



**Minutes of Annual General
Meeting Sunday 30 July 2017
Sound Room – RACV Resort
Noosa Heads, Queensland**

1.	WELCOME
	The meeting commenced at 11:35 am and the President, Stephen Krouzecky, welcomed members.
2.	PRESENT AND APOLOGIES
	Apologies were received from: Caroline Bommer, Russell Davies, Christian Schieber, Ross McFarlane, Nik Ramchand, Peter Franke, Richard Smoorenburg, David Webber, Peter Huntsman, John McCormack, Elizabeth Houlihan, Michael Caine, Leon Allen, Brett Lunn, Geoffrey Davidson, Philip Macken, Christopher Schlicht, David Tadgell Attendees Allen Chan, James Cherry, Michael Grant, Mark Roberts, Graham Cowin, Bill McFarlane, Greg Chambers, Stephen Krouzecky, Chris Atichian, Andre Meyer, Kelvin Lord, Charles Berman, Alyssa Telfer, Keith Borg
3.	LODGEMENT OF PROXIES
	Proxies were held for David Tadgell, Debra Yin Foo, Christopher Schlicht, Ross McFarlane, Peter Huntsman, Nik Ramchand, Petr Frankie, Richard Smoorenburg, David Webber, Caroline Bommer and Thomas Melville.
4.	MINUTES OF PREVIOUS ANNUAL MEETING
	The minutes of the previous General Meeting held on Sunday, 31 August 2016 at Sheraton Mirage Port Douglas, Queensland had been previously circulated to members. There being two amendments highlighted by the Secretary, Charles Berman proposed a motion for the minutes to be approved, which was seconded by Greg Chambers. The motion was passed.
5.	MATTERS ARISING FROM MINUTES
	There were no matters arising from the minutes.
6.	TREASURER'S REPORT



	<p>The Treasurer reported that the activities for the year resulted in a loss of \$2,472.10, substantially as a result of a shortfall in collection of membership subscriptions from a number of members, who evidently have the intention of resigning from the organisation, but in respect of whom subscriptions were paid to FICPI International</p> <p>There was some discussion concerning the obligation FICPI Australia has to pay the majority of collected fees to FICPI International. This was indicated by the President as being well noted by FICPI International, with the most recent reductions adopted by the ExCo to the International fee component, being an attempt to address this issue. A motion was proposed by Keith Borg to accept the Report, which was seconded by Andre Meyer. The motion was passed.</p>
7.	PRESIDENT'S REPORT
	<p>The President's Report was presented to delegates at the meeting and his report will be published on the FICPI Australia web site in the member's area.</p> <p>The past 12 months have been very challenging personally and professionally with many IP Law and Policy matters dealt with by council.</p> <p>The Productivity Commission remains active, Conflict of Interest is still an issue and importantly the effects and promise of continuing disruption to the profession are all being actively discussed in council. As is the falling numbers of members due in part to retirements and consolidation of firms.</p> <p>The following is representative of the working papers and requests for comments that have been responded to by council during the past 11 months since the last AGM.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Productivity Commission report and additional responses to those of the previous year with the following issues remaining to be dealt with<ol style="list-style-type: none">(i) Abandonment of the innovation patent system,(ii) Raising the level of inventive step required for patents, and(iii) Introduction of a new court regime modelled more closely on the UK IP Enterprise Court.• Consultation Paper in relation to Conflicts of Interest• Trans-Tasman Single Economic Market (SEM) Patent Attorney Regime• FICPI Japan collaboration• Small Practitioners' Group assistance• Patent Consultation Group (PCG) with IP Australia• Trade Mark Design Consultation Group (TMDCG) with IP Australia• IP Professions Forum (IPPF) with IP Australia• IP Amendments Bill• WIPO Group B+ meeting at the EPO in May 2017 <p>Details of FICPI Australia activities relating to these matters are listed in detail in the full President's report.</p> <p>FICPI Australia has a major challenge to stay relevant and maintain or increase its membership. The most likely avenue is to become relevant to small to medium firms and consider a partnership with IPTA for marketing strength.</p> <p>Greg Chambers was congratulated on his chairmanship of a FICPI International committee to examine and make recommendations about the way in which FICPI International fills its executive positions</p>



8.	INTERNATIONAL AND CET MEMBERS REPORT
	<p>Greg Chambers presented an overview of FICPI International including the International FICPI activities, including the CET. We were informed that Charles Berman is to relinquish his now 6 year Presidency of the Contact Commission and he has recommend that it be disbanded as its function is similar to the Membership Commission. Charles is to be congratulated on the accomplishments of having the Turkish and Polish Groups join FCIPI under his leadership. There is a FICPI World Congress in Toronto in 2018 to end the Presidency of Doug Deeth. This year's FICPI Australia conference had the pleasure of hearing direct from Patrick Erk, President of the Professional Excellence Commission (PEC) via video link. This commission is working on many issues that will provide useful Agenda topics for future AGMs. Bill McFarlane has been co-opted to assist the Communications Commission. FICPI Australia members are encouraged to become involved in the various activities available at the FICPI International level.</p>
9.	Future Directions
	<p>The President Steve Krouzecky opened the floor to comments after describing what he considers to be a very serious issue for FICPI Australia, which is the declining membership level and lack of engagement of current members despite running what is considered a good Annual Conference</p> <p>Various members contributed to the discussion raising the issues of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• how FICPI can be a vehicle for change in law locally and internationally,• that business and practice management was still an important issue for members and that it should continue to be included in the Annual Conference Agenda for the small to medium businesses that are looking to join,• topics that contribute to CPE hours be provided by FICPI Australia,• the need to invite prospective members to attend the conference to show the value of membership,• need to advertise the submissions that FICPI make locally and internationally,• need to have meetings in capital cities every 2nd year, <p>The President stated that the comments of the members will form the basis of council discussions this coming year.</p>
10.	ENDORSEMENT OF THE ACTS OF COUNCIL
	<p>Andre Meyer proposed the following motion to the meeting, seconded by Michael Grant :</p> <p><i>“This Annual General Meeting of the Association of FICPI Australia, sanctions and confirms the various acts of the Council since the last General Meeting and declares the same to be deemed ‘acts of the association”</i> The motion was carried.</p>



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10.	ANY OTHER BUSINESS
	Greg Chambers stated on behalf of members their thanks for the organization of the conference by Stephen Krouzecky and Bill McFarlane and the rest of FICPI Australia Council for their hard work during the year. There being no other business the meeting was closed.
11.	CLOSE
	The meeting closed at 12:55 pm.