

**Australian Cat Federation Inc.**  
**Minutes Committee and General Meeting**  
**Wednesday 30 October 2024**

President – Judith Jordan	Secretary – Robbie Walker	Treasurer – Jan Sterry
CANT. – Julian Schuller	CAT – Lesley Morgan	Cats NSW – Peta Sperduty
Cats NSW – Tony Hurry	Cats WA – Carole Galli	FCCQ – Isobel Johnstone
FCCQ – Erin Brown	GCCFV – Christian Nimmervoll	GCCFSA – Debs Armishaw
GCCFSA – Fiona Hawkins	QFA – Janis Christison	QFA – Barbara LaRocca
QICC – Julie Walker	TFA – Anne Harvey	TFA – Vanessa Sullivan

Meeting opened at 1940 AEST

### **I. Opening & Welcome**

President, Judith Jordan, welcomed everyone.

### **2. Apologies**

Vice President – Scoot Andresen	CANT. – Heather Haven	Cats WA – Kay Wood
COAWA – Annette Joesbury	COAWA – Jillian Reed	GCCFV – Linda Kitson
QICC – Rodney McGregor		

### **3. Previous Minutes**

Amended Minutes as advised by CANT & QICC attached Corrected Minute

**Moved:** Isobel Johnstone

**Seconded:** Vanessa Sullivan

**Approved Unanimously**

#### **a. Corrections To The Minutes**

Amended Minutes as advised by CANT & QICC attached with Agenda

#### **b. Matters Arising From The June 2024 Committee & General Meeting Minutes**

##### **i GCCFSA Bengal Charcoal**

**Moved:** GCCFSA, Debs Armishaw

**Seconded:** QICC, Julie Walker

**JG (1):** proposes an amendment to the proposal such that **A wide, dark, “cape” running down the length of the back is desirable but may not be present.”**

**JG (2):** supports the addition of the note in Remarks except for the reference to “and/or virtual whitening/off-white/ivory of the toes.” The Guild recommends that **“inner front legs” replace toes per the Bengal standard.**

**Brown (black) cats and kittens (tabby varieties) should not be penalised for displaying evidence of the Corin wideband gene, including lack of nose liner and pink nose, and/or virtual whitening/off-white/ivory around the whisker pads and chin, neck, chest, belly and inner front legs. Paw pads and tail tip correspond to the cat's base colour.**

**JG (3):** “recommend the words **a high degree of rufism yielding a yellow, buff, tan golden or orange ground colour is preferred**” be removed, as this is not in the TICA Standard

**Cats NSW, Tony Hurry,** what is the ideal cat, with or without it? Yes, that's what our standards are supposed to be, for the ideal cat. We didn't have subjectivity against the wording in our standards to decide what is the best representation of an ideal cat.

**Cats NSW, Peta Sperduty,** when the charcoal pattern was accepted, I don't believe the DNA and genetic knowledge on a gene was not then known, there has been much more research. We are now aware of the factors that are in play for cats that have one copy of the gene versus cats that have two copies of the gene. We judge on what we see on the bench. We don't know what their DNA status is when we judge these cats. So, if it's acceptable to the breeders who are working with these colours that to have one copy of the gene or two copies of the gene,

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should it be a penalty to a cat who only has one copy? If we're asking them, they must have the cape, but they only have one copy of the gene.

**QFA, Janis Christison** we have the genetic knowledge now, the other thing is, there are other breeds that talk about, may or may not, it wouldn't be the only breed that says something, some feature may or may not be present, the Burmilla may show the presence of two Burmese genes. We already have precedence for may or may not.

**QICC, Julie Walker** we should be in the business of moving forward when more relevant information becomes available and adjusting our standards or not accordingly, When there's more information available, I think it's only sensible to take that information into consideration, particularly for something that's recently recognized and with a lot more information coming out, it may change again when new knowledge becomes available.

**CAT, Lesley Morgan** should we be taking more time regarding recognition until we have the whole story.

**QICC, Julie Walker** are you talking about, everything that must be across the board for everything, We're talking about, this thing now.

**CAT, Lesley Morgan,** i'm generalizing here look at the Aphrodite fiasco that was farcical. Let's take it on without really knowing the whole situation., and I think this could be in the same category.

