

**Bridging Lanka**  
**Minutes of Annual General Meeting 2021**  
**By Zoom**



**Thursday, 17 June (7pm AEST) 2021**

No.	ITEM	Moved/Seconded
1.	<p><b>WELCOME &amp; APOLOGIES (Steve Dunn, Chair)</b>  Attendees: Steve Dunn (Chair), Jeremy Liyanage, Shyama Fuad, Siraj Perera, Lindy Drew-Tsang, Abs Kugendran, Lara Jeyaretnam, Jes Yogaratnam, Nigel Sloss, Shanta Perera, Mohan Bhagwandas, John Ball and Dee de Silva  Apologies: Diarne Kreltshheim, Nivanka Bhagwandas, Jan Gillies</p> <p><b>ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY (Steve Dunn, Chair)</b></p>	For noting
2.	<p><b>Minutes of AGM February 2020</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Motion that the Minutes be accepted as a true and accurate record of the AGM 2020</li> </ul>	Moved by Steve Dunn; Seconded by Jeremy Liyanage; all in favour
3.	<p><b>ANNUAL FINANCIAL REPORT</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Abs Kugendran (Treasurer) presented the Financial Statement for 2020/21</li> <li>• There are no outstanding issues. It was noted by the attendees that it is a small budget for the amount of work that BL provides on the ground in Sri Lanka.</li> <li>• Please see attached Annual Financial Report overview.</li> </ul> <p><b>ANNUAL ACNC REPORT</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lindy Drew-Tsang (Secretary) noted that BL Australia has submitted its annual report to the Australian Charities &amp; NFP Commission keeping us compliant with Australian requirements and transparent through the ACNC portal where all information about Bridging Lanka and reports can be viewed by the public. Thanks to Lynette Board for her work in submitting this year's report on 7/3/21.</li> </ul>	Moved by Abs Kugendran; Seconded by Steve Dunn; all in favour
4.	<p><b>2020-2021 YEAR IN REVIEW</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Jeremy Liyanage, Executive Director, presented an overview of Bridging Lanka activities and highlights over the past 12 months</li> <li>• Jeremy demonstrated clearly how difficult the past year has been due to impacts of COVID, following on the previous years of riots in Kandy (2018) and bombing during Easter 2019. Bridging Lanka has proven 'chaos-adept' and responses resulted in a range of innovations in project delivery. Despite the restrictions and lock-downs, BL has continued to work across all 8 platforms, with Urban Improvement and Responsible Tourism the weakest this year.</li> </ul> <p>Highlights included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Through Australian donations and at the request of the SL Government, BL engaged young people to distribute dry-food packs to 951 families in 61 villages across all 5 divisions of Mannar district as well as several families in the Kandy area at the beginning of COVID.</li> <li>• Intensive engagement with young people, initially through lock-downs, that has developed into the Fighting Fit program with six components of support, including Fitness, Inner Gym Workout, Peer Counselling, Vocational Resilience, Intensive</li> </ul>	

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	<p>Nurturing and Effective Parenting.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The effective cross-community work in Sri Lanka and Australia to slow and perhaps halt the progress of Titanium Sands Ltd to undertake mineral sand mining on Mannar Island.</li> <li>• Organic cultivation progress, including expanded rice paddy production, as well as starting to sell the organic rice paddy in the Arokkiya Kitchen &amp; Café. Turkey berries were developing into a high income produce, halted at this point due to loss of sales during COVID.</li> <li>• Café Arokkiya was doing really good business until closure during lock-downs. Supplied washing machine and ironing board for one woman to start a laundry business.</li> <li>• Introduction of Analog Forestry through support of one of the Sri Lankan BL Board members. Just beginning and slowed due to COVID.</li> <li>• Continuation of the transition of ownership of the Donkey Clinic &amp; Education Centre to Alhathir Shahul Hameethu which is going well despite challenges. DCEC oversaw rescue of 78 donkeys in 2020 and took in 1,167 tourists (though only 106 from overseas). Holding of the Pongal Ceremony at DCEC that brought in community members from Hindu, Muslim and Catholic faiths. Started merchandising business from a room there where sewing machines have been used to make products including tote bags and dresses. In time will work to get business from local hotels.</li> <li>• Setting up of Youth Nation Digana that engages young people from Buddhist and Muslim communities in positive community projects, included this year giving supplies during COVID lock-down to families in need, adding to inter-religious trust-building by getting young people to give to families of different faiths from their own.</li> </ul>	
5.	<p><b>ELECTION OF DIRECTORS</b></p> <p>During 2020/21 Jane Hope and Luke Chandler resigned their positions as Board Directors. We welcome new Board members - Lara Jeyaretnam and Abs Kugendran. Continuing Directors are: Steve Dunn (Chair); Abs Kugendran (Treasurer); Lindy Drew-Tsang (Secretary); Shyama Fuad, Siraj Perera; Lara Jeyaretnam, Jeremy Liyanage and Prabakaran Ponnuthurai.</p>	
6.	<p><b>GENERAL BUSINESS</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mohan Bhagwandas said that BL was a remarkable example of commitment, resilience, doggedness and holding to the vision over 11 years.</li> <li>• Jes Yogaratnam shared his Bridging Lanka Recipe!</li> <li>• Others, John Ball, Dee de Silva and Nigel Sloss also made positive comments.</li> <li>• Lara Jeyaretnam said that the Inaugural Gala Dinner on 16 October is sold out.</li> <li>• Lindy Drew-Tsang said that the first Golf Day Fundraiser will be held in Queensland at the Gold Coast hinterland on 27 August, 2021.</li> </ul>	
7.	<p><b>MEETING CLOSED 8:30pm</b></p>	