes the 101st Annual General Meeting were presented for confirmation.

Motion: That the minutes of the 101st Annual General Meeting held on Monday 20th May 2024 be accepted as a true and accurate record.

Moved: Dr Robert Johnson

Seconded: Dr Garth McGilvray
Motion carried

Item B: Minutes of the 30th September 2024 General Meeting

The minutes of the 30th September 2024 General Meeting were presented for confirmation.

Motion: That the minutes of the 30th September 2024 General Meeting held on Monday 30th September 2024 be accepted as a true and accurate record.

Moved: Dr Karen Jackson

Seconded: Dr Warwick Vale
Motion carried

Item C Declare three elected directors of the Board

The Company Secretary reported that there were three vacancies to fill on the AVA Board and as six nominations were received, a ballot was required. The President asked the Company Secretary to announce the results of the ballot.

The Company Secretary announced the three directors elected to the Board. Dr Diana Barker and Professor Margaret Reilly who were re-elected and one new director Dr David Johnson.

Item D Declare one director being nominee of the EVA

The Company Secretary advised that nominations were called to elect one director as nominee of the Equine Veterinarians Australia (EVA). The Company Secretary announced that there was one nomination received in response to that call from the group and therefore no elections were required. Professor James Gilkerson was duly elected as the nominee of the EVA for a three-year term.

The Company Secretary confirmed the Board of Directors for 2025 - 2026 as:

- Dr Diana Barker
- Dr Gemma Chuck
- Dr Sally Colgan
- Prof James Gilkerson
- Dr David Johnson
- Prof Margaret Reilly
- Dr Geeta Saini
- Dr Mark Schipp
- Dr Tracy Sullivan

Item E Report of the President

The President presented the report for 2024. Key highlights included:

- Strong Advocacy with 52 Submissions and 13 media releases.
- Over 3,500 mentions in mainstream media.
- Engaged widely with external stakeholders, with close to 300 external engagements.
- PAC developed 11 new policies and updated 23 existing policies.
- Strong performance in education and events with over 10,000 members and veterinary professionals attending, 130 events conferences, workshops and webinars.
- AVA Stakeholder Survey completed with over 2,500 survey responses.

- Constitution Reform Project continues to look at aligning our constitution and governance with best practice.
- 2025 Federal Election Campaign with the top 5 priorities identified through the 2024 stakeholder survey and our advocacy forum which underpinned our meetings with federal members and senators as well as media engagement.
- Completion of the AVA 2025-2028 Strategic Plan.
- Acknowledgement and thanks to AVA's volunteers.

The President asked if there were any questions. No questions were asked.

Motion: That the President's Report be received and accepted.

Moved: Dr Warwick Vale

Seconded: Dr Rhianna Booth
Motion carried

Item F Annual report of the Audit & Risk Committee Chair, financial statements and report of the auditors

The Audit & Risk Committee Chair, Dr David Beggs, provided a brief presentation relating to the financial performance of the AVA during the 2024 year. Key highlights included:

- Consolidated operating surplus of \$849K.
- Parent entity surplus of \$356K (positive \$452K compared to budget).
- Strong AVA and SIG performance, affinity partners and corporate supporters.
- Total assets: \$16.2M; Net assets: \$12.3M; Cash: \$5.3M.

The Board has approved a budget deficit of \$847K for 2025, to progress strategic projects such the Veterinary Wellness Strategy, Membership Model Project Roadmap, Constitution Reform and other activities including the 2025 Policy and Advocacy Plan, Federal Government Election Platform and Priorities and 2025 Education and Events.

The Audit & Risk Committee Chair asked if there were any questions. One question was received from Dr Warwick Vale:

Question: From page 55 of the annual report - Can the treasurer comment on the factors that were at play with the drop in 2024 vs 2023 conference and education revenue against a concurrent increase in the associated expenses line item?

Answer: The main reason for the increase in expenses in 2024 is the allocation of staff costs contributing to each of the events. There was no allocation of staff costs in 2023. Revenue is lower, as we had fewer conferences in 2024.

Motion: That the Report from the Audit & Risk Committee Chair, the Annual Financial Statements and the Auditor's Report be received and accepted.

Moved: Dr David Beggs

Seconded: Dr Laura Hardefeldt
Motion carried

Item G: Appoint the Auditor for 2025

Motion: That Pitcher Partners, Sydney, be appointed as auditor of The Australian Veterinary Association Ltd for the financial year 2025.

Moved: Dr David Beggs

Seconded: John Aspley Davis
Motion carried

Item H: Ordinary Resolution to approve Director remuneration

The members were asked to consider and vote on the following ordinary resolution to approve the remuneration of the President, the directors and the Chairs of the Audit and Risk Committee, Nominations and Governance Committee and Policy Advisory Council.

IT IS RESOLVED AS AN ORDINARY RESOLUTION that in accordance with clause 51.1 the remuneration of directors is approved as set out in the following table:

No	Role of Director	Quantum of remuneration	Nature of remuneration
1	President	\$107,790 plus GST	Cash
2	Director	\$ 11,600 plus GST	Cash
3	Chair of Audit & Risk Committee, Nominations and Governance Committee and Policy Advisory Council	\$12,750 plus GST	Cash

Moved: Dr John Aspley Davis

Seconded: Dr Stephen Yeomans
Motion carried

GENERAL BUSINESS

As there was some time remaining, the President provided members the opportunity for questions and comments. No questions were asked.

Next Meeting

Dr Sally Colgan thanked all present for their attendance and welcomed members to the next Annual General Meeting to be held in May 2026.

Meeting Close

Dr Sally Colgan declared the meeting closed at 7.10pm.

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President

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Date