



MINUTES APPROVED AT THE 2025 MHSa INC. AGM

MHSa INC. ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING – MONDAY 2 DECEMBER 2024

Location of Meeting: Via Zoom Pro videoconferencing.

Present: Nigel Webster (Chair), Richard Bernasconi, Justin Chadwick, Ian Curtis, Robbie Dalton, Steve Danaher, Terry Dinneen, Ian Foster, Mike Gahan, Russell Paten, Ian Stagoll, Leigh Ryan, Russell Linwood (Secretary).

Apologies: Katrina Kittel, Duncan McConnell, Chris Yardley.

Proxy votes: Nil proxy votes were received by the deadline.

Welcome by Federal President. The AGM commenced at 6.37 pm AEDST, with **Nigel Webster** welcoming the meeting attendees.

1. Confirmation of preceding AGM (4 Dec 2023) minutes.

Accepted as an accurate record.

Moved: **Russell Paten** Seconded: **Justin Chadwick** CARRIED.

The 2023 official confirmed AGM minutes may now be placed on the MHSa Inc website.

2. Business Arising.

Nil.

3. **President's Report.** **Nigel Webster** spoke to his President's Report which was pre-circulated, highlighting positive developments during 2024. These are addressed in *Attachment 1*. He also thanked the Federal Council members for tasks that they undertook during the year, especially **Justin Chadwick**'s work as the Editor of the Sabretache journal and as the Federal Treasurer.

Acceptance of his report was called for.

Moved: **Russell Linwood** Seconded: **Mike Gahan** CARRIED.

4. **Treasurer's Report.** *Justin Chadwick* addressed a pre-circulated Federal Account Interim Financial Report. This document is at *Attachment 2*.

5. **Audited Financial Statement.** *Justin Chadwick* also summarised the Society's overall financial position as being healthy, and that he was awaiting funding allocation for upcoming productions of *Sabretache*. The full Audited Financial Statement for 2023-2024 is at *Attachment 3*. Acceptance of his report was then called for along with the Treasurer's Report.

Moved: *Russell Paten* Seconded: *Russell Linwood* CARRIED.

6. **Website Update.** In the absence of *Duncan McConnell*, whose pre-circulated report is at *Attachment 4*, *Nigel Webster* noted further that the upgrade to the website is about 75% complete with the former forecasting to complete this work by end February 2025. These changes should achieve the intention of improved communications and current/accurate information being available. He thanked the several councillors who have put personal effort into advising on and assisting with this project. It was also noted that *Duncan McConnell* has two professional appointments, and other business/personal obligations while also supplying his technical expertise as the Webmaster. Acceptance of his report was then called for.

Moved: *Nigel Webster* Seconded: *Steve Danaher* CARRIED.

7. **Proposed Constitutional Amendment.** *Nigel Webster* led discussion on this matter which has been the subject of email communication for some time.

This proposed that the MHSA Inc. amend the 2021 Constitution by a membership vote at this 2024 AGM to change the wording from having a requirement for an annual audit to the requirement for having an annual review and this can be conducted by an assurance practitioner.

In effect, the proposal seeks to simplify the administration and costs of the Society's finances within its current lawful obligations. The Amendment to the extant 2021 Constitution was proposed:

That an annual review of MHSA's financial affairs be conducted by an Assurance Practitioner.

A vote was taken by show of hands, and the result recorded in these minutes.

Moved: *Nigel Webster* Seconded: *Leigh Ryan* CARRIED.

8. **Election of Federal Councillors.** The elected terms for *Nigel Webster*, *Russell Linwood*, *Russell Paten*, *Katrina Kittel* as federal councillors had expired at the 2024 AGM. This necessitated these four councillors standing down, with the opportunity, as for all members, to seek election to Federal Council. *Leigh Ryan* then officiated as the Independent Returning Officer and took the chair.

Three nominations were received using the prescribed form in the Rules, and a fourth was received by email from ***Katrina Kittel*** within the time specified. Her nomination was seconded by ***Nigel Webster***. Copies of all four nominations are contained in the MHSA records held by the Federal Secretary. As the number of nominations received was equal to the number of vacancies, the persons nominated were deemed to be elected as councillors under Section 11A (b) of the 2021 Constitution.

Specific appointments for 2025 were addressed with one nominee self-proposing for each vacant office. Their election followed in the order recorded:

- a. ***Nigel Webster*** re-elected for two years, and as Federal President to 2025 AGM.
- b. ***Russell Paten*** re-elected for two years, and as Federal Vice-President to 2025 AGM.
- c. ***Russell Linwood*** re-elected for two years, and as Federal Secretary to 2025 AGM; and
- d. ***Katrina Kittel*** re-elected for two years as a member of Federal Council.

9. General Business.

None.

10. **Meeting closure:** ***Nigel Webster*** thanked all present for their participation and closed the meeting at 7.00 pm AEDST.
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The 2025 AGM will be conducted by Zoom Pro videoconferencing at a time to be promulgated early in that year.

These Minutes were drafted on 7 Dec 24 and cleared by Nigel Webster as the Chairperson on 19 Dec 2024 for distribution.