



President's Report

Fourteenth Annual General Meeting of ALLA (NSW Division) Inc.

Thursday, 10 December, 2020

1.00pm

Online via GoTo Meeting

1. Committee

President	Helen Cluff, Herbert Smith Freehills
Vice-President	(Vacant)
Secretary	Melissa Mills
Treasurer	Anne Heritage
Ordinary Member	Phil Mullen, K&L Gates (CPD Coordinator)
Ordinary Member	Michele Crozier, Forbes Chambers
Ordinary Member	Larissa Reid, NSW Law Courts

I would like to thank Anne Heritage for exceptional performance in the Treasurer role and will see us through to the merger and Melissa Mills who has been extraordinary in the Secretary role. Both are performing admirably and their contributions are invaluable.

I would like to thank Phil Mullen, who has continued in his role of CPD coordinator and who has continued to develop capabilities in online and face to face events.

Michelle Crozier and Larissa Reid have continued to be fantastic members of the committee.

2. Events held in 2020

The year started with exciting plans and very well attended seminar on *Love v Commonwealth* and then COVID-19.

As always if you have suggestions for meetings or ideas on new events please send them to Phil Mullen.

This year your NSW Committee organised the following seminars:

- Introduction to Data Science for Law Librarians
- Part 1 - Reach Your People: Law Library Marketing.
- Part 2 - Reach Your People: Law Library Marketing.
- Love v Commonwealth Of Australia [2020] HCA 3

NSW CPD online events contributed to the national CPD programme. Our articulated aim at the 2019 AGM was to make learning available online for our members who are not always able to attend CBD events in person. That this facilitated online learning for all ALLA members during lockdown was fantastic.

ALLA NSW drinks on 4th March was perhaps the last real face to face function that any of us had. We look to 2021 to kick off with a small drinks function somewhere!

3. 2020 What a Year

Working differently / living resiliently

I have worked remotely since March and I have only started to go back to the office this month. I will work in the office one day per week in Dec, take a long and lovely break over Christmas and start to work 2-3 days per week in the office from mid-January.

Working remotely was easy for me, and in the global role that I am in, it actually helped me to connect more with my colleagues rather than less. The hard work that our profession (and the forward thinking of our legal publishers) have invested to make our online resources fit for purpose and comprehensive meant that many of our organisations could continue to work during this period.

Hard copy will continue to be needed in our profession, and I think we need to ensure that there is a comprehensive collection of legal items to access in preparation for anything like this again. Parkes perhaps?

2020 will continue to be a game changer to how we work, what cities will look like and how we interact with each other. Many businesses are thinking about taking forward the best things about agile working and the best things about working in the office to mix up what the future of work looks like.

Working remotely was not a success for everyone, and many organisations remained open (but with safe plans in place) and health and wellbeing has been a struggle for many to maintain, with some members still struggling with what returning to work looks like. Some members and/or their families lost their jobs and some families were shattered by 2020.

A focus going forward will be how to maintain our connections with each other, how we make the most of our face to face gatherings and how we support each other, ask for help and to thrive.

Caro Kearney

It rocked us all to hear of Caro Kearney's death and I would really like to thank Melanie Enron and Patrick O'Mara for organising beautiful flowers and words to express how shocked we were, how much of a difference she made to the profession and how much she will be missed at any function.

Her sister shared her families heartfelt thanks that she was so respected professionally and ALLA NSW donated \$500 to Cancer Research in Caro's memory.

3 The future of ALLA NSW: What we did in 2020

Like many things in 2020 there was some disruption, there was some re-framing how we connect as a committee and a blurred balance between work, family, friends, ourselves and ALLA.

We sought legal advice from Prolegis (below) and have attained high level support and agreement with ALLA Ltd and from the other State Divisions to proceed.

Prolegis advice:

The distribution of ALLA NSW assets to ALLA Ltd is in accordance with relevant provisions of ALLA NSW rules on condition:

- a) Members of ALLA NSW approve the distribution of assets by special resolution
- b) It is approved by the Commissioner for Fair Trading, Department of Finance, Services and Innovation (or their delegate). This approval is contingent on the copy of the resolution and a detailed list of our assets and proposed distribution.

We would agree to a new MOU between ALLA Ltd and ALLA NSW to set out the terms of the new arrangement to replace our current MOU that will need to be terminated effective on the completion date of the restructure.

We would then apply to the Office of Fair Trading, apply to have our charity status revoked and cancel our ABN with the ATO.

4 What next

Special Resolution

We are bringing a special resolution to this AGM for current financial members to approve ALLA NSW cancellation of our registration with the Office of Fair Trading, and to distribute our assets to ALLA Ltd. This is a requirement of our cancellation of our associations status with OFT and also for the cancellation of our charity status.

MOU

The current MOU will be replaced with a new MOU on the date that our restructure is completed.

While the details are still being finalised this new MOU will be brought to an ALLA Ltd Special General Meeting to be held in February.

The new MOU will:

- Commence on the date of the effective completion of ALLA NSW restructure and will terminate the current MOU.
- Replace the words “State and Territory Divisions” with the words “State and Territory Divisions and State and Territory Chapters” to acknowledge that some States and Territories will remain Divisions and some will move to a Chapter model.
- Articulate that membership fees are paid to ALLA Ltd, and that ALLA Ltd will retain all membership fees of State Based Chapters.
- State that ALLA NSW members will be considered members of ALLA Ltd.
- Include provisions on the process for financial operations of State based chapters:
 - Chapters will call on the Treasurer of ALLA Ltd to pay reasonable expenses up to the Division disbursement amount in any financial year.
 - A mechanism for prior approval by ALLA Ltd for expenses above that amount.

Timeline:

10 December	Special Resolution passed by members of ALLA NSW regarding the distribution of assets
January	MOU draft is agreed by ALLA Ltd and other State and Territory Division presidents. Documents and assets information are prepared.
February	MOU is ratified by Special General Meeting of ALLA Ltd
March	Done and dusted.