**GCCFV, Christion Nimmervoll,** keeping in mind if we make changes, we must wait a few years before anymore changes can be made, we really should ensure that we get it right the first time.

**GCCFSA, Fiona Hawkins,** Charcoal has been in the Bengal Standard for three years, we are not introducing a new colour or pattern. We are simply asking to extend Charcoal to every colour in the Bengal Standard.

This was actually deemed to be a housekeeping issue; Lesley Lyons has approved this and I have the emails from her that were sent to Helen Farmer.

We're extending a simple colour and pattern to a standard that already exists, and simply explaining a DNA update. We accept homozygous and heterozygous Selkirks. Why can't we accept one copy of the APB gene in a Bengal and two copies of the APB gene in a Bengal?

**Cats WA, Carole Galli,** when Charcoal was recognised, one of the most distinguishing features of them was the mask and the cape. There was that word desirable. it was always optional, how obvious the cape was, this is a significant change, to the pattern that we originally approved. I'm not saying that I think it's right, i'm just saying that it is perhaps more complex than we originally thought.

**ACF Secretary, Robbie Walker,** in 2023 it was agreed that this is not a simple housekeeping issue as it required a standard to be accepted for these colours. In June 2024, GCCFSA was tasked with taking it back to their breeders and submit a written standard for these colours.

**GCCFSA, Fiona Hawkins,** Helen farmer also sought the advice of Leslie Lyons, who didn't have any issue with accepting the Charcoal, she believed that they were part of the lines.

At what point do we listen to the breeders? I thought that was part of it., we had to listen to the breeders, we sought the breeders' input on this proposal. It's been written by one of the best Bengal breeders. That breeder has also been asked to provide training documentation to CCC of A and is also presenting that documentation at the CCC of A national show next

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year. Now are we suddenly going to say that breeder doesn't know what she's talking about in telling us that a pattern is may or may not be present.

**Cats NSW, Tony Hurry**, the motion before us is that the Charcoal pattern is a housekeeping item, as requested, be added to the Bengal standard. Isn't the second part subsequently how we best define it.

We should be writing standards to what is the ideal cat, I know there's DNA evidence., i'm not anti that at all, a judge doesn't know that the exhibit in front of them has one copy or two copies of the gene, they are looking at the quality of the exhibit. So, there's two issues here. one we first recognise the pattern and put it across all the all the colours of the Bengal standard. The second one is there is work to be done on any changes to capes, etc, etc.

**QICC, Julie Walker**, when the standard was originally written, we didn't have the information, or the knowledge that there was more than one gene involved. If having one or two copies of the gene, results in a different expression of the colour., it should be reflected in the standard.

**TFA, Anne Harvey**, how many breeders are in the group that Melinda Radus has been working with and are they representatives from across the country?

**CAT, Lesley Morgan**, are they ACF which is an important matter.

**GCCFV, Christion Nimmervoll**, Victoria has one breeder, I am not sure if they were involved with the group.

**Cats NSW, Peta Sperduty**, I know that the Cats NSW breeder who works with these colours was involved.

**GCCFSA, Fiona Hawkins**, I would need to clarify this with Melinda to find out who was involved, Melinda works with a wide group of people across Australia, she is constantly importing to improve her lines as well as working worldwide.

**QICC, Julie Walker**, I know our main QICC breeder is in favour of this, I am not sure if she was involved.

**TFA, Anne Harvey**, may I suggest that we find out how National the group is and what most breeders think about the changes.

**Cats WA, Carole Galli**, I suggest that we decide on extending Charcoal across all the colours. I have not heard of anyone that is opposed. The discussion is on how the pattern is expressed, which has been a bone of contention for several years.

**GCCFSA, Debs Armishaw**, given most of us present are judges, and we judge to the standard, if the standard is incorrect, then we're judging the cats incorrectly. All GCCFSA is requesting is in this situation is that the Charcoal pattern be recognized across all colours, and secondly, there may be a darkening of the cape and mask depending on whether there is one or two genes present.

It's no different from judging let's say a silver cat that is heterozygous, as opposed to a homozygous silver cat. We as a judge don't know when we've got it on the bench if it's carrying one copy of silver or two copies of silver. This is no different if it meets the standard, it will do what it's supposed to do under a judge. If it doesn't, then it doesn't do anything. It's no different from any other breed that we judge out on the bench.

