



AUSTRALIAN BOOKKEEPERS ASSOCIATION

Transcript of AGM — 10 October 2024 11:15 am

1. Welcome

Good morning, ladies and gentlemen.

I am Peter Thorp, the Chair of Australian Bookkeepers Association Limited. It is now 11.15 am.

I welcome you to the annual general meeting of the company.

2. Quorum

As we have a quorum, I now declare the annual general meeting open.

3. Directors

I will now introduce your Directors who are present today:

Peter Thorp

Kelvin Deer

Kerrie Jarius

Darren Hagarty

Kellie Powell

Joanne Crumpton

Larisa Hailey

4. Notice of meeting

The notice of meeting was dispatched to all members.

Members, I move that the notice of meeting be taken as read.



All the business at an AGM is special business (which is business of which prior notice has been given), so only the agenda items specified in the notice of meeting can be dealt with at this meeting.

5. First Item of Business

The first item of ordinary business is to receive the Financial Reports and the Directors' and Auditor's reports. We will look at each of these in turn.

- *Financial reports*

The Accounts and reports are available for inspection.

The Association's Income for the year to 30 June 2024 was \$43,918 which included membership fees of \$43,768 and other income of \$150. After expenses of \$46,178 the Association recorded a Net Deficit of \$2,260.

Australian Bookkeepers Network works closely with the Association including sharing premises and under a commercial agreement provides resources such as labour, premises, IT, website and other overheads. The association received no direct funding from Australian Bookkeepers Network for the year ended 30 June 2024.

- *Auditor's Report*

The company's auditor, Peter Sheville of C N Audit Services, has provided the audit report which states (and I will read that faithfully):

"In my opinion the financial report of the Company has been prepared in accordance with the Corporations Act 2001, including:

- 1. giving a true and fair view of the Company's financial position as at 30 June 2024 and of its financial performance for the year ended on that date; and*
- 2. complying with Australian Accounting Standards – Simplified Disclosures."*

Directors' Report and Report on Association's Activities.

Review of operations

A review of the operations of the Company during the financial year and the results of those operations show that throughout 2024, Australian Bookkeepers Association (ABA) was active on a range of fronts on behalf of its members.



1. *Representation at Industry Forums*

A key tenet of ABA's charter is to provide representation for its members. To this end, ABA provided its members with a voice through the following Government industry forums during the year.

2. *ATO BAS Agent Association Group (BASAAG)*

ABA is a member of BASAAG. By way of background, BASAAG is the ATO's key forum for BAS Agents. The forum focuses on administrative issues that impact BAS Agents in their interactions as intermediaries with the tax system. In its capacity as a member, ABA through its directors attended and provided feedback/input from a bookkeeper perspective on the Agenda items at all 2023 / 2024 BASAAG meetings. At these forums, ABA not only acts as a collective voice for its members, it also channels the key messages from the forums back to its members. ABA director Kerrie Jarius is the co-chair of BASAAG. ABA director Jo Crumpton is a practitioner member of BASAAG. A special vote of thanks to Kerrie Jarius for the many hours she put into BASAAG and the many other ATO groups she served on last year – very much appreciated.

3. *Tax Practitioner Stewardship Group (TPSG)*

The Tax Practitioner Stewardship Group is a group that focuses on the 'system in operation' and deals with significant issues that are in the national interest, specific to tax practitioners. This group splinters into a number of single purpose working groups in which a number of your directors serve. The TPSG had a particularly active year with Client Agent Linking, Rental Properties, Lodge & Pay, Digital Implementation, Lodgement program and other working groups including TPDIG on which both Kerrie and I served.

4. *Treasury (Pay Day Super)*

Treasury instigated targeted consultation with key stakeholders affected by the proposed Pay Day Super initiative. ABA is proud to be a part of this process.

5. *Tax Practitioner Board Governance and Standards Forum (TPBGSF)*

ABA is a member of the TPBGSF. This forum is the ABA Boards' opportunity to liaise and interact with the Tax Practitioners Board and any guidance that is released in respect to the Tax and BAS Agent Community. The TPBGSF also interacts with Treasury and comments on legislative issues that impact the Tax and BAS Agent Community. In the prior 12 months, this forum has been very active with a combination of legislative changes to the Tax Agents Services Act (TASA) and also a Legislative Instrument released by the Assistant Treasurer adding new Code of Professional Conduct items for agents to abide by. ABA has made several submissions independently along with a number of joint submissions as part of the broader 9 "Joint Bodies" who are the various tax and BAS associations that represent the tax and BAS Agent industry. The submissions have been made available on our website. I'd like to pass on my personal thanks to Kelvin Deer who worked tirelessly on this project, which resulted in a much improved outcome for our profession.

6. *Consultations*

ABA was involved in a number of other formal Groups, workshops, meetings and discussions with both the ATO, the Tax Practitioners Board, ABS and other industry participants



throughout the year. It was involved in a wide range of issues affecting BAS Agents and bookkeepers including Lodgements, new Online Services, e-invoicing, client verification, electronic ABS returns and more.

7. Training and Learning

Another key tenant of ABA's charter is to provide ongoing training and learning opportunities for its members. To this end, throughout 2023/2024, a range of learning options were made available to members through newsletters, events, webinars, etc. Australian Bookkeepers Network (ABN) has kindly supported ABA members by providing a number of training and learning options including newsletters, social media and Bookkeeper Radio podcasts.

8. Submissions, Feedback and Discussion Papers

As a representative of BAS Agents and Bookkeepers, ABA regularly lodges and collaborates on written submission and provides feedback to government including the Tax Office, the TPB and Treasury over a range of issues affecting the bookkeeper community. Submissions were made on a number of issues including Client Agent Linking, Tax Agent Services Act, Code of Conduct Determinations and Treasury Tax Practitioner Proposals, as well as a multitude of correspondence on general consultation issues.

No resolution is required, but I now invite members to comment or ask questions on the reports or the business of the company.

I would like to pass a special vote of thanks to each of our directors who have given so much to ABA. The last year has put in front of us a very full consultation workbook with the ATO, the TPB and Treasury. Your directors have given of their time (not for paid remuneration) but for the good of our special bookkeeping community. Most of what they do goes unseen and is often not able to be widely discussed because the subject matter is subject to confidentiality agreements.

6. Closure

That ends the formal part of the annual general meeting.

I now invite anyone with other questions or comments not related to the specific business of the meeting to ask them now either of myself or to chat informally to any of the Board members present.

Thank you all for your attendance and interest and we look forward to your continued support in the coming year.