



# Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of Commonwealth Games Australia Limited

ACN 629 915 448

Wednesday, 15 May 2024

Freshwater Ballroom 1 & 2, Novotel Sydney Olympic Park  
11A Olympic Boulevard, Sydney Olympic Park

## ATTENDEES

### DIRECTORS

Ben Houston (President & Chair)	Darryl Clout
Marlene Elliott	Grant Harrison
David Mandel	Steve Moneghetti AM

### JOINT COMPANY SECRETARIES

Craig Phillips AM (CGA CEO)	Dianne O'Neill (CGA GM Corporate)
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### PROGRAM SPORT MEMBERS (VOTING DELEGATES)

Athletics Australia	Jane Flemming OAM OLY	Peter Bromley
AusCycling	Marne Fechner	Lee Brentzell
Australian Weightlifting Federation	Sam Coffa AM JP	Ian Moir
AusTriathlon	Nicole Gibson	Tim Harradine
Badminton Australia	Geraldine Brown	-
Bowls Australia	Matthew Kennedy	Karen Murphy
Boxing Australia	Phillip Goodes	Dinah Glykidis
Cricket Australia	Nick Hockley	-
Diving Australia	Liz Jack OLY	Alex Newton
Golf Australia	David Greenhill	-
Gymnastics Australia	Sam Offord	Chris O'Brien
Hockey Australia	David Pyles	David Thompson
Netball Australia	Wendy Archer AM	Stacey West
Paralympics Australia	Alison Creagh AM CSC	Michael Bushell AM
Rowing Australia	Sarah Cook OLY	Ben Dodwell
Rugby Australia	Ben Whitaker	Laura Johnston
Shooting Australia	Andrew Sims	Adam Sachs
Squash Australia	Matt Schmidt	Robert Donaghue
Swimming Australia	Neil Martin	Rob Woodhouse
Table Tennis Australia	Nicole Adamson	-
Volleyball Australia	Andrew Dee	Carolyn Campbell

### STATE DIVISION MEMBERS

New South Wales
South Australia
Western Australia
Tasmania
Victoria

### VOTING

Peter Tate
Joe Stevens OAM
Sam Castiglione
Mandy McIntyre
Chris Flynn

### NON-VOTING

Michael O'Mara
-
Ross Willox
-
-

### ASSOCIATE MEMBERS (NON-VOTING DELEGATES)

Wrestling Australia	Josh O'Brien
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### LIFE MEMBERS

Valerie Beddoe AM	Dr Grace Bryant OAM
Don Stockins OAM	Sue Taylor AM
Petria Thomas OAM	

## ATTENDEES (CONT'D)

### LIFE MEMBER NOMINEE

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Ian Hanson OAM

### AUDITORS / SCRUTINEERS (PricewaterhouseCoopers)

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PwC, Partner	Andrew Cronin
PwC, Auditor	Phil Kossmann

### CGA STAFF

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GM Team Performance & Delivery	Robin O'Neill
GM Marketing, Communications & Community	Cody Lynch
Government Relations Manager	John Lamont
Stakeholder Relations Manager	Kylie Peake
Team Planning & Delivery Manager	Leigh Sherman
Alumni & Community Engagement Manager	Ali Cole
Communications & Digital Manager	Zoe Lorenzin
Finance Manager	Liz Taylor
Executive & Office Manager	Maria Cabeliza
Program Administrator – Green2Gold2Great	Tyler Parker
CGF eqUIP Intern	Josh Squire

### CGA SUB-COMMITTEE MEMBERS

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Reconciliation Action Plan Advisory Group Chair	Kyle Vander-Kuyp
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### OBSERVERS & SPECIAL GUESTS

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Blackhall & Pearl – Managing Partner	Sam Butcher
SportFive – Director, Strategy	Luke Cusack
CGA Director Nominee	Duncan Free OAM
Guest of Dr Peter Harcourt OAM	Sue Hanson
Thomson Geer Lawyers – Special Counsel	Lisa Marcus
CGA – Operations Advisor	Lisa Sams

## 1. Call to Order and Acknowledgement of Country

The CEO called the meeting to order at 10:00am, welcoming all guests in attendance. He invited Chair of CGA's Reconciliation Action Plan Advisory Group and *Worimi and Yuin man*, Mr Kyle Vander-Kuyp to present an Acknowledgement of Country.