We, as non-breeders of Bengals, should be taking on board what the breeders have asked for, not put roadblocks in their way. Leslie Lyons has backed us. She is a subject matter expert, and she says that what Melinda and other breeders who have been consulted have done and written is correct.

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**For:** CANT, Cats NSW, Cats WA, GCCFSA, QICC, TFA

**Against:** FCCQ,

**Abstain:** CAT, GCCFV, QFA

**Absent:** COAWA

**Motion Carried 6:1:3**

**ACF Secretary, Robbie Walker**, FIFe at their General Assembly in May 2024 approved the change for Charcoal in Bengals from “t” to I4. The EMS code “t” is still applicable in Norwegian Forest Cats.

**Action:** ACF Secretary to request ACF member body Secretaries advise their registrars accordingly and that it is not retrospective. **Agreed**

ii Peterbald - Scale of Points Review by Breed Standards sub-committee

**JG 1:** Straight: These cats exhibit a “normal” straight haired coat. These cats DO NOT carry the gene for hair loss and will never lose the coat that they were born with. They may be used in breeding programs “but are not eligible for the show ring” should be removed from the standard and “**but are only eligible to be judged as Any Other Variety (AOV) in assessment classes**” be added to the Standard.

**JG 2:** The Guild suggests that Dominant Blue Eye Colour as another housekeeping matter. To exclude Dominant Blue Eye Colour a note should be added to all standards that do not have eye colour and coat colour correlation that **Blue or Odd Eyes are only allowed for white or cats with white in van, bi-colour, or an unspecified amount of white. Pointed varieties have blue eyes**

**Moved:** Cats NSW, Peta Sperduty

**Seconded:** GCCFSA, Debs Armishaw

**ACF Secretary, Robbie Walker**, the June 2024 meeting voted to change the Peterbald standard from FIFE to TICA and that the standard of points be sent to the Breed Standards Review subcommittee. JG1 & JG 2 be accepted and added to the Breeding & Registration Rules.

**Judges Guild Secretary, Julie Schuller:** we discussed this, and as we were going with the TICA standard we felt the points should stay as per the TICA. standard of points, obviously TICA break them up as compared with how ACF break them up. What the judge’s guild decided to recommend was:

**Head:** 20 points.

**Ears:** 10 points,

**Eyes:** 10 points, making a total of 40 the same as the TICA standard,

**Body:** 35 points - including the legs, feet and tail, add condition five points, because they felt condition was very important.

**Coat:** 25 points – including colour

It was slightly different to what the subcommittee recommended, but it was closest to the TICA standard we felt we could go in the ACF mode.

**Cats NSW, Tony Hurry**, what Peta & Debs have put is quite clear and conforms to the layout of ACF standards

**For:** CAT, Cats NSW, Cats WA, FCCQ, GCCFSA, GCCFV, QFA, QICC, TFA

**Against:** CANT

**Absent:** COAWA

**Motion Carried 9:1**

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iii CAT Response to ACF – Compliancy

Motion that ACF considers this matter closed, upon receipt in writing of the information provided by the CAT delegate, Lesley Morgan. Information to be supplied no later than 6 November.

**Moved:** Cat WA, Carole Galli

**Seconded:** GCCFV, Christian Nimmervoll

**For:** CANT, Cats NSW, Cats WA, FCCQ, GCCFSA, GCCFV, QFA, QICC

**Abstain:** TFA

**Ineligible:** CAT

**Absent:** COAWA

**Motion Carried 8:I:I**

**Action:** Record of Discussion on File

4. Finance

**ACF Treasurer, Jan Sterry,** congratulations to Cats NSW for an excellent National and a healthy profit. Total cash at bank \$46,000, which consists of term deposits with varying rates of interest.

