

AUSTRALIAN BOOKKEEPERS ASSOCIATION

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Transcript of AGM — 24 November 2021

1. Welcome

Good morning, ladies and gentlemen.

I am Peter Thorp, the Chair of Australian Bookkeepers Association Limited. It is now 10.00 am.

I welcome you to the annual general meeting of the company.

2. Quorum

As we have a quorum, I now declare the annual general meeting constitutionally open formally.

3. Directors

I will now introduce your Directors who are present today:

Peter Thorp

Kelvin Deer

Darren Hagarty

Kellie Powell

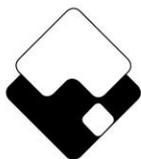
Cassandra Scott

Apologies from Kerrie Jarius, Di Lucas, Sonya Farrawell

4. Notice of meeting

The notice of meeting was dispatched to all members.

Members, I move that the notice of meeting be taken as read.



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All the business at an AGM is special business (which is business of which prior notice has been given), so only the agenda items specified in the notice of meeting can be dealt with at this meeting.

There are no items of special business today that require members to vote.

5. First Item of Business

The first item of ordinary business is to receive the Financial Reports and the Directors' and Auditor's reports. We will look at each of these in turn.

- *Financial reports*

The Accounts and reports are available for inspection.

The Associations Income for the year to 30 June 2021 was \$38,502 which included membership fees of \$38,062 and event income of \$440. After expenses of \$18,468 the Association recorded a Net Profit of \$20,034. Australian Bookkeepers Network works closely with the Association including sharing premises and under a commercial agreement provides resources such as labour, premises, IT, website and other overheads. The association received no direct funding from Australian Bookkeepers Network for the year ended 30 June 2021.

- *Auditor's Report*

The company's auditor, Robert Edwards of C & N Audit Services, has provided the audit report which states (and I will read that faithfully):

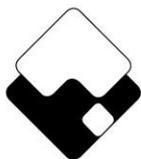
"In our opinion: The financial report of Australian Bookkeepers Association Limited has been prepared in accordance with the Corporations Act 2001, including:

1. Giving a true and fair view of the Company's financial position as at 30 June 2021 and of its financial performance for the year ended on that date; and 2.
2. complying with Australian Accounting Standards – Reduced Disclosure Requirements and the Corporations Regulations 2001. Basis for Opinion We conducted our audit in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards.

Directors' Report and Report on Association's Activities.

- **Review of operations**

A review of the operations of the Company during the financial year and the results of those operations show that throughout 2020 / 2021, Australian Bookkeepers Association (ABA) was active on a range of fronts on behalf of its members primarily Representation and Education.



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Representation at Industry Forums

A key tenet of ABA's charter is to provide representation for its members. This year has also brought with it the COVID-19 crisis which has heightened our representative efforts across all forums to ensure our members were well represented. To this end, ABA provided its members with a voice at the following Government industry forums throughout the year.

1. ATO BAS Agent Association Group (BASAAG)

ABA is a member of BASAAG. By way of background, BASAAG is the ATO's key forum for BAS Agents. The forum focuses on administrative issues that impact BAS Agents in their interactions as intermediaries with the tax system.

In its capacity as a member, ABA through its directors attended and provided feedback/input from a bookkeeper perspective on the Agenda items at all 2020 / 2021 BASAAG meetings. At these forums, ABA not only acts as a collective voice for its members, it also channels the key messages from the forums back to its members through its member-newsletter publications. During the year ABA director Kerrie Jarius was appointed co-chair of BASAAG. Well done Kerrie Jarius.

2. Tax Practitioner Stewardship Group (TPSG)

The Tax Practitioner Stewardship Group (previously known as the ATO Tax Practitioner Advisory Group) is a stewardship group that focuses on the 'system in operation' and deals with significant issues that are in the national interest, specific to tax practitioners tax & bas. This group splinters into a number of single purpose working groups in which a number of your directors serve. The TPSG had a particularly active year with Covid-related consultation and a number of active working groups.

3. Tax Practitioner Board Consultative Forum

ABA is a member of the Tax Practitioner Board Consultative Forum. The Consultative Forum is the Board's main avenue for interaction with the Tax Agent and BAS Agent community. The Forum consists of Board recognised Tax Agent and BAS Agent Associations, including ABA. In its capacity as a member, ABA through its directors attended and provided feedback from a bookkeeper perspective on the Agenda items at all of the Board's Consultative Forums throughout 2020 / 2021. A number of your directors served on this forum as well as the Education and qualification Working Groups and Standards and Governance Forums.

At these forums, ABA not only acts as a collective voice for its members, it also channels the key messages from the forums back to its members through its member-newsletter publications.



4. Consultations

ABA was involved in a number of other formal Groups, workshops, meetings and discussions with both the ATO, the Tax Practitioners Board and other industry participants throughout the year. These groups were involved in a wide range of issues affecting BAS Agents and bookkeepers including STP, Lodgements, new Online Services, STP 2, Director ID, e-invoicing, client verification, jobkeeper and much more.

5. Memorandum of Understanding

ABA entered into a Memorandum of Understanding MOU with the Tax Practitioners Board (TPB) in August 2020. The MOU sets out a framework for greater engagement, co-operation, and information sharing between the TPB and ABA. It is your Director's intent to leverage the spirit of the MOU to maximise the benefit to bookkeeping/BAS Agent stakeholders. We look forward to working more closely with this key industry regulator.

6. Training and Learning

Another key tenet of ABA's charter is to provide ongoing training and learning opportunities for its members. To this end, throughout 2020/2021, a range of learning options were made available to members through newsletters, events, webinars etc. Australian Bookkeepers Network (ABN) has kindly supported ABA members by providing a number of training and learning options including newsletters, social media, Bookkeeper Radio podcasts and more recently the Digital Bookkeeper Event.

7. Submissions, Feedback and Discussion Papers

As a representative of BAS Agents and Bookkeepers ABA regularly lodges written submission and provides feedback to government including the Tax Office, the TPB and Treasury over a range of issues affecting the bookkeeper community. A significant piece of work that involved a range of submissions including on the TPB's Exposure Draft

Explanatory Memorandum Paper TPB EP D43 2021 CPE requirements for registered tax and BAS Agents,

Modernising Client Verification – ATO and TPB and PSLA 2020/4 SGC6.

Closure

That ends the formal part of the annual general meeting.

I now invite anyone with other questions or comments not related to the specific business of the meeting to ask them now.

Thank you all for your attendance and interest and we look forward to your continued support in the coming year.

I now declare the meeting formally closed.