Mr Vander-Kuyp acknowledged the Traditional Owners of the lands the meeting is being held on, being the Wangal People, and to any Aboriginal and Torres-Strait Islanders participating in the meeting, and he paid respect to their Elders past, present and emerging.

He commended the work being undertaken by Commonwealth Games Australia (CGA), the Australian Olympic Committee (AOC) and Paralympics Australia (PA) and their commitment to being part of Australia's reconciliation journey. In closing, he extended his appreciation to the commitment and ongoing support of CGA's Reconciliation Action Plan Advisory Group.

The CEO thanked Mr Vander-Kuyp and introduced CGA President, Mr Ben Houston.

## 2. Welcome by President

The President thanked Mr Vander-Kuyp and welcomed all to the meeting. He declared that all requirements of the Corporations Act had been met regarding the meeting and a quorum had been reached, with the meeting thereby being a valid and binding meeting of Commonwealth Games Australia Limited.

The President welcomed Life Members in attendance, Dr Grace Bryant OAM, Val Beddoe AM, Sam Coffa AM JP, Steve Moneghetti OAM, Don Stockins OAM, Sue Taylor AM and Petria Thomas OAM.

In addition, he acknowledged special guests:

- Alison Creagh AM, the President of Paralympics Australia
- Andrew Cronin and Phill Kossman, PwC
- Lisa Marcus, Thomson Geer

The President welcomed all Program Sport delegates, Associate members, State Division representatives, CGA Directors and Staff present.

## **APOLOGIES**

The President advised that apologies for the meeting had been received from the following people as listed on the screen:

### **DIRECTORS**

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Leeanne Grantham (Vice President)	Jayne Ferguson
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### **PROGRAM SPORT MEMBERS (VOTING DELEGATES)**

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Badminton Australia - President	Andrew Greenway
Badminton Australia - CEO	Tjitte Weistra
Basketball Australia - Chair	John Carey
Basketball Australia - CEO	Matt Scriven
Bowls Australia - President	Matt Burgess
Cricket Australia - Chair	Mike Baird AO
AusCycling - Chair	Craig Bingham
Golf Australia - Chair	Peter Margin
Golf Australia - CEO	James Sutherland
Hockey Australia - President	Ross Sudano
Paralympics Australia - CEO	Catherine Clark
Rowing Australia - Chair	Rob Scott
Rugby Australia - Chair	Daniel Herbert
Rugby Australia - CEO	Phil Waugh
Table Tennis Australia - President	Graham Symons
AusTriathlon - President	Michelle Cooper
Volleyball Australia - President	Craig Carracher AM

### **ASSOCIATE MEMBERS (NON-VOTING DELEGATES)**

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Archery Australia - President	Melissa Mongan
Judo Australia - Chair	Simon Read
Judo Australia - CEO	Beck Hamilton
Wrestling Australia - President/CEO	Andrew Kanatli

### **STATE DIVISION MEMBERS**

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TAS State Division President	Brendan Hanigan
WA State Division Secretary	Olivia Birkett

### **LIFE MEMBERS**

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Peter Anderson OAM	Rhonda Cator
Perry Crosswhite AM	Peter Duras OAM
Ray Godkin OAM	Dr Peter Harcourt AM
Marjorie Jackson-Nelson AC CVO MBE	

## IN MEMORIAM

The President noted with sadness the Commonwealth Games family members who had passed away in the last year. A video tribute was presented that included:

### Commonwealth Games Athletes and Representatives:

Douglas Adams	Perth 1962 – Cycling – Gold medallist
Cedric Baxter OAM	Former CGA Board Member, CGA Life Member and Badminton Australia Life Member
Joseph Brancatisano	Kingston 1966 and Edinburgh 1970 -Weightlifting
Ian "Joey" Browne OAM	Cardiff 1958 and Perth 1962 – Cycling – Gold and Bronze medallist
Noel Clough	Kingston 1966 – Athletics – Gold medallist
Kevin Coombs OAM	Dunedin 1974 – Wheelchair Basketball – Silver medallist
John Devitt AM	Cardiff 1958 – Swimming – Triple Gold medallist Melbourne 2006 Commonwealth Games Chef de Mission
Melissa Hoskins	Glasgow 2014 – Cycling
Bret Hudson	Victoria 1994 and Kuala Lumpur 1998 – Gymnastics – Gold, Dual Silver, Dual Bronze medallist
Dennis Katunarich	Auckland 1990 – Lawn Bowls
Lionel Robberds AM	Vancouver 1954 and Cardiff 1958 – Rowing – Gold, Silver and Bronze medallist
Neil Rogers	Edinburgh 1970 and Christchurch 1974 – Swimming – Gold, Triple Silver and Bronze medallist