**Moved:** Treasure, Jan Sterry

**Seconded:** GCCFV, Christian Nimmervoll

5. Reports — Sub-Committees

a. Breeding Rules Sub Committee Report

I. Recommendation One

“that Breeding and Registration By-Law Two, subclause 8.I.I.3 be amended as shown in red:

Examples of the breed to be made available for inspection at the time of consideration for recognition at the ACF (Inc.) Judge’s Guild **GM** and/or at the ACF (Inc.) National Show **before being considered for recognition at an ACF (Inc.) GM. High-resolution images and/or videos of new breeds, varieties, or coat colours and patterns can be considered when cats are unavailable.**

**Moved:** GCCFSA, Deb Armishaw

**Seconded:** Cats NSW, Peta Spurduty

**JG:** The Guild supported the motion and suggested that ACF(Inc.) embrace the facilities new technology offers. Some further thought should be given to the process, e.g. such as getting Judges’ written assessments at Shows, there should be more flexibility, and it should be a multi-process at the State level

**CAT, Lesley Morgan,** there are often posts on Facebook which deal with cat genetics, colour or pattern and statements that the colour is not true or the lighting does not do justice to the photo. This relates to my earlier comment about galloping in, only to discover we were ill advised.

**ACF President, Judith Jordan,** there is some wriggle room in that it says it can be considered. It is not saying must be, if the quality of the material does not meet with the approval of the committee, then you have the option to make it in person.

**FCCQ, Erin Brown,** I have grave concerns about this especially breeds, when we are judging it is not only visual, but also feel. As an example, I looked at the Tennessee Satin Cat when I was in the States and took photos to bring back for everyone to look at the cat, the photos did not show the satin effect. By approving this we are in my opinion opening a pandoras box.

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**GCCFV, Christian Nimmervoll**, I go back to when we accepted the Lykoi, we had to get the judges to go outside and look at the cats which had come out of quarantine, there is also the Asian Self when no examples were available several years ago. GCCFV believes we need to see the cat.

**FCCQ, Erin Brown**, if you have a new breed and you are serious about it being accepted then surely it is worth bringing it to a meeting and presenting it to judges.

**Cats WA, Carole Galli**, as an alternative, if we are looking at videos to accept or consider a breed, I would like to suggest that if that's an option for a person to have breeds, colours recognised may I suggest that this could include written reports from three ACF senior all-breed judges to support the application for approval.

**FCCQ, Isobel Johnstone**, the breeder could take several cats to a local show and ask judges to look at them and video the presentation.

**Cats WA, Carole Galli**, you have the opportunity with interstate judges to also assess and comment on the breed/colours. If the breeder is not prepared to bring cats along to a couple of local shows, then they do not deserve to have recognition.

**TFA, Vanessa Sullivan**, I took it that video and photographs would be a back up to a couple of cats being on display.

**For:** CANT, CAT, Cats NSW, Cats WA, GCCFSA, TFA

**Against:** FCCQ, GCCFV, QFA,

**Abstain:** QICC,

**Absent:** COAWA

**Motion Carried 6:3:1**

**2. Recommendation Two**

“that Breeding and Registration By-Law Two, subclause 14.5.28.5 be amended to remove the use of Persian and Exotic Shorthair as an allowable outcross for Selkirk Rex after 1st January 2026.”

**Moved:** GCCFSA, Deb Armishaw

**Seconded:** Cats NSW, Peta Sperduty

**QICC, Julie Walker**, what does this do for the breed, I'm concerned that this is going to result in a lot of inbreeding because of the lack of outcrossing available.

**FCCQ, Isobel Johnstone**, they can still outcross to British Shorthair and American Shorthair.

**GCCFSA, Fiona Hawkins**, we consulted our Selkirk Rex breeder, and they were in favour of the proposal, they think the Persian has become too extreme and added no benefit to the Selkirk breed and that the strength to the Selkirk was to conservatively out cross to the British.

**CAT, Lesley Morgan**, given the appearance of a lot of American short hairs, the same thing might apply as does with the Persian.

**For:** CANT, CAT, Cats NSW, Cats WA, FCCQ, GCCFSA, GCCFV, QFA, QICC, TFA

**Against:** Nil

**Abstain:** Nil

**Absent:** COAWA

**Motion Carried 10:0:0**

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**3. Recommendation Three**

“that Breeding and Registration By-Law Two, subclause I4.5.20.1b be amended as shown in red:

Breeders are to provide health reports to the relevant Member Body and the ACF Secretary *for consideration at the annual ACF (Inc.) GM* and continue DNA testing as appropriate.”

