

Chair: Hugh Chevrant-Breton, President

Venue: 66, McCaughey Street, Turner ACT

Quorum: A quorum was present, and the meeting opened at 5:40 pm.

Acknowledgment of Country: statement by the Chair.

1. Attendees / Apologies

1.1. Attendees (AFC members)

- Hugh Chevrant-Breton, Osman Boubakari, Gordon Bull, Arthur Camilleri, Judith Woolley, Roger Fisher, Isabelle Reynier, Catherine Riordan, Rim El Kadi, Floriane Henneaux, Andrew Conley, Musat Tahtale, Paul Dachslage, Yorick Belfort.

1.2. Apologies

- Mariam Hafiz, Leslie Barnes, Nathaniel Ellis.

2. Presentation of Proxies

Six members unable to attend the AGM appointed proxies to vote on their behalf:

Peggy Halas appointed Hugh Chevrant-Breton (President / AGM Chair) as her proxy.

Carol-Anne Kubanck and Sara Lyn Morgans appointed Gordon Bull as their proxy.

Stephen Joseph Brown, Jacqueline McLoughlin and Susan Margaret McVie appointed Arthur Camilleri as their proxy.

3. Adoption of 2023 AGM Minutes

Resolution (1): The minutes of the 2023 AGM held on 24 May 2023 be signed as a true record of the meeting.

Moved by Gordon Bull; seconded by Catherine Riordan.

Passed by members – Unanimous.

4. President's Report (Hugh Chevrant-Breton)

The President's written report was accepted. Key points include:

- A large number of cultural events were held over the past year.
- The French Film Festival, the major revenue-raising cultural event of the year, yielded an increase in sales of 20.5 per cent in 2024 compared to 2023.
- Major projects in progress are renovation of the bathrooms near the main hall and installation of a new IT operating system.

5. Treasurer's Report (presented on behalf of Mariam Hafiz)

The Treasurer's written report was accepted. Key points include:

- The Alliance recorded a loss of \$36,338 for the year ended 31 December 2023.
- Overall income was \$1.2 million in 2023, with education activities accounting for \$770,000 (65%) — a lower proportion than in previous years. Increasing the level and proportion of income from education will be a continuing focus in 2024.

Gordon Bull indicated that the financial outcome for 2023 was a good result in view of the challenging circumstances during the year.

The audited financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2023, audited by RSM Australia Pty Ltd, were provided to members before the meeting. No issues were raised in the meeting.

Resolution (2): The audited financial statements for the financial year ended 31 December 2023 be adopted as a true record of the financial accounts of the Alliance française de Canberra Incorporated.

Moved by Judith Woolley; seconded by Gordon Bull.

Passed by members – Unanimous.

6. Appointment of the Auditor

Resolution (3): RSM Australia Pty Ltd be appointed as the auditor of Alliance française de Canberra Incorporated for the financial accounts for the year ending 31 December 2024.

Moved by Hugh Chevrant-Breton; seconded by Gordon Bull.

Passed by members – Unanimous.

7. Director's report (*Osman Boubakari*)

The Director's written report was accepted.

8. Election of Returning Officer (*for vote on election of Committee members*)

Resolution (4): That Gordon Bull be elected as Returning Officer.

Moved by Judith Woolley; seconded by Rim El Kadi.

Support – Unanimous.

9. Election of Committee members

Ten nominations were received by the Secretary, seven of whom have been Committee members during the whole of the past twelve months. The Returning Officer read out the names of the ten nominees:

Leslie Barnes
Gordon Bull
Arthur Camilleri
Andrew Conley
Hugh Chevrant-Breton
Rim El Kadi
Nathaniel Ellis
Mariam Hafiz
Catherine Riordan
Judith Woolley

There were no objections raised about the nominations. The Returning Officer declared that there being less nominees than the available number of Committee member positions, all nominees were elected. The Returning Officer returned the meeting to the Chair.

10. General business

In view of the unwinding of the Alliance Française de Canberra's Building Fund during the past twelve months, Catherine Riordan proposed a vote of thanks to those who were members of the fund's Board of Trustees for the many years of support they gave to the Alliance. Hugh Chevrant-Breton (President) expressed special thanks to Gary Nairn, who was the Chair of the Board of Trustees. The AGM attendees acknowledged the contribution of the trustees with an applause.

A member asked about conversation classes for beginners and was referred to the Director of Studies or the Head Teacher for follow up.

There being no further business, the Chair thanked the members for attending the AGM and closed the meeting.

Meeting closed at 5:56 pm.