### Australian Sport Acknowledgments:

Gary Bourne	Athletics Australia Life Member, coach and manager at numerous Commonwealth Games
Ursula Carlile	Swimming Head Coach – Christchurch 1974
Jack Clarke	Cricket Australia Chair, 2008–2011
Michael Craig	Hockey Australia Life Member
Robert "Bob" Middleton	Bowls Australia Hall of Fame Member
Colin Nicholas OAM	Former Hockey Australia President and Hockey Australia Life Member
Lance Otto OAM	Gymnastics Australia Life Member
Sam Parker OAM	Wrestling Coach for six Commonwealth Games
Nathan Templeton	Poolside reporter – Gold Coast 2018
Eric Tweedale	Rugby - oldest living Wallaby
Simon Weatherill	Melbourne State Sport Centres Trust, CEO – 2006 Commonwealth Games site

### 3. Minutes of 2023 Annual General Meeting

The President tabled the Minutes from the previous Annual General Meeting held 19 May 2023, which were circulated to all Members via email with the Notice of Meeting as attachment 1 on 23 April 2024.

The President sought any comments or amendments from the members regarding the Minutes and there were none forthcoming.

It was resolved that the Minutes from the 2023 Annual General Meeting of Commonwealth Games Australia Limited as circulated, be adopted as a true and correct record of the meeting.

MOVED: Peter Tate NSW State Division – CEO  
SECONDED: Phillip Goodes Boxing Australia – President

The President approved for his electronic signature to be affixed to the Minutes.

#### 4. President's Address

The President, Mr Ben Houston, presented his report. The report is annexed to the Minutes as Attachment A. There were no questions to the President's report.

It was resolved that the President's report be received and adopted.

MOVED:	Andrew Dee	Volleyball Australia – CEO
SECONDED:	Rob Woodhouse	Swimming Australia – CEO

#### 5. Annual Report and Financial Statements

The President advised that a digital copy of CGA's latest Annual Report was emailed to all Members with the Notice of Meeting on 23 April 2024 as attachment 2, and hard copies were provided on each table.

The President introduced CGA CEO Mr Craig Phillips AM, to present the 2023 Annual Report, including CGA's Financial Statements for the year ending 31 December 2023.

The CEO asked that the Annual Report, Financial Statements and Independent Auditor's Report thereon for the year ended 31 December 2023 be taken as read as they have already been distributed to Members in accordance with the constitution. The CEO then presented his report which is annexed to the Minutes as Attachment B.

##### Financial Statements

When concluding his report, the CEO advised Members that independent auditors PwC reported that, in their opinion, on page 57 of the Annual Report:

*"The accompanying financial report of Commonwealth Games Australia Limited (the Company) is in accordance with the Corporations Act 2001, including:*

- (a) giving a true and fair view of the Company's financial position as at 31 December 2023 and of its financial performance for the year then ended*
- (b) complying with Australian Accounting Standards to the extent described in Note 1 and the Corporations Regulations 2001."*

Notes to the Financial Statements were referenced on pages 47 through 55 of the Annual Report.

He noted the receipted funds as part of the settlement from the Victorian Government and the gifting of these funds to the Australian Commonwealth Games Foundation Trust.

The CEO commended the Annual Report to the Members, including the Financial Statements and independent auditor's report thereon, and proposed them for adoption.

The President thanked the CEO and asked if there were any questions regarding the Annual Report and Financial Statements for the CEO. There were no questions forthcoming.

It was resolved that the Annual Report and 2023 Financial Statements be received and adopted.

MOVED:	Peter Tate	NSW State Division – CEO
SECONDED:	Lee Brentzell	AusCycling – Delegate

## 6. Elections

### A. Elected Directors – 2 positions

The President advised that two directors have terms expiring at the conclusion of the meeting, being Mr Darryl Clout and Mr Grant Harrison.

