

# CHRISTIANS FOR AN ETHICAL SOCIETY (CES) CANBERRA

## **Minutes of First Annual General Meeting**

Wesley Uniting Church, Forrest  
Tuesday 19 May 2009 at 8:00 pm

### ***Present***

Heather McLaren (chair); Jeremy Dawson, Bill Bush, Brian Wraith, Veronica Wraith, Sepp Babler, Andrew Herscovitch, Robyn Coghlan, Pat Brown, Peter Brown, Werner Padarin, Bev Purnell and Patrick Jones.

### ***Apologies***

Michael Fallon, John Nevile, Jonathon Inkpin, Rob Woolston, Kevin and Gwenyth Bray.

### ***Welcome***

The Chair welcomed all members to the first AGM of the organisation which was established at the beginning of 2008.

### ***Annual Report***

Heather read a report on the organisation's activities since the beginning of 2008. A copy of the report is attached to these minutes. Werner Padarin proposed that the report be accepted and Jeremy Dawson seconded the motion. The motion was passed without dissent.

### ***Proposal to adopt draft charter***

A draft charter was compiled and reviewed early in 2008. This charter was now presented for approval by the members to be adopted as the charter of the CES. Pat Brown moved that the charter be accepted and Werner Padarin seconded the motion. The motion was passed without dissent.

### ***Proposal to adopt draft constitution***

A draft constitution was drawn up and subject to considerable revision during 2008. The chair drew attention to one minor error and advised that clause 2.1 should be amended by deleting the clause "the Social Justice Commission of". Bill moved that the thus-amended constitution be accepted as the constitution of the CES and Andrew Herscovitch seconded the motion. The motion was passed without dissent.

### ***Election of office-bearers***

**Chair:** Heather McLaren stood aside as Chair pending the election for that position. Robyn Coghlan called for nominations. Bill Bush nominated Heather McLaren for the position of Chair and Werner Padarin seconded the nomination. Ms McLaren indicated her willingness to stand. There being no other nominations, Heather McLaren was declared elected to the Chair for the following year.

**Vice-Chair:** Heather nominated John Nevile for the position of Vice-Chair and Brian Wraith seconded the nomination. Heather advised that John Nevile had indicated his willingness to hold this position. There being no other nominations, John Nevile was declared elected to the position of Vice-Chair of the CES for the following year.

**Secretary:** Jeremy Dawson nominated Robyn Coghlan for the position of Secretary and Andrew Herscovitch seconded the nomination. Mrs Coghlan indicated her willingness to stand. There being no other nominations, she was declared elected to the position of Secretary for the following year.

**Treasurer:** Brian Wraith indicated his willingness to stand for the position of CES Treasurer. Bill Bush nominated him and Robyn seconded the nomination. There being no other nominations, Brian Wraith was declared elected to the position of Treasurer for the following year.

### ***Election of other committee members***

The Chair asked if existing committee members were prepared to stand again as committee members for the next year. Jeremy Dawson advised that he was unable to continue due to work pressures. The Chair thanked him for his support as a committee member. All others indicated their willingness to continue. The Chair invited further nominations and Patrick Jones responded with the reservation that he might not be able to attend all meetings due to other commitments. There being no further nominations, the following members were declared elected to the committee: Werner Padarin, Bill Bush, Sepp Babler, Patrick Jones, Pat Brown, Peter Brown and Andrew Herscovitch.

### ***Other business***

Patrick Jones raised the issue of whether questions at forums could be written to overcome the problem of people making long dissertations before getting to the point of their question. After much discussion, it was decided to experiment at the next forum on 3 June by providing a small piece of paper and a pen or pencil to people for writing out their questions. They will then be asked to read what they have written. It is hoped that this will help people to organise their thoughts and to minimise excessive explanations.

### ***Feedback session***

Over supper, Bev Purnell suggested that topics for the coming year might be built around the effect of Australia's response to the global financial crisis on the more vulnerable people in the society. The Chair explained that topics for the rest of 2009 had already been decided and planning of those forums was underway, however, it would be desirable to start thinking about 2010. She suggested holding a planning afternoon one Saturday in June. An introductory discussion about this could be held at the next ordinary meeting.

Mr Purnell mentioned that the refugee support group with which he is associated will be holding a session during Refugee Week in June, whereby three refugees will give their personal stories. It was agreed that the CES website could have a page for the stories and some photographs. Sepp Babler is to liaise about this.

***Next meeting***

The next ordinary meeting will be held at 5.30 pm Wednesday 10 June at Wesley.