Minutes of QLS
Annual General Meeting 2025

Date:	3 December 2025 **Time**: 5:00 – 5:24pm
Location:	Auditoriums 1-2, Level 2, Law Society House, 179 Ann St, Brisbane
Full Members Present:	President Genevieve Dee, Vice President Peter Jolly, Councillor Craig Chapman, Councillor Sarah-Jane MacDonald, Councillor Elect Rebecca Anderson, Councillor Elect Chloe Parsons-Pope, Mr Bruce Doyle, Ms Elizabeth Shearer and Mr Darren Lewis.
Online Members Present (Teams):	Councillor Elect Ashleigh Harrison, Mr Michael Kleinschmidt and Mr William Parry.
Associate Member:	Mr Eugene White
Apologies:	Councillor Mia Behlau and Councillor Elect Sarah Grace
QLS Staff Present:	Mr Matt Dunn (CEO), Ms Louise Pennisi (Corp Sec), Mr Peter Lucas (COO), Ms Lauren FitzGerald (OGC), Ms Libby Ellem, Ms Zoey Knowlman (Teams), Mr Geoff McLeod, Ms Felicity Culnane, Ms Nicole Whiteoak and Mr Anthony Terry-Lancaster.

1. AGM BUSINESS

OPENING:

President Dee: My name is Genevieve Dee and I have pleasure in welcoming you to the 97th Annual General Meeting of the Queensland Law Society. I will be chair for today's meeting and thank you all for your attendance both in person and virtually.

I note the time being 5:00pm, due notice of the meeting has been given and a quorum of at least 15 members are present in person and by proxy in accordance with our Society Rules.

Firstly, in keeping with our commitment to First Nations Culture it is important to acknowledge the First Nations Peoples as the original custodians of the land on which this meeting is taking place here in Meanjin (mee-an-jin).

We recognise the remarkable country north and south of the winding Brisbane River, home of the Turrbul and Jagera nations. Following cultural protocol, we pay our deep respects to all Elders, Law Women and Law Men and those who walk amongst us as they hold the memories, traditions and culture of this land.

I extend my respect to all other First Nations Peoples who may be present and acknowledge the traditional custodians of the lands and Country you are joining us from around Queensland. I also recognise Community who are in Sorry Business.

Let's begin.

2. RECORDING OF PROCEEDINGS

For the purpose of Rule 80 of the Legal Profession (Society) Rules 2007, I advise we will be both audio and video recording proceedings and the Minutes will be taken by the Society's Corporate Secretary, Louise Pennisi.

3. APOLOGIES

We have received apologies from:

1. Councillor Mia Behlau
2. Councillor Elect Sarah Grace

Are there any other apologies to record? If you are in person today, please raise your hand or if you have an apology to record for members attending on online, please write the name in the Teams chat function and we will make a note specificity for the minutes.

(None in person.)

4. PROXIES

For the record, I table a list of proxies as being proxies received by the Society for the meeting from members entitled to vote.

As advised in the proxy form, I intend to vote all undirected proxies in favour of the motions.

Proxies have been received from 13 full members, as listed on the screen. Their votes will be formally recorded in the minutes:

Proxy received from:	Proxy assigned to:	Motion 1	Motion 2
1. Oliver Meehan	The Chair of the Meeting	For	For
2. James Harding	The Chair of the Meeting	For	For
3. Anthony Crilly	The Chair of the Meeting	For	For
4. Andrew Needham	The Chair of the Meeting	For	For
5. Ryan McCullough	Sarah-Jane MacDonald	For	For
6. Jag MacDonald	Sarah-Jane MacDonald	For	For
7. Ernesto Tubaro	The Chair of the Meeting	For	For
8. Tennille Winter	The Chair of the Meeting	For	For
9. Aaron Webb	The Chair of the Meeting	For	For
10. Ryan Underwood	The Chair of the Meeting	For	For
11. Susanne Maxwell	The Chair of the Meeting	For	For
12. Peter Archos	The Chair of the Meeting	For	For
13. Tania Black	The Chair of the Meeting	For	For
Total	**13 proxies**	**For = 11** **Abstain = 2**	**For = 12** **Abstain = 1**

For the purposes of the Minutes, I confirm that:-

For Motion 1:
- 11 members submitted proxies in favour of the resolution; and
- 2 members abstained; and

For Motion 2:
- 12 members submitted proxies in favour of the resolution; and
- 1 member abstained.

I remind all present in person that only full members are entitled to vote so any Honorary, Student or Associate Members present, are not eligible to vote on the motion.

For everyone joining us online we ask, to conserve bandwidth, that your video and microphone are switched off and muted.

5. MEETING PROCEDURES

I will now go through our meeting procedures.

Rule 68(1) of the *Legal Profession (Society) Rules 2007* provides that the Chairperson of a General Meeting is responsible for the general conduct of the meeting and for the procedures to be adopted at the meeting.