He confirmed that nominations were called for by the Company Secretaries as per Part 9.5 of the CGA constitution and three eligible nominations were received:

- **Mr Darryl Clout**, nominated by Life Member Mr Perry Crosswhite AM
- **Mr Duncan Free OAM**, nominated by Rowing Australia
- **Mr Grant Harrison**, nominated by Gymnastics Australia

He confirmed that their nomination information, CVs and a pre-recorded video presentation were circulated to Members as attachment 3 with the Notice of the Meeting on 23 April 2024 and are also available on CGA's website.

The President stated that as the number of eligible candidates nominated for election exceeds the number of vacancies, an election shall be conducted by exhaustive ballot for the two Elected Director positions in accordance with Part 7.14 (a) and Part 7.14 (b) of the CGA Constitution.

He advised that the voting would be conducted one position at a time, noting those eligible to vote as per Part 4.4 of the Constitution, are two delegates from each Program Sport and one from each State Division.

The President explained the exhaustive voting process, with each delegate having one vote, with 43 total votes available. The President noted that an absolute majority in any round of voting would therefore be 22 votes.

He confirmed that the exhaustive ballot will be conducted as a poll, with each position being voted upon until one (1) nominee has successfully received an absolute majority. Voting delegates are to vote for their preferred nominee for each position and votes are cast by marking the box for the delegate's **preferred** nominee with a tick or a cross. An option is also provided to abstain from voting.

There being no questions from the delegates regarding the voting process, the President invited delegates to move a motion to appoint two scrutineers for the elections, being Mr Andrew Cronin and Mr Phil Kossmann from PwC.

MOVED:	Joe Stevens OAM	SA State Division – President
SECONDED:	Phillip Goodes	Boxing Australia – President

#### **DIRECTOR POSITION 1: 4-YEAR TERM**

The President asked all voting delegates to cast their vote for the first Director position on the blue voting pad, by clearly marking the box next to the name of the preferred candidate.

All voting delegates cast their votes in round one, they were collected by the scrutineers, and the scrutineers left the room to tally the votes.

The scrutineers returned to the room and handed the written result to the President.

The President announced that Mr Darryl Clout had been eliminated as having received the lowest number of votes.

Voting delegates were then asked to vote again for the two remaining nominees, being Mr Grant Harrison and Mr Duncan Free OAM in order to achieve an absolute majority. The voting slips were collected by the scrutineers and the scrutineers left the room to tally the votes.

The scrutineers returned to the room and handed the written result to the President.

The President declared Mr Grant Harrison **ELECTED** to the role of Director for a four-year term.

The President congratulated Mr Harrison on his re-election and moved onto voting for the second Director position.

#### **DIRECTOR POSITION 2: 4-YEAR TERM**

The President asked all voting delegates to cast their vote for the second Director position on the pink voting pad, by clearly marking the box next to the name of the preferred candidate. Voting delegates were asked to cross out the previously successful nominee, being Mr Grant Harrison, with the remaining nominees being Mr Darryl Clout and Mr Duncan Free OAM.

All voting delegates cast their votes, they were collected, and the scrutineers left the room to tally the votes.

The scrutineers returned to the room and handed the result to the President, who declared that Mr Duncan Free OAM was **ELECTED** to the second Director position for a four-year term.

The President welcomed Mr Free to the CGA Board as the first new Director in several years and looked forward to working with him over the coming four years.

He acknowledged Mr Clout and thanked him for his valuable contribution to the CGA Board over the past five and a half years, particularly his council in more recent times. Noting that Mr Clout was not re-elected, the President advised his term would therefore conclude at the end of the meeting.

On behalf of the Board, the President extended his sincere appreciation to Mr Clout, for his tremendous support and dedication to the Commonwealth Games Movement.

### **7. Amendments to the Constitution**

The President referred to the proposed amendments to the Constitution as circulated with the meeting papers as attachment 4.

He thanked the Governance Review Advisory Group, in particular members Mr Rob Donaghue from Squash Australia, Ms Alex Newton from Diving Australia and Ms Lee Brentzell from AusCycling, for their invaluable contribution to the process.

The President advised that the Advisory Group was facilitated by independent governance consultant Sam Butcher from Blackhall & Pearl, and he thanked Mr Butcher for his service and guidance.

