

CLA AGM held in 2021

At voting time, there were 300 eligible voting members with dues paid: 284 had email addresses, 16 did not. Of the 284, 133 voted electronically (a further 19 opened the 'token' to enable voting, but did not 'submit' a vote). Of the 16 potential postal voters, 12 voted by returned postal vote. A total of 145 members voted, which is 48.3% overall. The electronic AGM was run under ElectionBuddy "automated" software.

Results of voting in the Annual General Meeting of Civil Liberties Australia held in 2021, covering reports for the 2020 year (CLA operates to a calendar year administratively and financially):

Overall results:

Approve the 2020 President's Report:

99.3% yes; 0.7% no.

Approve 2020 CLA Annual Report: 100%

Approve 2020 CLA Financial Report: 100%

Election of office bearers: Every two years, CLA elects officer bearers, with up to 12 positions available. The following existing Board members, being eligible for reappointment, stood again.

Bill Rowlings	Director
Caitlin Perry	Director
Frank Cassidy	Director
Jennifer Ashton	Director
Dr Kristine Klugman	Director (standing to become Immediate Past President)
Margaret Howkins	Director
Rajan Venkataraman	Director
Richard Griggs	Director

As there were fewer nominations than positions available, the above are declared elected.

– W.M. Rowlings, Secretary and Returning Officer
29 March 2021

NB: Office-bearers are elected by Directors at the first Board meeting after the AGM. The President of CLA can appoint new Board members between elections. The next Board election is due in 2023.

AGM 2021: Comments by members:

Members were free to give their names, or not:

I am always impressed with CLA's achievements with the resources available.

I would like to thank Dr Klugman for the Annual Report 2020, and wish her well for the future. Also, thanks to your colleagues on the administrative committee for a "job well done". – T.V. Boseley

As an inmate, I receive the CLA newsletter by mail each month and can only say it has made an indelible impression on me and also other people I pass it on to. Small though the organisation might be, it has a huge roar amongst those of us who have suffered injustice. I trust it will flourish, and continue long into the future. Otherwise, who will guard the guardians? – Sue Neill-Fraser

The year 2020 revealed CLA as a force to be reckoned with. Well done!

Excellent job.

I am surprised the 2020 CLA Annual Report has made no mention of the Parliamentary Joint Committee on Intelligence and Security into extremist movements and radicalism as a point of interest for the group in 2021. It would appear several government intelligence and law enforcement agencies are attempting to unduly influence or interfere in domestic non-conformist or anti-establishment political discourses that are gaining popularity despite posing no threat to public safety. Public free speech and "right to privacy" must be a priority for CLA.

For clarification: The Board has decided that CLA's priority is arguing for a complete review of all 'terror' laws and mechanisms passed since 2001, with a view to rewriting the laws and recasting the structures appropriately as the nation would under a human rights act. The review would also include all the emergency strictures under the Covid-19 pandemic.

You do a great job. Thanks to Kris for her enormous contribution over such a long period. – Anne Cahill Lambert

Bad communication and response.

The Treasurer, Sam Tierney, highlighted the sound growth in CLA's financial position. He also noted the increased uptake of longer-term memberships this year. Will this lead to a decrease in membership income next year due to the number of members who have pre-paid? Thanks. – Paul Reid.

Clarification: The Board believes it will, unless members and the Board can increase membership.

This work is more important than ever! Thank you!

Congratulations on all your good work. – Diana Cousens

Good job.

I am absolutely thrilled with the status quo. CLA is doing a wonderful job. Thank you!

I congratulate the office bearers of CLA, especially the President and Secretary for dedication and the high level of competence, essential qualities not evident in many of the organisations that are the subject of consideration and often criticism, especially the present Federal government and indeed the entire Parliament. I am sorry that this is their final year in these positions.

I am disappointed in the lack of attention paid to 'Covid-19' nonsense and its present and future effect on our Civil Liberties...there are far too many incongruencies...this rubbish requires serious investigation. (*Please see note above re review of all 'terror' and 'emergency' laws*)

Great work!

Congratulations and thanks to Kris Klugman for her steadfast commitment to civil liberties and for all that she has contributed as President of CLA. – Ruth Graham.

I want to congratulate the outgoing President, Dr. Kristine Klugman, for her dedication to CLA. CLA, established by Kris and Bill Rowlings, is now in a strong position to continue fighting for social justice and a national Human Rights Act. We owe them both. All the best for the future Kris. – Diana Simmons

No problems.

