

Report/minutes – declaration – of CLA Annual General Meeting held in 2019

Civil Liberties Australia's annual general meeting for 2019 has concluded, with a positive vote by the 52% of eligible members who voted. The percentage vote is the same as last year.

Individual votes in 2019 on the 2018 year were:

Approve President's Report:	Yes: 129	No: 0
Approve Annual Report:	Yes: 129	No: 0
Approve Treasurer's Report:	Yes: 128	No: 1

A comment re the Treasurer's report is below.

The Board thanks members for the strong approval indicated by the voting, and for the positive comments many members chose to make. Below is a representative selection.

There was also an election for Directors in 2019, as there is every second year: 10 current Directors stood for re-election (one current Director, Mark Jarratt, stood down for work reasons). As 12 positions were available, the 10 who stood are Directors. They are: Jennifer Ashton, Frank Cassidy, Richard Griggs, Margaret Howkins, Dr Kristine Klugman, Eloise McLean, Bill Rowlings, Sam Tierney, Rajan Venkataraman and Tim Vines. The Directors vote on executive positions at the next meeting of the Board.

The 2019 Annual General Meeting is hereby declared closed. – W.M. Rowlings, Secretary and Returning Officer, 31 March 2019

COMMENTS: CLA eAGM 2019

(a few slightly edited, for length and legal reasons)

A fantastic job with too few resources!

All the grey hair in the photo in the president's report made me wonder if this is representative of the general age of members. I don't know, if like many organisations, CLA may be dependent on people, who may be retired and have the time available to carry out its valuable work. However in my experience it has also been very important to have inputs from 'time-poor' young people, for they are often rich with invigorating ideas.

A magnificent job.

An important organisation, especially now with such a concerted onslaught on the rights of people everywhere. As a matter of urgency, Australia needs a Bill of Rights, perhaps with an appropriate section dealing with the rights of our environment. As NASA scientists have pointed out, planet earth is at a tipping point. – Joan Coxsedge

Appreciate all that you do and hope that one day when I retire I can assist.

A truly wonderful, transparent & dedicated organisation which manages to 'move mountains' with very meagre resources.

CLA is a superbly run nationwide civil liberties organisation. It operates with the integrity, accountability and transparency sadly lacking in: Australian Fed. Parliament, recent Governance, the Australian Police historically, most Australian-based corporations and within the Australian Judiciary. Congratulations Bill Rowlings and Kris Klugman for dedicating your lives to such vital work in this country.

CLA is a vital institution if we are to have any hope of creating and maintaining a healthy democracy. Our present government is threatening the existence of anything resembling The Public Interest or a social conscience.

CLA is much needed, and makes well researched and presented reports – Wes, NT

CLA's decision to work on 'Regulations' to protect a whole generation of young being hoodwinked and exploited is admirable.

Congratulations on the magnificent work being undertaken by President, CEO and Directors, and supporters...and excellent reporting.

Congratulations to CLA for another year of advocacy for civil rights in Australia.

Congratulations to President and all the Board on another sterling year. Watching TV series of Sue Neill-Fraser a real eye-opener. Her body language in Police interviews was enough for me to see she was innocent. Entire Business sector needs a very express, inexpensive 'Judge Judy'-type trial. Once again, I have lost \$50,000 in fees last year alone. Companies 'insider trade', hide behind and exploit the law. Finally, whistleblowers in Australia endanger their lives. Not one Department or Minister provides ANY replies or takes action, or even acknowledges major crimes. ACT Ministers and their staff shirk responsibilities and cause anxiety by sending minor matters off to ACAT. Very concerned – Tony Hanley

Doing a great job, please keep up the extraordinary work.

Excellent work.

I am a firm believer in 'truth and justice' and I applaud the efforts of CLA in newsletter reports.

I am impressed in all aspects of CLA activities and report.

I approve of the work of CLA although I wonder how I can help to increase its effectiveness. The media and the leadership of political parties of two of the most direct ways to affect change and sometimes more importantly, prevent change! How can a more visible and sharpened campaign be undertaken? Yours, in Melbourne.