The President also thanked Program Sport members for their input at the Governance Workshop in November 2023, with the outcomes from this workshop distributed in late 2023 for further comment. He outlined the process and communication undertaken with Members, culminating with the final proposed amendments being circulated to Members by email on 14 March for feedback and once again circulated by the formal notification process, as per Part 25.1(b) of the CGA Constitution on 12 and 23 April 2024.

The President spoke to the final session held at the Members' Forum held on 14 May to seek any further clarification on the proposed changes to the constitution which are reflected on screen, being:

- Transition to a more flexible composition of six (6) Elected Directors and up to three (3) Appointed Directors, from the current composition of seven (7) Elected Directors and up



to two (2) Appointed Directors. This includes allowing a third Appointed Director to be appointed immediately, if so desired by the Board;

- The President to be appointed from within the Board, by the Board, rather than elected by the Members, commencing in 2027;
- Providing the CGA Board with the option to appoint the President for one (1) additional term of no more than four (4) years, even if that person has already served 12 years or three terms on the Board. This will ensure continuity of leadership if required, particularly should the current challenging environment continue.
- Cooling off period for Directors (4 years) and CEO (2 years)

There were no questions or queries regarding the proposed amendments to the Constitution.

The President noted that in accordance with Part 25.1 (a) of the CGA Constitution, a special resolution is required to amend the Constitution, and for this to be valid, the resolution must be passed by at least 75% of the votes present, being 33 votes.

He reiterated those eligible to vote as per Part 4.4 of the constitution and requested delegates cast their vote by raising their hand if in favour of the special resolution and the scrutineers will count the votes.

The President referred to the special resolution on the screen as follows and asked all voting delegates in favour to raise their hand for the scrutineers to count the votes.

"The members resolve, as a special resolution, that with effect from the conclusion of the meeting, the constitution of Commonwealth Games Australia Limited be and is amended in the manner set out in the amended Constitution provided to members with the memorandum dated 12 April 2024, which includes:

- (a) amendments in the nature of additional text in blue and underlined, primarily in Part 9 (Board of Directors), Part 21 (Service of Documents) and Part 25 (Changes to the Constitution); and:
- (b) amendments in the nature of deleted text in red and strikethrough, primarily in Part 9 (Board of Directors), Part 21 (Service of Documents) and Part 25 (Changes to the Constitution), with each amendment shown in such document being taken to be specified in this resolution."

The scrutineers advised the President of the result, and he declared the special resolution passed.

The President thanked members for the ongoing support through this process which was an important step for CGA in continuing to lead the way in sports industry governance as part of our strategic plan, *First Among Equals*.

## 8. Life Membership

The President introduced the final item on the agenda, being the presentation of Life Membership.

He noted that the CGA Heritage & Awards Committee recommended one very worthy individual who had "rendered exceptional service" to CGA as per the criteria in Part 4.2 (d) i. of the constitution. He noted that the recommendation was endorsed by the Board at its March meeting.



He advised that according to Part 4.2 (d) ii. of the Constitution, a special resolution is required to approve Life Membership of Commonwealth Games Australia. The resolution must be passed by at least 75% of the votes cast by Members eligible to vote at the meeting.

The President introduced nominee, Mr Ian Hanson OAM. He read his citation (as per Attachment C) and on behalf of the CGA Board, commended his nomination for Life Membership of CGA.

Representatives from PwC again acted as scrutineers and the President asked for a show of hands from only from those entitled to vote, for all those in favour of the resolution:

“The Members resolve, as a special resolution, that Mr Ian Hanson OAM be conferred with Life Membership of Commonwealth Games Australia Limited under Part 4.2 (d) of the Constitution.”

The scrutineers conducted a count of the voting delegates, and the President declared that the special resolution to confer Life Membership of CGA on Mr Ian Hanson OAM was passed unanimously. The meeting responded by acclamation.

The President congratulated Mr Hanson on the honour and invited him to the stage to accept his award. The President presented Mr Hanson with his award and Life Member pin.

Mr Hanson spoke to his contribution to sport particularly the Commonwealth Games, noting the lifelong connections he made during his career.

He thanked CGA Members, the Board and in particular the Heritage & Awards Committee, for bestowing this award on him which symbolised the support and encouragement he received from many great mentors in his sport and media journey.

He noted the significant growth and imperative role of the media at the Commonwealth Games, which shaped the way moving forward and wouldn't have been possible without the ongoing support and commitment of the Board and Commonwealth Games movement in Australia.

The President thanked Mr Hanson.

