

Minutes of the of Board of Directors

**11 April 2016 – 12.30pm
Via Videoconference**

1. ATTENDANCE:

1.1 Present: George Fong (Chair), Paul Brooks (Vice-Chair), Laurie Patton (CEO), Keith Besgrove (Secretary), Gunela Astbrink, Chris Disspain, Cheryl Langdon-Orr, Craig O'Toole (joined 12:45pm), Holly Raiche, Jon Lawrence, Narelle Clarke, Rob Gregory

Apologies: Narelle Clark

1.2 Declarations of Interest:

Gunela Astbrink indicated that she has been invited by ISOC China to talk at the WSIS forum in Geneva in May.

2. Minutes of Previous Meeting

The Vice-Chair indicated that the dates on the previous minutes were wrong. The Treasurer also noted that he had not been noted as Treasurer in the minutes. The Chair undertook to correct these errors on the previous Minutes.

Proposed Jon Lawrence, seconded Chris Disspain. Passed.

3. Executive Reports/Updates

3.1 Chair – The Chair has indicated that the Data Retention regime had not progressed significantly, although AusIndustry has contacted ISPs and has queried the grants applications in some cases (including those from the Chair's own company). Some concerns still in relation to the costs.

The Chair has also reported on the fact that the new TCP Code regime was coming into place and all smaller ISPs. Cheryl Langdon-Orr declared interest in that she is on the Advisory Board of ComCon.

The Chair indicated that pressure has been kept up in regard to the issue of skinny fibre and the issues of cost.

3.2 Treasurer – The Treasurer has provided the Board with numerous financial reports. He has indicated that money is continuing to come in. Several corporate members have renewed. The Treasurer will provide details of new corporate members and renewing corporate members. The Treasurer indicated that he had not yet gained signatory status for the bank account but the process was in train.

Previous accounts from the last meeting stand.

3.3 CEO – The CEO indicated that we had a query from a member in relation to the breadth of our activities. The CEO did explain to that member that whilst the NBN issues were receiving a significant amount of media attention, we were equally active on a number of other different fronts.

Having said that, we had received broad media interest in the commentary that we had made around the NBN and the skinny fibre trial. Both the CEO and the Vice-Chair had been interviewed by ABC Radio (Business and Lateline). SBS and 2 UE as well.

The CEO has continued to work on the Year of Digital Inclusion activities. Paul, Narelle and he had also attended the Comms Day Summit. The CEO is moderating an IoT session at the Connect conference in Melbourne in 2 weeks time.

The Chair mentioned the fact that the Broadband in the Bush conference is on in Brisbane at the end of June. Agreed that we should have representation there. At a minimum it was agreed that the CEO and Gunela be there. The Chair indicated that he would explore possibilities of getting us up there.

3.4 Policy Committee – Holly Raiche reported on Marrakesh. A report had been circulated. ACAC meeting. We should be involved with this. She also mentioned the “Healthy Domains Industry” initiative which is being headed up by Adrian Kinderis. Holly has indicated that we should be involved too. Chris Disspain indicated that this was an initiative of the Domain Name Association.

ACTION: Holly will circulate Adrian Kinderis’ Powerpoint presentation.

Holly outlined the desirability to put together a list of policy issues for the election and indicated her willingness to work on this. The CEO suggested that we put together a survey for members based on the issues identified.

ACTION: Jon Lawrence, Holly Raiche and the CEO to get together to work on this.

Cheryl indicated that there was a member concerned about the IANA transition. By-Laws are nearly drafted and adjunct accountability framework by-laws were close to complete. Once they are out for public comment, Cheryl suggested that we push these documents out to our members and collect any feedback therefrom.

Gunela has indicated that she is interested in the Healthy Domains Industry initiative. She indicated that there is relevance in relation to accessibility. Holly indicated that the initiative is more about being safe and secure.

3.5 Membership Administration. - The Chair indicated that Jon had been shouldering most of this work. Jon has done a couple of mailouts for members who have not renewed. We are currently sitting at

21 Concessional Members
119 Standard Individual Members
7 Foundation Members have renewed

There still about 58 individual members and a number of Foundation members who have not renewed. Jon has indicated in his renewal notice that we would start unsubscribing people from the mailing list if memberships were not renewed by mid-April.

Jon is now in contact with Suzanne. They are about to work on a full membership reconciliation.

The Chair congratulated the Board on the efforts and dividends made on membership so far. There was discussion about the resignation of the NY Chapter president. The CEO indicated that there appeared to be significant amounts of funding within the control of the Internet Society and this might be capable of being directed to Chapter support.

Rob Gregory agree that there had been good work done on the membership side but there we still a need to put in the effort to build a sustainable foundation for IA. Rob also indicated that most of the

Internet Society's money comes from PIR and perhaps it was worthy of query as to whether there was financial support available for the Chapters as such.