Complete confidence in CLA and its leaders – Bill

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I have no problem as it all sounds really good to me. As long as human rights are in the forefront it is doing just what we want to see.

I remain in awe of your work!

I support CLA because of its integrity and impartiality. I feel I can trust the committee to represent me. I am impressed by the amount of work they do and send my sincere thanks to them.

I think CLA does an amazing job and thank you for your ongoing support of Sue Neill-Fraser.

I think that CLA is very effective in monitoring important public issues.

I was very interested in the mention of 'Right to Appeal', in the President's Report 2018, and 'Model Litigant Obligations', in the CLA Annual Report 2018. I trust Cardinal Pell's 'Right to appeal' will be upheld.

I wish there were more CLAs. We need organisations/people like you to keep an eye on those who govern us – HLVS

I'm always impressed by CLA's coverage of so many wide-ranging issues with such limited resources. Congratulations on a good year's work – James Moore, Kogarah NSW

It is all very good for me.

Keep doing our necessary work/Keep fighting for those who need help/Keep up the good work.

Looks like another busy year. Well done to all.

Maybe I am missing something but in the summary of CLA finances, the Balance Carried Forward is \$48,525.86 but the Net Financial Position is shown as \$49,126,60 - a difference of \$600.74. (We are fortunate to have two members who keep a very close eye on the finances: the Treasurer will report on the discrepancy).

Sadly I have not been able to devote to CLA the time I would like to.

Should you think about an honorarium for the President and Secretary who do an enormous amount of work for the organisation? I would have thought an amount of \$5000 each would go some way to recompense their enormous efforts.

Thank you for your advocacy across a wide range of human rights issues. It is good to keep a focus on voluntary assisted dying as its implementation occurs in Victoria this year (2019) and will inevitably be advocated and voted on in other Australian jurisdictions in the next few years.

Thank you for your ongoing support during the year. I am amazed at the amount of quality work done by such a small but clearly very dedicated group. Your strong ongoing interest in the Sue Neill-Fraser case is most welcome.

Thank you to all the volunteers who work to counter injustice. Wish I had more time to contribute more actively. One day...

Thanks to all the directors and hardworking Exec. The amount of work done and in pipeline is staggering, thanks for reports.

The CLA should lobby for a national judicial system to avoid perceptions of parochial prejudices which in small states like Tasmania have led to questionable verdicts – Jon Jovanovic

The presented excellent representation of civil liberty issues and recommendations for future development.

This report marks another year of exceptional community service by a small, but dedicated group of people who value universal civil liberties above their own time and convenience.

We would like to extend our thanks to the members of the Board for their tireless & selfless efforts on behalf of CLA in effectively promoting & defending civil liberties. Well done – Anne & John Richardson

Whistle-blower protection: Does CLA have a policy or campaign to protect whistle-blowers? (*We strongly support whistleblower protection moves*). The banking and finance Royal Commission, revelations of abuse in aged care, heavy-handed enforcement procedures by the ATO, and the case of Witness K show the important role whistle-blowers play in protecting society from abuses of power by those in public and private positions of power. However, there is little protection for people who are brave enough to become whistle-blowers, and who often suffer from a further abuse of power by the authorities and other bodies whose bad behaviour they have exposed.

Terrorism: The horrific massacre in NZ and all-too frequent outrages in America show that the most likely/common acts of terrorism are by home-grown (usually right-wing) extremists. Expressing anger and hateful ideas is one thing. Urging hatred and violence on others, organising provocation and violent displays, buying weapons and ammunition over the internet, plotting and planning outrages are entirely unacceptable - they are beyond the limits of free speech. CLA would do a great service to open up debate on this.

Thank you, CLA, for all that you do. Thank you to the board members who put in so much work. I fully support your efforts to diversify the board, to be active and represented in all States and Territories, and to reach out to the widest range of demographic groups.

ENDS

Note: The comments are in alphabetical order, based on their starting words.

Unless signed, we don't know who they are from.

(Bold items are just to make it easier to differentiate the different comments).