



December 2021 Newsletter

AIFLAM 2021 AGM

The 32nd Annual General Meeting of the Institute was held on 29 November 2021, online via zoom. This is the second time we have held our AGM entirely in a virtual environment, and with an increased number of members in attendance there were no technology hiccups, and the live polling of all motions was seamless.

My Chair's report was tabled at the meeting. A full copy is available [here](#) for those members who were unable to attend. I commend it to members as a helpful summary of another busy year. Other documents tabled at the meeting are also available in the members portal of the website.

AIFLAM Board

A Board election was also held this year. The following is an excerpt from my Chair's Report. I would like to take this opportunity to record my sincere gratitude and appreciation to the following Board members whose terms on the Board have ended for various reasons:

- The Hon Justice Strickland – his Honour has been the Family Court of Australia appointee to the AIFLAM Board since 1999 and was the Family Law Section appointee in 1998. With his retirement from the Court on 20 November 2021, his appointment to the Board also ceased on that date. His Honour has made a tremendous contribution to AIFLAM during his lengthy time on the Board, including as a regular presenter in our arbitration courses, and more recently as Chair of the Arbitration Committee. We are very grateful to his Honour for agreeing to stay on as Chair of the Arbitration Committee post his retirement from the Court.
- Judge Turnbull – Marcus Turnbull SC, formerly AIFLAM Treasurer, retired from the Board on his appointment as a Judge of Federal Circuit Court of Australia, now the Federal Circuit and Family Court of Australia, in May 2021. Judge Turnbull was the elected Tasmanian representative from 2014 and also represented the Family Law Section of the Law Council of Australia. Judge Turnbull continues to provide valuable support to AIFLAM and will assist with facilitation of the specialised mediation training in Hobart in 2022.
- Julie Redman – Julie did not seek re-election to the Board on the expiry of her current term. Julie has been the SA representative on the AIFLAM Board since 2017 and Deputy Chair for the past 2 years. She has also been Chair of the Member Services Committee.
- Philip Looney QC – Philip has been the Queensland representative on the AIFLAM Board since 2019 and did not seek re-election in 2021. Philip has also been a member of the Arbitration Committee and will continue to provide assistance to that committee in 2022 as further steps are taken to establish a specialist arbitration training course.
- Dianne Orr – Dianne has been the appointee of the Attorney-General since 2019 and has provided helpful input and support to our issues of policy, law reform and the new

complaints procedures. Dianne has taken on a new role within the A-G's Department, and we wish her all the very best for the future.

The commitment to a role on the AIFLAM Board is significant and I very much appreciate the support provided by those retiring members.

I thank the WA members for their ongoing support in returning me as their elected representative.

I congratulate the following elected representatives for the other states and territories:

- Emma Swart (Victoria)
- Bruce Tilley (NSW)
- Claire Naidu (ACT)
- Hon. Colin Forrest SC (Queensland)
- Fiona Besir (SA)
- Kate Mooney SC (Tasmania)

I also welcome the following appointments to the Board:

- The Hon Justice Josh Wilson and Judge Kemp as appointees of the Federal Circuit and Family Court of Australia.
- Jamie Burreket and Nicola Watts as appointees of the Family Law Section of the Law Council of Australia.
- Kathleen Denley, Assistant Secretary of the Family Law Branch of the Attorney General's Department as appointee of the Attorney General.

AIFLAM Life Members and Honorary Memberships

In 2021 the AIFLAM Board resolved to appoint Life Members and award annual Honorary Memberships, as it can do pursuant to the AIFLAM Constitution, as updated in 2020.

It gave me great pleasure at the AGM to announce the following Life Members who have rendered services to AIFLAM in an exemplary and long-standing manner, providing special expertise and knowledge:

- Philip Theobald
- Martin Bartfeld AM QC
- The Hon Steven Strickland QC

Honorary Memberships are awarded to those who individuals who make a significant contribution or who otherwise donate their time to AIFLAM. The following Honorary Memberships were awarded, extending to the 2022-23 membership year:

- Associate Professor Jill Howieson
- Dr Jacoba Brasch QC
- AIFLAM Board Members

On behalf of the AIFLAM Board and our members, I also extend our congratulations to Dr Jacoba Brasch QC on her recent appointment to the Family Law Council. The Family Law Council is an independent body of experts that will provide advice to the Attorney-General on family law matters.

AIFLAM in 2022

We are close to finalising our 2022 calendar, which will be a mix of both face to face courses, as well as courses conducted online via zoom. There will be several new additions to the program, including half day workshops covering both arbitration and mediation to be held alongside the Family Law Section of the Law Council of Australia 2022 Intensive Program in Sydney, Melbourne and Brisbane.

We also propose shorter CPD options and workshops to include:

- Arbitration for Family Lawyers
- Preparing for a Mediation
- Electronic support for Arbitration
- Advanced award writing

At this stage, the next Arbitration Training Course will be held immediately prior to the Family Law Section National Family Law Conference in Adelaide and is open for registration. The course will run on 25-26 March 2022. For more information, and to register click [here](#). We will soon be finalizing the dates of our next NMAS Mediation Course for 2022 but expect this to be online via zoom in May. Dates will be posted on the AIFLAM website in the coming days.

Christmas wishes, thank you and acknowledgements

As we head towards the Christmas break, and the end of what has been another extraordinary year, I would like to take this opportunity to acknowledge and thank the ongoing support and commitment of the many people who continue to give their time and energy to AIFLAM.

I express my sincere appreciation to the AIFLAM Board, including our Mediation, Arbitration and Executive Committees, who have worked tirelessly in 2021 to adapt to the challenging and constantly changing environment in which we continue to find ourselves. We are also grateful to many others who support us, particularly in the delivery of our training programs.

Thank you also to our members for your ongoing support. In particular, to those who regularly communicate with us on particular issues influencing their practice, and to provide insight and contributions on matters of interest in the areas of family law arbitration and mediation.

I wish you all a safe and merry Christmas. As I noted in my Chair's Report to the AGM, here's to a return to the "new normal" in 2022!

Kind regards



Andrew Davies
AIFLAM Chair

The AIFLAM Secretariat will close at COB on Tuesday 21 December 2021 and will re-open on Tuesday 4 January 2022.

