

Biodynamic Agriculture Australia Inc.

Annual General Meeting 2009.

Secretary's Report

Under Section 79 of the Constitution, the Secretary is appointed by the Directors and cannot be a member of the Board. When the BAA was an Incorporated Association, the Council had a secretary for the purpose of taking minutes and the CEO carried out the operational activity of the Association. He was responsible to the Secretary and the Council for obligations to notify relevant governmental bodies of changes to the status of the organisation

The BAA now has over 1400 members from every State of Australia. It was in recognition of this fact that the Board changed the legal status of the organisation from an Incorporated Association to a Company Limited. A decision was also taken to have the facility for postal voting at Annual General Meetings, so that members who cannot attend AGMs can feel that they have a voice. Before that time, Board members were elected and motions were passed at AGMs where between 40 and 80 people were present.

A further improvement was made when the Constitution was amended so that members had notice of who was standing for a position on the Board. This was to avoid the situation where a nomination could be received from the floor at an AGM, where the members not in attendance had no prior notice of the nomination. The relevant section stated that the nominations should be published in the edition of *News Leaf* preceding the AGM. A further protocol was put in place by the Board to give the News Leaf editor the final say as to when contributions could be received and publication takes place. In the case of the publication of the relevant issue this year, the editor was completely happy to keep the edition open to receive nominations up to the date she determined for publication. This position was fully supported by the Board.

Given the increased national importance of the organic and biodynamic industries, the Board has always felt that the membership should have a voice in the BAA's make-up and direction. One way that this is achieved is by electing Directors, who represent the interests and opinions of the members. It is with this in mind that the Board has decided that the voting for a place on the Council will be **by postal vote only**, for this and following years, if needed. This avoids the task of having two elections, one by postal vote and one at the AGM. This year, we are appointing an independent Returning Officer to ensure that the election is fair and transparent.

At the time of writing, the Secretary is in the process of completing all the necessary requirements for the yearly audit with WHK Camerons (our auditors) and has completed the lodging of company details with ASIC so that they are up to date.

Ian Cuming (Secretary) 8/5/09