4. NBN Policy – Holly briefly addresses the proposed NBN Policy and indicated that she had drawn on previous policies in regard to the current draft. She indicated that she had reservations about broadband being regarded as a human right.

Holly left the meeting.

The CEO indicated that the draft NBN policy was not a departure from our original position. He was interested in the form of words being correct. The CEO indicated that there was likely to be a significant amount of debate in the period leading up to the Federal Election and it was important to have this policy in place. The CEO also suggested that we talk to ACCANN about issues of USO. In relation to NBN. A USO for data was discussed and canvassed.

ACTION: Keith Holly and Laurie to consider looking at USO.

Post election – there appears to be mounting support for FTTdP. Paul indicated that FTTdP was a better option than FTTN. We should be supportive of FTTdP where it is more cost effective than FTTP. We should remain technology neutral but be supportive of FTTdP.

NB this does not fix disparity in speed in relation to the copper component. Long driveways may present problems.

Fibre to the Driveway as a “buzzword” was agreed to be a useful phrase for the ordinary person.

General agreement that the Board is happier with Holly's rewrite of the NBN policy, ie leaving out issues of Internet being a human right. Rob suggested that the Internet/NBN/broadband is an important way by which human rights such as freedom of speech is enhanced. (Broadband is an enabler).

Cost is always going to be a consideration. Any financial return needs to be judged on a long term basis.

Reservations were raised in respect of adopting the NBN Policy as proposed by Holly with suggestions that it needs to be finessed before it is passed. The Chair indicated that the purpose of the adoption of the NBN Policy is to put a line in the sand and provide a rough consensus with regard to our position. The Chair indicated that the policy is regardless, a live and evolving document and will be actively reviewed and updated.

ACTION: The CEO to work with Paul to put the policy out to the members.

The resolution to be passed is to adopt the following as Internet Australia's NBN Policy:

“The Internet is for all Australians. It is the essential service of the 21st century that will underpin Australia's social and economic progress into the future. That means all Australians must have reliable, affordable access to a high quality, high bandwidth service for both upstream and downstream traffic wherever they live and work.

The Australian Government, therefore, must ensure the provision of the best possible national broadband network, utilising the most technologically advanced means of delivery available from time to time, and delivering services comparable with world's best practice.”

Moved Chris, Seconded Cheryl. Passed.

5. Communications Policy – The Chair indicated that the redraft of the Communications Policy has been on the table since the last meeting. Discussion about some of the terms used in the policy. Again concern was expressed in relation to pushing through a policy that was subject to finessing.

There was further discussion on the importance of having a policy on the books as the organisation grew to provide a guideline for practice, especially in terms of the rapid growth and evolution of the organisation. It was noted that it was important for the CEO to have some certainty under which to work in relation to communications.

It was noted by the board that Gunela had put forward several modifications to the language of the policy and these modifications were discussed.

It was generally agreed that the policy did not have universal acceptance in all aspects, there was the ability to move it forward and make changes to the same over time. Once the policy was adopted there was no impediment to reviewing it regularly and updating it as needed and agreed.

The resolution that was put is:

“The board resolves to accept and ratify the Communications Policy document presented to the previous meeting by the CEO”.

Moved Chris, Seconded Cheryl. Passed with 2 abstentions.

6. Additional Vice-Chair – The Chair outlined the history of the the discussions and debates with regard to an additional Vice-Chair, specifically in the light of the previous resolution that no clear reason had been put to make such an appointment. The Chair acknowledged that discussions about workloads were previously canvassed and discussed

There was discussion in relation to adopting a Vice-Chair of International Relations. There was general agreement that it was important to have someone designated to concentrate on the task of maintaining and growing our relationship with international organisations.

Concerns were expressed about whether other board members had an opportunity to nominate for this particular Vice-Chair role. It was pointed out that Cheryl had put her hand up when the position was first canvassed.

The resolution put was:

“The board resolves to appoint Cheryl Langdon-Orr as an additional vice-chair with specific responsibility for international activities”.

Moved by Jon, seconded by Gunela. Passed.

Cheryl Langdon-Orr asked that Gunela Astbrink’s work on ICANN also be acknowledged.

7. Directors’ Representations

IANA Transition – The Chair indicated that he was representing Internet Australia at the end of May in front of students of Federation University Australia. He suggested that some roundtables could be organised with business, local government, State Government and Federal Government.

ACTION: the Chair and CEO to work on this.

8. Other Business

Discussion ensued in regard to the elections for Board of Trustees . Cheryl emphasised that the Chair had the vote for the Australian Chapter.

ACTION: - Information and profiles to be circulated to the Board and The Chair to seek a rough consensus of the Board and cast the vote.

10. Next Meeting – 20th June 2016
