

## AGM of Civil Liberties Australia Inc. (CLA)

OVERALL voting – AGM held in 2020 of CLA			
Sent out	E-votes	271	
	Postal	24	
	Total able to vote		295
Received	E-votes	112	
	Postal	14	
	Total who voted		126
	%age who voted	126/295	42.7, say 43%

*All votes received were 'Yes/In Favour'.*

**Declaration and 'Minutes':** A total of 126 CLA members – 43% - voted in the Annual General Meeting held over Feb-March 2020, 112 of them voting online and 14 voting by hard-copy and post. All members who voted supported the notice of motion to make minor changes to the Constitution, as outlined in voting papers, and all voted in support of the President's Report, the Annual Report and the Treasurer's Statement. The Board of CLA thanks members for such solid support, and for the mostly kind comments, below

– (signed) W.M. Rowlings, Returning Officer.

### Comments made on voting papers in 2020:

Thank you so much for all you do. I wish I had more time to help you back on the committee; but I don't as I spend a lot of time travelling. We are a better society because of the work of the volunteers from CLA. Thank you!

I very much support your program.

First paragraph of President's Report is not well-considered and suggests bias.

Thanks for all the work you do, for bringing our concerns to the attention of lawmakers and others, and for keeping members informed. Paul Reid.

Thank you for all the work you have done to try and overturn the wrongful conviction of Sue Neill-Fraser.

Keep up the great work. The newsletter is particularly informative. Well done!

Keep up the good work. Such an organisation is needed in our country.

The language and tone of the newsletter has been drifting further towards the tabloid. This is unbecoming, unprofessional and contrary to aims and objectives of CLA.

The ABC continues to commit treason" daily". It "High Jacked" the 2019 Federal Elections, tilting towards only the climate change debate and more pertinently its own narcissistic funding agenda. It is a CORRUPT, organisation that "Panda's" to the ALP-Greens in the ACT. We need a Royal Commission into the ABC NOW. The electorate of Bean was bespoke-made specifically for the ALP. Self-government in the ACT has failed on all counts. (comment slightly shortened).

I do appreciate the work and palpable integrity of all involved with Board. Thank you. Rosalind Byass, Stawell

Carry on the great work. So important.

Congratulations to CLA for another year of work advocating for civil rights in Australia. The CLA output – of policy positions, information, submissions etc – is admirable.

It's been a good year!

Good effort this year and great to see some justice at last for Sue in Tasy. Well done. As you know, I don't think Human Rights Acts really assist real rights in countries like Australia and whilst it is not necessarily part of our remit, I wonder if we can do anything to protect the right of free speech on uni campuses.

Another impressive year. Well done to all involved in ensuring that civil liberties remain high on political and social agendas even if the current governments at Feral (yes Feral) and State levels (esp. in Tasmania) do not understand or heed the concept!

Congratulations once again to the Exec for their tireless work during the year on civil liberties matters.

The modern management theories have produced more Chiefs than Indians. It takes a long agonising wait in getting a hearing in the Court of Law. I am proud that CLA is working hard to address this problem. I am proud to be associated with CLA although I am not able to do much because of my age, health and family circumstances.

Excellent informative AGM documentation, yet again. A model of clarity. The AGM documentation of most public companies fails to approach the high quality of CLA, a wholly volunteer association. The upgraded electronic voting system is simple to navigate. Congratulations on all counts, and for the tireless CLA efforts on behalf of Australian civil society, whether most beneficiaries recognise it or not.

Keep up the great work! Particularly important to keep collaborating/supporting other like-minded Community Service Organisations.

It was good to read about these activities. In terms of potential new allies in Federal Parliament, you should reach out to the new SA Senator Andrew McLachlan. Andrew filled Cory Bernardi's casual vacancy, but they are chalk and cheese. He's a very decent person and potentially a great ally who I hope will stand up to some of the dinosaurs inside his own party for whom civil liberties is simply a socialist plot to destroy civilisation. Mark Parnell MLC, Greens SA. (comment shortened).

Continue the good work please.

Very impressive performance by our Executive – thank you; James Grenfell

I would like to thank the Board for its tireless efforts in promoting & actively defending civil liberties at every opportunity in Australia. Well done. John Richardson Wallagoot NSW

Please continue the work in support of human rights and civil liberties in this country where sadly they are being steadily eroded by authoritarian governments and politicians lacking integrity.

Well done!

Vive CLA!!!!

I concur with The Hon. Michael Kirby's comments as noted in CLA's Annual Report.

***THIS IS WHAT Mr KIRBY wrote in emails to CLA:***

*Thank you for the initiatives CLA is pursuing. Thanks for all you do for Civil Liberties in Australia. I agree with your assessment of the current baleful situation. Best wishes and encouragement.*

*We need you more than ever. With admiration, Michael. – The Hon. Michael Kirby AC CMG, Nov/Dec 2019*

There are two items I'd like to put forward for possible consideration by the executive: 1. Australian citizens in the ACT and the NT are denied (by the federal Andrews bill) the right to make local laws concerning assisted dying. This is intolerable for two reasons: the views of federal god-botherers over-ride the rights of territories' citizens, making the latter second-class Australian citizens; and the wishes of the territories' citizens have already been shown to be in favour of legislating assisted dying. 2. CLA often refers to and pursues "rights of appeal" in relation to laws, regulation and official decisions. To my mind, instead of relying on and advocating appeals – which are expensive, often drawn-out and

invariably administratively burdensome – why not try to improve the quality of the decision-making in the first place? Something like the "get it right first time" movement that held sway in manufacturing last century. Anyway, that's what I think. Bronis Dudek

*Note: Thanks to Bronis for the idea in 1. And we have filled him in on the 10-year Better Justice campaign which CLA launched in 2016.*

The empathy, fairness and compassion that emulates CLA's work, aspects that I feel are sadly lacking in our federal government, makes me proud to be counted as a member. Margaret Waddington

The continuing work of the CLA Canberra Board and ad hoc helpers is superb; many thanks.

As always, I am most grateful to Kris and Bill for all the tireless work they both carry out on behalf of CLA members. We are indeed fortunate to have such dedicated intellects constantly monitoring this nation to ensure that our civil liberties are not eroded and to protest strongly should they detect any breaches in this sphere. Rosemary Jennings

Thanks for all you do to stave off the worst excesses of obsessively repressive governments.

I congratulate the office bearers and board members for achieving so much with relatively small resources. CLA is a voice which needs to be heard in our society. James Moore, Kogarah NSW

I have never belonged to a justice-focused organisation with such integrity. CLA is a scrupulously honest, hard-working and supportive group of human beings. Directors and members volunteer their skills to 'stand up' for Australians suffering injustices. The push for Human Rights has become urgent, as First Australians, Women, Multi-cultural groups and our young slide backwards in this nation-in-crisis lead by denial, lies and greed.

CLA continues to do great work in trying times. Helen Scheller.

Keep the WA group as busy as you can. Tony, Perth WA

“Democracy”: A government that is run by the people who live under it. Not a govt that controls or rules over the people whom it supposedly represents and who have no right of appeal. J. A. Woodward, Perth WA.

Good work.

ENDS