Well done on another good year. It is sad to see Kris finish up as President but what a magnificent contribution she has made to the organisation over so many years and to promoting and fighting for the basic rights of Australian citizens over that period. Hopefully this year will see Justice finally delivered to Sue in Tasmania and to my old mate and colleague Bernard Collaery who has been so badly treated for just doing his job as an Australian lawyer. Thanks Kris for all your hard work. – Bill Stefaniak

Very grateful to the hard CLA workers for their dedication, time and effort to make a difference for us all.

Congratulations on continuing to bring to public view issues of importance to a 'democratic' society. Certainly trust in our governing bodies is becoming more difficult to hang on to.

CLA is doing a great job.

CLA's agenda is strong but the voice is weak. I would like to see CLA to be a go-to body for the media to obtain a quote or an opinion. The voice of CLA needs to be heard on social, electronic and print media and should be a regular perspective on Australia issues. Maybe this requires budget for PR/marketing (heaven forbid) or a committee to look at cost effective and powerful messaging methods. – Geoffrey

Civil liberties have always intrigued me since my growing up days in Belfast in the north of Ireland. It was the story of the foundation of CLA in Darwin that prompted my thinking to become a member, of how this vast and virgin country, for some of us, well it sure seemed civil and libertarian. Unfortunately for those who were forced to abandon their civil rights in what was always their homeland and be squandered away to institutional and confined spaces in their own land with laws, that even today, restrict these people from being recognised not only as traditional owners but as equals, well, what more needs to be said! I could go on. On another note. Kristine, thank you. Enjoy all that's ahead.

Dear Kristine, Thank you so very sincerely for your kindness, welcoming Presidency and your hard, committed work. You will be missed but I wish you every happiness in your 'retirement', so to speak!! – Margaret Waddington North Balmoral, Victoria.

I approve of what the CLA Committee is doing.

CLA is an excellent organisation that represents the needs and concerns of peoples at all levels and in all situations. The executives have provided excellent service to the organisation, its members, and the community as a whole.

Again, much appreciation and kudos to CLA for such sustained professional voluntary efforts across a wide range of civil liberties issues. This is particularly vital given

the significant government and official, unfit for purpose, CoVid19 intrusion into every aspect of daily life, based in the cult of "public health", illusion of control, and the Dunning-Kruger effect. More power and influence to CLA. – Mark Jarratt, member and former Director.

The committee members should be congratulated for their excellent work for the members of CLA, and the people of Australia generally.

Covid made it tough for everyone, so congratulations to the executive and board on surviving and thriving in a difficult year.

I think it would be great for CLA to pursue/work towards joining together with the Australian Civil Liberties organisation. As we all know, strength comes with numbers. I assume the majority of members don't care which civil liberties organisation, as long as working to same end. If this means CLA would merge under the other, I wouldn't have a problem with that at all. Thanks all directors and volunteers for all your good work. Together we are stronger!! :)

Clarification: In reality, there is no functioning "Australian Civil Liberties organisation" other than Civil Liberties Australia, which is the only national body. Occasionally, a person speaks in the name of the "A. Council for CL" in the media. No such entity exists in any formal sense: it does not have, and has not ever had, a constitution, board, elected directors, annual report, etc. It is not and has never been a registered entity anywhere. For details, see: [the report in the NSW Council for Civil Liberties history](#), written by Dorothy and Scott Campbell.

From my perspective, the loss of liberty directly from US rules after 2001 – registration of personal details when purchasing a phone number – the extent of collecting details of location and movement as well as the enormous level of scrutiny and the closure of accounts/delays when trying to move even small amounts of money due to AML/ KYC changes as well as tightening visa rules and the associated loss of autonomy are having an increasing impact

Thanks to the Executive for their annual efforts!

Thanks Kris for your long and dedicated service to Civil Liberties Australia and the cause in general. Go well and enjoy your 'retirement'! – Kia kaha (from NZ).

Thanks for your concern for others – Carlene Bott

Huge respect to CLA's President, CEO, Vice President and our new Human Rights national campaigner for their exceptional dedication in confronting increasingly challenging miscarriages of justice throughout 2020. The past year has been tougher than ever. Hopefully 2021 will deliver 'justice breakthroughs' due to CLA's united hard work across Australia.

Thanks CLA directors for the dedication and all the good work!

ENDS 2021 AGM comments