



# THE ANU OBSERVER

## **Agenda for Meeting of The ANU Observer Board Meeting**

Date: 30 Jul 2025

Opening of meeting:

### **Item 1- Attendance**

Rowey

Darcy

Anish

Urja

Shé

Anneysha

Eduardo

### **Item 2- Apologies**

Saffron

### **Item 3 - Acknowledgement of Country**

By Rowey

I wish to acknowledge the Ngunnawal and Ngambri peoples as traditional custodians of the land we are meeting on and recognise any other people or families with connection to the lands of the ACT and region. We also acknowledge and respect their continuing culture and the contribution they make to the life of this city and this region, and pay our respects to elders past, present and emerging.

### **Item 4: Welcome Urja and Eduardo and Anish**

Rowey: Welcome to our new board members!

[board introductions]

### **Item 5: Market Day Recap**

Rowey: Market day went great, thank you to Urja for organizing everything from afar! Thank you to everyone who came along and helped. Definitely helped having a newspaper to hand out and made people engage a lot more deeply which was great. Nothing much to really report!

Anneysha: I do think at market day people were a bit hesitant to take the newspaper because they thought they had to pay. I also think it would be great to also have some dietary specific dietaries with the lolly jars.

Sophie: how did we go from a hiring perspective?

Rowey: well, we did have less than the start of the year but that's to be expected.

Shé: I have also had some interest in visual and done some interviews!

Rowey: I've sent out emails and am waiting on more responses soon!

Rowey: I also had a really keen podcast editor who had a chat to Saffron, which would be really great! I'd like to have Shé and also Mackenzie, if she's still keen to be on the podcast, at the interview. We'll talk more about the podcast later!

Anneysha: I also have had a few people interested in web who I'm interviewing Monday.

### **Item 6: Web - Incident Response**

Anneysha: the media release covers the incident broadly. We're going to set up a new system in the future so I have something really stable to hand over.

#### Media release

[ANU Observer acknowledges that the website has been experiencing an extended outage over the winter break due to a series of technical issues. We are pleased to report that the website will be live within the next week due to the tireless efforts of our web team, and wish to thank the community for their patience. We understand the importance of our platform being accessible to the ANU community, especially as the semester commences, and want to provide a transparent update and overview of the situation.

On 17 June, the ANU Observer website experienced a brief crash, but recovered within 24 hours without intervention. On 21 June, it was reported by an ANU Observer officer that the website was down. Our web executive has been investigating the situation, and

discovered a series of underlying structural issues with our system that combined, caused the crash.

These series of infrastructure issues have rendered our platform inaccessible to both Observer officers and the ANU community since June 21, and we apologise to our community for this.

Our web team is developing several contingencies to ensure we are up and running as quickly as possible in light of these historically dormant structural vulnerabilities.

Our web team is attempting to recover a recent backup and rebuild the current system. We are developing plans for a full overhaul in the near future and will update our internal technical and administrative processes to ensure this does not happen again in the future.

Looking ahead, we expect to relaunch our website over the next week with our full archive of articles. In the meantime, our social media will continue to operate and students can read up on last semester's events in our inaugural print newspaper, which will be available this week.

We deeply appreciate the patience and support of our community during this time. This disruption has highlighted the importance of digital resilience for student organisations, and we are committed to developing a long-term solution for the ANU Observer platform.]

Anneysha: we're looking at costs for a new website.

Anish: I'm going to look at how I can rework the budget for the new system. I'm waiting for Maddy for the updated budget because the version I have doesn't look right. We have quite high website costs at the moment.

### **Item 7: Stock of graphics?**

Rowey: we realise this might put additional work on you Shé, but we're aware that we often get a backlog of articles end of sem that are of somewhat similar themes. I was wondering if we could create a bit of a backlog of graphics that are ready to go.

Shé: I think the challenge is what articles we can realistically anticipate. I can start on some obvious ones like protests and course cuts.

Rowey: we can do some stock images of ANU buildings? Residences, ANU management, course cuts etc.

Shé: I'll start brainstorming.

### **Item 8: New lease**

Rowey: The lease for this office expires on Halloween. We have the opportunity to extend two years, which will include a 4% fixed increase.

I do think this brings up a bigger conversation about how our lease operates.

### **Item 9: Newspaper sem 2**

Rowey: Shé has put so much work into the newspaper and it looks incredible. There was so much work put in that we didn't even know about until right before printing.

Rowey: it did take a lot of work and preparation from the whole team, so we should starting thinking about the end of semester. We could have it ready and start handing it out over exams. Or we can have it for market day.

Shé: I think we do it for market day next sem, it would be great to have it for O-week!

### **Item 10: Woroni meeting**

Rowey: We're meeting with Woroni at some point. We cover the ANUSA election with them so we'll be organising that. We have some ideas about how we should cover it based on last year. Shé how do you feel about live streaming?

Shé: I would be keen to collaborate on it.

Rowey: we'll try to organise it in the next week.

### **Item 11: Newsletter?**

Anneysha: we talked about a newsletter, I'd be keen to do it! It would be a lot of additional work for the visual team.

Shé: I think it would be better to circulate the newspaper for now and think more about launching this next term.

Anneysha: I think it would be good to start thinking about circulating the link to sign up in the near future.

Rowey and Shé: I think it would be great to start circulating info over the mid break.

### **Item 12: PODCAST!!!!**

Rowey: hopefully we'll have a podcast hire soon!

Urja: I'd be keen to be involved in hosting.

Rowey: well we'll look at getting that organised in the near future hopefully!

### **Item 13: Tags for lanyards**

Rowey: did we have a link for the tags?

Sophie: I'll send the link to Anish

Darcy: I'd mocked up cards, we'll look at the cheapest way to make them

### **Item 14: Cyber Wardens training for reporters**

Sophie: The government runs a cyber security program that's free called cyber wardens, I think we should get the whole team to do it.

Anneysha: I think that's a great idea, ANU Information Security Office has also reached out about running some training about this.

### **Item : Other Business**

Shé: I am aiming to graduate half way through next year, which is earlier than expected, so I'm just thinking about who we can hire to potentially take over in future.

Anneysha: I will be leaving semester 2 of 2026 so we just need to think about the future!

Anish: can everyone also resend their bank details!

Urja: I also need to send the building info to ANU security.

**Meeting closed:**

Closed: :44PM

**Next board meeting:**

Wednesday 13 August.