There being no further items of business on the agenda, the President thanked everyone for their attendance and for their support of CGA over the past 12 months. He then declared the meeting closed at 11:23am.

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**Ben Houston**  
**PRESIDENT**

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**Date**

## ATTACHMENT A – PRESIDENT’S ADDRESS

We will shortly move to discuss the Commonwealth Games Australia 2023 Annual Report and Financial Statements and hear from Craig Phillips AM on details of the strategic refresh work completed by the CGA Board and Executive across 2023.

Prior to this, I wanted to take this opportunity to briefly update you on the 2026 Commonwealth Games and how things are progressing, as well as respond to the Federal Budget detailed by the Albanese Government last night.

On the 2026 Games, conversations continue between the Commonwealth Games Federation and three potential hosts.

Importantly, Australia remains one of the potential hosts at the table.

The conversations as they stand are commercial in confidence and the Commonwealth Games Federation has indicated a preference to make further announcements by the end of this month.

Many in the room today will have heard yesterday from Robin O’Neill about the value of the Commonwealth Games on the performance pathway for athletes.

We know, and you all know, that without the Commonwealth Games the continued success of Australia’s athletes on the global stage as we approach a home Olympic and Paralympic Games in 2032 will be weakened.

We are steadfast in our commitment to collaboration with the Commonwealth Games Federation in finding a new host for 2026.

Thank you for your continued advocacy, support and engagement as this work continues.

I’d also like to reference one element of the Financial Reports that will be of interest to many of you, this being a gift of more than \$56 million dollars from CGA to the Australian Commonwealth Games Foundation.

This direct contribution has been made possible in part by the settlement we reached with the Victorian Government.

It is these funds that provide us with the means to commit \$13 million to Green2Gold2Great, a performance initiative and athlete investment program aimed at improving Australian results on the global stage.

\$4.8 million of this allocation is already out the door and delivering results, bringing to \$73.8 million the total amount Commonwealth Games Australia has committed to athletes and sports since 1996.

Critically, these funds will also deliver the green and gold to the field of play at future Commonwealth Games and Commonwealth Youth Games.

Birmingham 2022 saw CGA outlay almost \$8 million on team performance and delivery, and we are committed to ensuring our athletes, coaches and officials have all that they need to succeed in 2026.

I now invite our CEO, Craig Phillips AM, to present details of our strategic refresh, Annual Report and Financial Statements.

BEN HOUSTON  
President

15 May 2024

## ATTACHMENT B – CEO’S REPORT

President, Members of the Board, Life Members, Delegates of our member organisations, Special guests, Ladies & gentlemen, I start my report by acknowledging the traditional owners of the land on which we meet today – the Wangal people – and pay my respects to their Elders’ past, present and emerging.

I am pleased to present to you the Annual Report, Financial Statements and Independent Auditor’s Report thereon for the reporting year ended 31 December 2023. The Annual Report was circulated with the agenda for this meeting in accordance with the Constitution. President, with your agreement I ask that the Annual Report be taken as read.

When commencing my report last year, I noted that 2022 would be remembered as one of the most successful and significant in CGA’s history – this remains unchanged.

The troubling events of July 2023 have led to a profound shift in CGA’s focus away from preparing to be the host of the next Games to, once again, seeking to secure an Australian host. We feel a strong obligation to do so and will continue to try for as long as we can. Beyond this, however, CGA remains committed to each of its strategic priorities:

- Delivering Team Success;
- Connecting with Communities;
- Presenting a Powerful Brand;
- Leading the Way; and
- Hosting Great Games

In February 2023, CGA commenced a refresh of our Strategic Plan– ‘First Among Equals’. The refresh of ‘First Among Equals’ was led by CGA’s Board, with the support of staff, and informed by extensive consultation with stakeholders, including you, our members. The refresh of ‘First Among Equals’ concluded in early 2024.

Yesterday, during the Members’ Forum I provided an overview of the key changes made to the Strategic Plan and some of the new initiatives and projects CGA will be undertaking in the next two to three years. Pages 10 and 11 of the Annual Report, contain a high-level summary of the revised Strategic Plan. As with previous years, this year’s Annual Report is structured to focus on CGA’s achievements under each strategic priority. On your table is a pocket guide to our Strategic Plan. A more comprehensive version of the Strategic Plan will be posted on our website in the coming days.

