

**Chair: Hugh Chevrant-Breton, President**  
**Venue:** 66, McCaughey Street, Turner ACT

**Quorum:** A quorum was present, and the meeting opened at 5:35 pm.

**Acknowledgment of Country:** statement by the Chair.

**1. Attendees / Apologies**

**1.1. Attendees (AFdC members)**

- Hugh Chevrant-Breton, Stephen Gregory, Osman Boubakari, Gordon Bull, Sean Unwin, Hugo Fisher, Stephen Brown, Arthur Camilleri, Judith Woolley, Roger Fisher, Catherine Riordan, Russell Patrick, Andrew Conley, Christine Gilmour, Stéphanie Pouliquin, Cécile Michels, Floriane Henneaux, Leslie Barnes, Hortense De Pelleport, Yorick Belfort.

**1.2. Apologies**

- Jacqueline McLoughlin.

**2. Presentation of Proxies**

None.

**3. Adoption of 2022 AGM Minutes**

**Resolution (1): The minutes of the 2022 AGM held on 25 May 2022 be signed as a true record of the meeting.**

Moved by Steve Gregory; seconded by Judith Woolley.

**Passed by members – Unanimous.**

**4. President's report (Hugh Chevrant-Breton)**

The President's written report was tabled and accepted with the following noted:

- There has been a post-Covid rebound in teaching activities.
- A large number of cultural events have been held, with positive results.
- The French Film Festival is the major revenue raising and most visible cultural event of the year, and in 2023 sales were 25 per cent higher than in 2022.
- There were significant staff movements over the past twelve 12 months, in particular: the Director Nancy Ford-Waites, left the Alliance in December 2022 to move to France; Mr Osman Boubakari was recruited as General Manager and commenced in February 2023.
- Projects completed in 2022 included relocation of the Alliance office reception with creation of the reception desk near the entrance to the building; refurbishment of the kitchen and bar area mostly thanks to private donations; and creation of the pétanque area. Several new projects are planned for 2023.
- The President acknowledged the contributions of the Alliance staff (across the teaching, administrative, and culture/marketing teams) as well as the work of the AFdC Committee.

**5. Treasurer's report (Sean Unwin)**

The Treasurer's written report was tabled and accepted with the following noted:

- The Alliance recorded a loss of \$55,538 for the year ended 31 December 2022.
- The loss in the 2022 year is larger than the loss posted in 2021 (\$13,228).

- The main differences between 2022 and 2021 are a \$40k government subsidy available in 2021, and lower revenue from the French Film Festival in 2022 than in 2021. Film festival revenue is expected to be higher in 2023 than in 2022, given film attendance levels.
- Despite the financial loss in 2022, the Alliance continues to be in a very solid position with cash reserves of over \$650k.
- The departure of the CEO and two administrative staff during 2022 posed challenges to bedding down all the financial processes. Despite this, the external financial Audit was completed and yielded a clean Audit Opinion.

The audited financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2022, audited by RSM Australia Pty Ltd, were provided to members before the meeting.

**Resolution (2): The audited financial statements for the financial year ended 31 December 2022 be adopted as a true record of the financial accounts of the Alliance française de Canberra Incorporated.**

Moved by Steve Gregory; seconded by Catherine Riordan.

**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 2023.**

Moved Steve Gregory; seconded by Gordon Bull.

**Passed by members – Unanimous.**

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

The Director's written report was tabled and accepted with the following noted:

- Challenges in 2022 included the continued restructure of the Alliance's administration section recommended by an external review, and staff movement in the teaching and administration teams.
- While education enrolments and sales in 2022 were less strong than in 2021, sales remained significantly stronger than in 2020 reflecting a sustained rebound from COVID impacts.
- Education sales in 2023 to date are stronger than in the corresponding period in 2022.

## 8. Election of Returning Officer

**Resolution (4): That Steve Gregory be elected as Returning Officer.**

Moved Catherine Riordan; seconded by Judith Woolley.

**Support – Unanimous.**

## **9. Election of Committee members**

Nine nominations were provided to the Returning Officer, all of whom have been Committee members during the past twelve months, namely:

Leslie Barnes  
Gordon Bull  
Arthur Camilleri  
Hugh Chevrant-Breton  
Rim El Kadi  
Stephen Gregory  
Catherine Riordan  
Sean Unwin  
Judith Woolley

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**

A member asked for an update on the AFdC's transfer to Company Limited by Guarantee (CLG).

Catherine Riordan indicated that the AFdC received permission to transfer to CLG from the ACT Government Registrar in January 2023. The next step is to apply to the Australian Securities and Investments Commission (ASIC) for AFdC registration as a CLG. The Committee paused the application until after the completion of the audit of the financial accounts for the year ending 31 December 2022. The audit was completed recently (in May 2023).

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

**Meeting closed at 5:55 pm.**