**Moved:** Cats NSW, Peta Spurduty

**Seconded:** GCCFSA, Deb Armishaw

**JG:** The Guild supported the motion

**For:** CANT, CAT, Cats NSW, Cats WA, FCCQ, GCCFSA, GCCFV, QFA, QICC, TFA

**Against:** Nil

**Abstain:** Nil

**Absent:** COAWA

**Motion Carried 10:0:0**

b. Breed Standards Review Sub-committee

c. Legislative Watchdog Sub-committee

As circulated

Chair, Julie Sculler, Robbie sent me the information about the Animal Care Australia AGM, they have a special resolution to change the constitution regarding the Public Officer. The public officer where this person does not hold one of the elected positions, be amended to enable ACA to have a choice of who the public officer is.

I just need ACF's permission on how we vote, the rationale is with the limit of available persons who nominate to stand for office bearers positions the inability of standing office bearers to hold more than One position.

The meeting agreed unanimously that Julie can vote yes.

**Moved:** Chair, Julie Schuller

**Seconded:** FCCQ, Erin Brown

**Accepted Unanimously**

**6. Meeting Of World Cat Congress**

2025 - 31 July 2025 – 3 August 2025

Hosted by The Cat Fanciers' Association (CFA) in conjunction with a very large Cat Expo at the Hong Kong Convention Centre, show 2-3 August.

2026 - 23rd - 27th April 2026

Hosted by The Governing Council of the Cat Fancy (GCCF), Liverpool, UK

CFA require confirmation of the names of our delegate and advisor, the judge delegates will be invited to judge, and the club themselves will have to apply for the work permit, and but there is no visa required to go into Hong Kong.

This information is required no later than February 2025. The programme has not been finalised, at this stage they are potentially holding the seminar and open meetings on Friday, the show would be over two days, Saturday & Sunday the show will be part of a very large pet expo, which this year attracted over 200,000 visitors. A Gala dinner is to be held on Sunday night.

II - GENERAL BUSINESS

**7.I Matters referred from the ACF Judges Guild**

**a. Amendment Judges Training Scheme Administration**

The Guild proposes that ACF votes for the changes to the Judges Training Scheme as marked in red in the attached document and as passed at the Judges Guild General Meeting 2024

**Moved:** CANT, Julie Schuller

**Seconded:** GCCFSA, Deb Armishaw

**Prerequisites For Admission To Judge Training**

**2.2.1.** Applicants must apply to their Member or Provisional Member Body in the form required by that body providing evidence for these prerequisites.

**2.2.2.** The prerequisites are:

- a) minimum of **3** years' involvement in the cat fancy.
- b) minimum of 3 years' experience in breeding cats from the group in which the course is to be undertaken. **OR**
- c) **non breeders who contribute and foster a continuance in the cat fancy.**
- d) **Judge trainees may be selected by the member bodies based on aptitude and abilities and respect within the cat fancy**

**2.4. Training**

**2.4.6.** **The Cadet Judge as part of their theoretical training will be required to complete tasks such as presenting seminars, participating in discussion or question and answer sessions, taking written practice tests, for revision purposes, completing research, and writing assessments on exhibits or picture, examples. All such tasks shall be designed to develop competency.**

**2.5. Examinations**

**2.5.1.** Once a stage of theoretical training has been completed, and the Tutor Panel believes the Cadet Judge has reached the required level of competency, Cadet Judges will be formally assessed on that part of the Curriculum which has been undertaken.

- a) This will be in the form of a written examination, which assesses higher order thinking rather than simple recall. It may include multiple choice, short answer, and extended answer questions. For an extended list of assessment methods see Section 4: Sub-clause **4.3.4. The method of assessment is to be decided by the Tutor Panel and discussed with the Cadet Judge.**

**4.3.4. Assessing Competence**

- a) Assessment of competencies through assignments and examinations for a training program in a group may take many formats, depending on the most appropriate method for assessing the various competencies in the module being completed, including:
  - (viii) open-book examinations (consisting of various question formats requiring higher-level, process and analytical skills rather than merely rote recall). **An open-book examination allows the examinee to bring ACF (Inc.) Book of Standards, reference books or notes into an examination**

**TFA, Anne Harvey,** We did have input about two years ago judges opinions were sought about the requirement to encourage new judges to step forward, this is the outcome of those discussions, the Guild is recommending that a minimum of three years involvement in the Cat Fancy and a minimum of three years' experience in breeding, or non-breeders who contribute and foster a continuance in the Cat Fancy may be accepted for judges. Expands the pool to encourage people to work with us to become judges.