Throughout 2023, CGA maintained its commitment to ‘Delivering Team Success’ in three ways. Firstly, in recognition of her exemplary leadership of the 2022 Australian Team to Birmingham, the CGA appointed Petria Thomas OAM to the role of Chef de Mission for the 2026 Team. Throughout 2023, Petria has led the commencement of long-range planning for the Team. While the destination is unresolved, the planning continues.

Secondly, and despite the Andrews-Allan Government’s withdrawal from hosting the 2026 Games, CGA maintains its commitment to Member Sports and their athletes through the \$13 million ‘Green 2 Gold 2 Great’ investment program. During 2023, CGA committed more than \$4.8 million as part of the first allocation period.

Finally, in August, CGA dedicated itself to ensuring our 74 strong Team to the Trinbago 2023 Commonwealth Youth Games was provided with a Team environment to excel on the field of play and to enjoy memorable international experiences. For many it was their first time overseas in the green and gold. Ably led by Team General Manager Ellie Cole OAM and Deputy General Manager Greg Hire, the Youth Team successfully topped the medal tally winning 64 medals across all seven program sports.

Given the age of Team members, CGA implemented a comprehensive safeguarding program in cooperation with Sport Integrity Australia to ensure a safe and secure Team environment was created. We are indebted to SIA for its generous support of the Team. We also thank the seven program sports for preparing such fine young athletes.

As the custodian of the Commonwealth Sport Movement and recognising its importance to Australians, CGA makes ‘Connecting with Communities’ a strategic priority.

During 2023, CGA commissioned internationally recognised education provider, Cool Australia, to conduct a comprehensive scoping exercise as a precursor to the development of online school resources focused on the Commonwealth Games. These resources, once developed, will be made available to teachers across Australia in late 2024 or early 2025.

A key finding from CGA's Strategic Plan refresh, was a strong desire by Member Sports to cooperate with CGA on the development and implementation of alumni engagement initiatives. A scoping exercise commenced in 2023 and will continue throughout 2024. A key component of this work will be consultation with CGA's Athlete Advisory Group which was re-established during 2023.

2023 saw CGA continue its reconciliation journey with the completion of goals outlined in its Reflect Reconciliation Action Plan. CGA proudly added its support to the Yes campaign for the Indigenous Voice to Parliament. While the campaign ultimately failed at the referendum CGA believes it was important for our voice to be heard. We continue to recognise the important contribution First Nations Australians make to the Commonwealth Sport Movement and sport more broadly.

Recognising its importance to 'Presenting a Powerful Brand', CGA extended its relationship with SPORTFIVE until 2030. I extend my thanks to Damien Moston and the SPORTFIVE Team for their contribution to the success of CGA's sponsorship program.

One of the most powerful representations of our brand is its embodiment through Commonwealth Games Team uniforms. The uniforms provided by Australian owned company, Valour Sport, for the 2023 Commonwealth Youth Games Team did not disappoint. They were applauded for their style, quality, functionality, and most importantly of all were extremely popular with Team members.

The decision of the Andrews-Allan Government to withdraw from hosting the 2026 Games placed immense pressure on the Commonwealth Sport Movement brand. CGA is steadfast in its view that the Commonwealth Games and, in particular, our Team remains much loved and respected by Australians.

In 'Leading the Way', CGA has maintained its commitment to communicate on a regular basis and in a transparent way with its member organisations. This is best typified through our six-monthly Members' Forums and bi-monthly CEO Briefings. CGA knows you are all busy with your day-to-day responsibilities, so we appreciate you taking the time to be part of these opportunities for discussion.

As part of its process of constant improvement and renewal of its governance frameworks and practices, CGA established a Governance Review Advisory Group in July 2023. The valuable insights provided by this Group and the well-considered feedback received from CGA members has helped frame key constitutional changes which will be put to you for adoption later in the meeting.

CGA continues to play a key leadership role internationally, particularly, in the Oceania region. In April 2023, CGA assisted the Commonwealth Games Federation with the staging of the Asia-Oceania Joint Regional Meeting in Brisbane. CGA also continued to make representations to the Australian Government to provide support to our Oceania neighbours.

Our final strategic priority – 'Hosting Great Games' – concluded the year with immense uncertainty. The withdrawal from hosting the 2026 Games by the Andrews-Allan Government, has seen CGA move from being the confirmed Games host to now, once again, seeking to host the Games.