I propose to conduct the meeting in accordance with the Agenda set out in the Notice dated 31 October 2025. The agenda has been prepared in accordance with the Legal Profession (Society) Rules. Hard copies of the Notice are available for attendees.

As this is our sixth AGM where we have members joining us both online and in person, to ensure everyone has an opportunity to participate, voting will be conducted by everyone in person and online using a QR code/hyperlink on your mobile, laptop or tablet device at the start of the relevant resolutions.

For members in the room, if you wish to access QLS Wi-Fi, please see the login details currently being displayed on the screen.

If at any time members are having difficulties accessing the voting link, please raise your hand or type “help” in Teams chat and one of our Event Organisers will be able to assist you.

For full members in the room having difficulty accessing the internet, we will have hard copy voting forms if you need them.

With respect to the resolutions and their consideration at the meeting, I will adopt the following general procedures:

- I will read and introduce, in turn, each resolution.
- Whilst not specifically required by the Rule, for the sake of tradition I will ask for members to move and second the motion.
- I will then invite comments from the membership.
- I ask that if you wish to address the meeting, please raise your hand if you are in person or if you are online, please use the raise hand function in teams.
- We will then proceed to a vote utilising the QR code/hyperlink which will be available on the screen and in the Teams chat in relation to each separate motion.

- To ensure that every full member's vote is captured, for each resolution you will be asked via your device to provide your full name, email address, how you are attending the meeting (ie whether it is in person or via teams) and then confirmation that you are a full member. These are mandatory fields that need to be completed before you may cast a vote for each resolution.

If you have any questions, please raise your hand.

The first order of business – confirmation of the minutes from the last AGM.

6. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF LAST ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The Minutes of the last Annual General Meeting held on 11 December 2024 are available on the website.

Does anyone have any questions regarding the Minutes? *No questions*

Do I have a mover that the Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held 11 December 2024 be confirmed and signed as a correct record? Would you please announce your full name to ensure the minutes are recorded accurately.

Moved by: *Vice President Peter Jolly*

Do I have a seconder?

Seconded by: *Councillor Craig Chapman*

Please raise your hand in person or virtually if you would like to speak to this resolution.

We will now move to a *vote*.

Please open up the camera app on your phone and scan the QR code on the screen.

If you are having difficulties accessing this link, please let us know.

For everyone online, please click on the link that is displayed in the chat box section in Teams.

The first motion is up on the screen.

Motion 1: That the minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on 11 December 2024 be confirmed and signed as a correct record.

Please indicate if you are in favour, not in favour or wish to abstain.

Counting the vote, in total we have:
In favour - 21
Against - 0
Abstain – 3
(Did not vote) - 1

I **DECLARE** that motion carried.

7. RECEPTION OF ANNUAL REPORT AND ACCOUNTS

The *Financial Accountability Act 2009* and Rule 76 of the *Legal Profession Rules* require Council to keep proper accounts.

The *Financial Accountability Act*, also requires the Auditor-General to audit the Society's accounts.

The Auditor General has provided the report about the certified Financial Statements as required by *The Financial Accountability Act*.

Our Annual Report for 2024-25, contains the financial statements as well as an overview of our year's activities and it has been available for inspection and accessible on the Society's website. There are hard copies available for attendees in the room.

The Society's Chief Operating Officer, Peter Lucas is present in person to expand on any financial issues arising in respect of the Society's finances.

I table the Annual Report and Financial Statements for financial year ending 30 June 2025.

Are there any questions about the Annual Report or Financial Statements? *No questions*

Do I have a mover that the 2024-25 Annual Report and the Financial Statements of Council for the year ended 30 June 2025 be received? Please again announce your full name to ensure the minutes are recorded accurately.

Moved by: *Elizabeth Shearer*

Do I have a seconder?

Seconded by: *Council Elect Chloe Parsons-Pope*

Please raise your hand in person or virtually if you would like to speak to this resolution.
We will now move to a *vote*.

Motion 2: That the 2024-2025 Annual Report and financial statements of Council for the year ended 30 June 2025 be received.

Please indicate if you are in favour, not in favour or wish to abstain.

Counting the vote, including all proxy votes, in total we have:

In favour - 22
Against - 0
Abstain – 2
(Did not vote) - 1

I **DECLARE** that motion carried.

8. GENERAL BUSINESS

The Secretary has advised me there is no notice of any other business.

Do members have anything they wish to raise in general business? *No general business*

9. PRESIDENT'S SPEECH

President Dee:

Before closing the meeting, I would like to record that serving as the Law Society President this year has been an immense honour and a great privilege.

I have enjoyed being in this leadership role in what has been a busy, challenging and rewarding year for our profession and for the Society.

We can all take enormous pride in the work the Society and the work that it has done for the profession I cherish. This year has highlighted the incredible strength of the Society and our members: a community of passionate professionals united by a deep commitment to our profession.

