**DRAFT MINUTES**

 **Registered attendees (24)**

Kim Boyer (president), Trevor Wise, Ed Kremzer, Harriet Baillie, Geoff Heriot, Richard Warner, Kate Warner, Fred Westwood, Frank McGregor, Marilla Lowe, Sherrie-Lee Evans, Sally Chandler, Peter Martin, Norelle Lickiss, Sushila Desai, Frank Liebfriea, Alwynne Smith, Elisa Cusick, Mary Blackwood, Marcus Haward, Terry Narramore, Christine Bayes, Diane Bye, Therese Taylor.

1. **Apologies**

Steven Phipps, James Chin, John Hayton, Andrew Mitchell, Ian Johnston, Bruno Arpi.

1. **Minutes of 2022 AGM held on 8 November 2022** – adopted.
2. **President’s Report** – noted**.**
3. **Treasurer’s Report/Financial Statement –** noted.

Bank balance at 30 June 2023, $7,327.27 ($7,033.97 at 1 July 2022).

Total income, $8,505.74: 2023 membership $4,697.08; National Office New Columbo Plan Grant $2,000.00, donations $1,550.00, non-member event receipts $258.66.

Total expenditure, $8,212.44: events/speakers $6,161.21; National Office (journals) $180.04; National Office communications and web $1,565.59; National Office capitation charges $237.60; Consumer Affairs annual return $68.00.

Treasurer’s comment: rising costs of air travel and accommodation are constraining the branch’s capacity to host the accustomed number of interstate speakers. In 2024, we anticipate increasing the proportion of local speakers. Consideration may need to be given to an increase in membership fees but any reasonable increase would do little to compensate for the increase in costs already experienced. Over the past two years, the branch benefited from generous donations by Zara Kimpton.

1. **Election of Office Bearers**

Having received one nomination for each officer position, the following persons were elected:

* 1. **President –** Kim Boyer (moved John Hayton, seconded Ed Kremzer)
	2. **Vice Presidents**
		1. **Senior Vice President** – Steven Phipps (moved Kim Boyer, seconded Fred Westwood)
		2. **Vice President** – James Chin (moved Geoff Heriot, seconded Kim Boyer).
	3. **Secretary** – Geoff Heriot (moved James Chin, seconded Ed Kremzer)
	4. **Treasurer** – Ed Kremzer (moved Kim Boyer, seconded Terry Narramore)
	5. **Other Council Members –**

Seven nominations received for a maximum of eight permitted Council Member positions:

* + 1. Marilla Lowe (moved Kim Boyer, seconded Ed Kremzer).
		2. Terry Narramore (moved Kim Boyer, seconded Geoff Heriot).
		3. Bruno Arpi (moved Kim Boyer, seconded Geoff Heriot). Nomination accepted by email.
		4. Marcus Haward (moved Kim Boyer, seconded Fred Westwood)
		5. Trevor Wise (moved Kim Boyer, seconded Fred Westwood)
		6. John Hayton (moved Ed Kremzer, seconded Kim Boyer)
		7. Peter Martin (moved self, seconded Geoff Heriot).
	1. Acknowledgment: Council notes with appreciation the contribution of Harriett Baillie who did not re-nominate because of her imminent re-location to Canberra.
1. **Appointment of an Auditor** –the scale of branch operations does not require the engagement of an external auditor. In lieu, all items of expenditure are referred to Council for approval.
2. **Other Business/Comments from Members** – Geoff Heriot briefed the meeting about the arrest of Sydney-based journalist and author, Kean Wong, by authorities in Kuala Lumpur. A Malaysian citizen, Kean faced a charge of sedition in relation to a cover illustration of a book he edited, based on previously published essays from ANU’s *New Mandala.* AIIA Tasmania vice-president, James Chin, contributed to the book and, at the time of Kean’s arrest, was also in Malaysia on family business. The meeting noted concern for their wellbeing.
3. **Close AGM**
4. **Presentation** by Ms RuthBaird, Tasmania State Director, DFAT**.**