CGA feels the full weight of expectation that it will find a replacement host in Australia. It is too important to our athletes, Member Sports and the Australian public at large for us not to try. We know that a Commonwealth Games in Australia in 2026 will be an integral part of the green and gold runway to the Brisbane 2023 Olympic and Paralympic Games. That runway is currently lacking a pipeline of international events.

The "easy" decision taken by then Premier Dan Andrews has meant the last half of 2023 has been a turbulent and uncertain time for CGA – unlike any we have experienced. Our view of that decision and our assessment of the failings of the Andrews-Allan Government throughout the entire saga have remained consistent and are well documented in the Annual Report.

Our narrative in the public domain has been consistent since 18 July last year. The recent reports of the Victorian Audit-General's Office and the Victorian Upper House Parliamentary Inquiry have vindicated

our position. In simple terms, this is very much a failing of the Government and not the Commonwealth Games.

The Victorian State Budget delivered just last week, saw Visit Victoria's own funding allocation drastically reduced. This does not augur well for Melbourne and Victoria's ability to attract genuine major international sporting events. I predicted last July that Melbourne would continue to slide down the ranking of Global Sports Cities – just as it had the previous year. It will be interesting to see if my prediction comes true when the Global Sports Cities Index is released later this year.

As I do each year, it is appropriate to thank all who play their part in the success of the Commonwealth Sport Movement in Australia. This year, however, I wish to single out two groups for special acknowledgement and praise. They are the Board and staff of CGA. Throughout this most difficult time, our Board and staff have remained steadfast in their resolve to honour commitments given in support of our Member Sports and their athletes, to explore ways to connect with Australian communities and to find a replacement host for 2026.

I particularly want to acknowledge the efforts of our President Ben Houston. Ben, in addition to facing the challenges of leading the Olympic sport of Sailing on the road to Paris, or should I say Marseilles. You have been there at all material times during negotiations with the Victorian Government and the other Commonwealth Games parties. You have been working tirelessly in trying to find a replacement host. Thank you, Ben.

Many of you in the room today have responsibility for preparing Australia's athletes for the Paris 2024 Olympic and Paralympic Games. I wish you every success in supporting your athletes in having their best day when it matters.

To conclude my report, I draw your attention to the Financial Statements, accompanying notes and independent auditor's report thereon contained on pages 36 through 58 of the Annual Report. It is important that I draw your attention to two significant events which appear in our financial statements this year. The first of these is the receipt of funds as part of the settlement with the State of Victoria with respect of the cancellation of the 2026 Games. The second is the gifting of funds to the Australian Commonwealth Games Foundation Trust. These items are dealt with on page 51 in notes 2 and 3 respectively. Our General Manager, Corporate, Di O'Neill gave a comprehensive presentation on these matters yesterday during the Members' Forum. Thank you, Di.

On page 57, independent auditor PWC has reported to you that, in their opinion:

"The accompanying financial report of Commonwealth Games Australia Limited (the Company) is in accordance with the *Corporations Act 2001*, including:

- (a) giving a true and fair view of the Company's financial position as at 31 December 2023 and of its financial performance for the year then ended;
- (b) complying with Australian Accounting Standards to the extent described in Note 1 and the *Corporations Regulations 2001*."

Notes to the Financial Statements can be found on pages 47 through 55 of the Annual Report.

President, I commend the report to our members and ask that the Annual Report, including the Financial Statements and independent auditor's report thereon be proposed for adoption.

Thank you.

CRAIG PHILLIPS AM  
Chief Executive Officer

15 May 2024

## ATTACHMENT C – LIFE MEMBER CITATIONS

### IAN HANSON OAM

Ian Hanson OAM has been a member of ten Commonwealth Games Teams, covering three Games as a journalist with News Corp covering Swimming in 1982, 1986 and 1990, before moving to media management and communications, culminating in serving as either a Media Director or Manager at seven (7) Games.

He has spent 45 years working in the media as an award-winning journalist, media strategist, and media manager for Australia's Olympic, Commonwealth Games and various World Championships Teams.

In 2019, Ian was awarded the Medal of the Order of Australia (OAM) for his Services to Media, Communications, and Sport, after spending over 25 years working with the Australian Swim Team (1991 - 2016), as well as with AusTriathlon.

DRAFT