I am grateful for the opportunity that members afforded me, to serve in this role. I thank each of the QLS Councillors that I have worked with this year for their insight, their engagement and their willingness to serve our great profession.

I thank the dedicated QLS staff for their support, guidance and hard work throughout this year.

I also want to acknowledge our CEO, Matt Dunn, for his leadership and wise counsel.

I am grateful to each of the former Presidents who have been generous this year with their support and advice to me this year, and I particularly want to acknowledge Past President Fogerty for her kindness to me this year.

I would also like to take this opportunity to congratulate past President Shearer who is also with us today who has been elected unopposed as President Elect of the Law Council of Australia in 2026, assuming the President role in 2027, congratulations.

Last, but by no means least, I wish to acknowledge President-Elect Peter Jolly, Deputy President Sarah-Jane MacDonald, Vice President Craig Chapman and the incoming Council and to wish them all the very best for the coming term.

I have said before, and I will say it again, Mr Jolly you are a highly experienced and a well-respected practitioner with a deep love of our profession. Peter will lead with intellect, he will lead collaboratively, and Council will have a bloody good time along the way. We are lucky to have you, willing to serve in this role and our profession is in very safe hands.

Thank you to each of the members who have welcomed me so warmly across the state this year, it has been an honour to serve as President.

10. MEMBERS' ADDRESS

Does anyone else wish to address the meeting before we close?

Vice President Peter Jolly: Yes, thank you Madam President; before we close, I would like to say a few words.

As we approach the end of another year, we can reflect on what, again, was a year of change and challenge for our profession.

Practitioners have had to navigate complex new laws and withstand increasing economic pressures in their own practices. We continue to be an important contributor to the public discourse on key issues affecting our communities such as youth crime and domestic violence.

This year, the new Property Law Act brought significant change to the ways in which properties are transacted. Its commencement in August required practitioners to very quickly learn and adapt to the new processes. The introduction in 2026 of the anti-money laundering and counter-terrorism financing regime will impact many practices. Again, those practices will need to learn and adopt the complex governance, recording and reporting obligations. This is something which will be a focus for the Society in the first half of 2026.

Against this backdrop of ongoing change, the Queensland Law Society has remained constant. Under the guidance of our President and CEO Matt Dunn, the Society has been an invaluable information hub for practitioners and a strong and independent advocate for the profession.

Madam President, you have led us with distinction from the beginning to the end of your term as President.

In what you have described as a full-circle moment, you began your presidency while celebrating 20 years in the legal profession. In those 20 years, you have worked in the regions, in the City, in small firms and in large firms. As a result, you know and understand firsthand the pressures and challenges our members face.

From day one of your term, you have worked tirelessly to represent members and to advocate for good law.

You have signed off on over 130 submissions to Parliament on a wide range of topics and (as of today) approved 77 delayed judgment letters to various Courts.

In addition, you have appeared before numerous Parliamentary Committees on major legislative issues. They include the Crime and Corruption Commission Reporting Powers, the Domestic and Family Violence Protection Bill, Criminal Procedure Reform and Daniel's Law. You have spoken on behalf of the profession at countless Welcome and Valedictory ceremonies and we know that your carefully chosen words at those events were always warmly received.

One Welcome ceremony was a particular highlight for you - the swearing in of Leo the Court Dog in the Federal Circuit Court and Family Court of Australia, the first such support animal project adopted by a Queensland Court. This was a project that was very dear to your heart and you championed fiercely for the Society to be a support partner.

Across Queensland, you took the time to attend regional District Law Association events and to talk face to face with members, ensuring all voices have an opportunity to be heard.

Your work as President extended beyond Queensland's borders. You presented at the LAWASIA Family Law and Children's Rights Conference in Penang, Malaysia, sharing insights on coercive control and wellbeing. You also represented the Society at the official opening of the Waigani Court Complex in Papua New Guinea, strengthening our ties with our international neighbours.

You have continued and further deepened the strong relationships which previous Presidents had developed with our key stakeholders and those strong relationships will be invaluable as we continue to advocate for our members and the profession in 2026.

And despite a combined workload here and at your own firm that seemed to require more than 24 hours in a day, you also managed to elevate yourself to almost Influencer status on Instagram, developing a social media profile unmatched by any former President (and future I suspect).

You have led us this year with a style and grace that will be impossible to match. You will leave very big, and may I say, very stylish shoes to fill.

On behalf of Council and members, I thank you.

11. CLOSE

President Dee: Thank you Peter, that was really lovely.

In closing, I note that all of the business set out in the notice of the meeting has been conducted and that there is no further item of business to be raised.

Thank you very much to everyone for your attended in person and online.

There being no further business I formally close the 97th Annual General Meeting at 5:24pm.

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Peter Jolly
Queensland Law Society – 2026 President