**Cats WA, Carole Galli,** can we consider people who work in rescue organisations, someone like Karen Bat, she stewards at National Shows, she is very involved in rescues, but is not considered eligible to be a trainee judge, because she does not breed.



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TFA, **Anne Harvey**, this opens it up to non-breeders who foster an ongoing involvement in the cat fancy.

QICC, **Julie Walker**, these people also need to be involved in running shows and act in the role of show secretary.

**For:** CANT, Cats WA, FCCQ, GCCFSA, GCCFV, QICC, TFA

**Against:** CAT, QFA

**Abstain:** Cats NSW

**Absent:** COAWA

**Motion Carried 7:2:1**

**7.2 Pre-Notice, July 2025 AGM – Change ACF Constitution, Basic Objects 9.I**

Proposed new dot point – *“or where there is not a reasonable opportunity to be a member of a state member body or provisional member body, if the Judge is a recognised existing judge of the Federation, then membership of the Judges Guild is considered sufficient to maintain the Judge’s licence.”*

ACF Judges Guild President, **Anne Harvey**, if we have a state where it's not feasible for an association continuing, there's no viable option. Membership of the ACF Judge’s Guild should be sufficient to enable an existing judge to retain their license.

**7.2 Prenotice from the ACF Judges Guild - February 2025 meeting**

**a. Training Schemes:** It is suggested that Member Bodies running Training Schemes via Zoom and who were willing to admit candidates from other jurisdictions should advise the Guild Secretary so an up-to-date log could be kept. The Guild seek support from Member Bodies for this.

**b. Forms:** It is proposed that there be 2 forms for Judge training one to be signed by Tutor Judges at completion of Training, and a copy retained by the candidate. The second to be completed when the required 6 shows have been completed including copies of the relevant schedules. It was noted that schedules were not always sent to judges, but Judges progressing to ACF(Inc.) Panel status should request each schedule.

**7.3 ACF Judges Guild, Julie Schuller**

The Guild has several points with respect to LCWW which it is felt need to be addressed sooner rather than later.

- ACF Judges wishing to judge for LCWW
- Does ACF recognise LCWW.

Main points of concern

- Showing/Awards
- Registrations, are they going to start registering in Australia

The consensus was that ACF(Inc.) should be working closely with CCCA on this matter.

Cats WA, **Carole Galli**, we need some guidance on how to advise our judges as to whether they can accept invitations to judge. Unlike CCCA, we do not have to ask approval to judge for overseas associations.

My understanding would be that we can accept an invitation to judge for LCWW shows outside Australia, within Australia their shows wouldn't be a recognised show, I would like that clarified.

Motion: ACF judges may not judge for LCWW within Australia.

Moved Cats WA

Seconded: QICC, Julie Walker

**For:** CAT, Cats NSW, Cats WA, FCCQ, GCCFSA, GCCFV, QFA, QICC, TFA

**Against:** Nil

**Abstain:** CANT

**Absent:** COAWA

**Motion Carried 9:0:1**

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**7.4 Yearbook Editor, Jan Sterry** a reminder to member bodies that they need to send in their COTY results and photos. I don't mind if they are sent early. I will send an email out within the next week.

**II.5 National Shows**

- 2025 New South Wales - CCCA
- 2026 South Australia – GCCFSA
  - Currently discussing venues
  - Committee members tasked with investigating various matters
    - Accommodation, judges & exhibitors
    - Investigating other venue options
    - Transport from hotel to show venue, not only judges but member body delegates
- 2027 - CCCA
- 2028 Western Australia - Cats WA

**II.6 Other Business**

**Next Meetings:**

**26 February 2025**

1. 26 December 2024 Notice Of Meeting
2. 12 January 2025 Deadline Proposals
3. 27 January 2025 - Agenda

**22 July 2025 - TBC**

**12. CLOSE**

Meeting closed at 2130 AEST

Confirmed

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Judith Jordan  
President, ACF (Inc.)  
30 October 2024

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Robbie Walker  
Secretary, ACF (Inc.)  
30 October 2024