

## **EXPRESSION OF INTEREST** **MEMBERSHIP OF THE ACADEMY OF YOGA SCIENCE LIMITED**

The Academy of Yoga Science Ltd. (AYS), a Public Company limited by Guarantee, is a not for profit charity registered with the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission (ACNC). It is inviting applications for membership to its organisation. Applications are open to anyone who has an interest in Yoga and AYS, its aims and objectives, and feel they have skills or expertise to offer. This is an opportunity to be a guiding presence in developing the road map for the future of AYS and for it to realise our collective potential.

The key aim of AYS is to support organisations, activities and services for the wellbeing of members of our community, irrespective of gender, race or religion, through the application of the philosophy and techniques of yoga and related health practices.

Our Vision is to provide a platform for innovative programs and projects benefiting communities through Yoga Principles and practices for a purposeful, peaceful life.

Over the past 5 years AYS has implemented the findings of the Royal Commission's Case 21 findings. This has included the total rejection of the Guru principle and any relationship with India, the settlement of claims raised by survivors following the Royal Commission, and the protection of children through the closure of the Yoga Ashram, cessation of the Yoga courses and retreats and the disposal of the Mangrove properties. During this time the number of AYS members has diminished such there is now only a small group able to provide the support and governance that the organisation needs. These changes, and the desire to take a new direction, have been the catalyst for a review of the organisation with the aim of ensuring that the way forward is one that is inspiring and appropriate to the needs of those we serve.

The fundamental business model of AYS has therefore changed although our intention to continue to support the broader Yoga and Wellbeing communities continues. A thorough review of the organisation and its current operating principles and practices will include:

- The governance structure of the AYS and how it operates; at the member, operating and Board levels.
- The position of AYS in the broader Yoga and Health Wellbeing community.
- Potential collaborative partnerships with research and wellbeing organisations.
- Investment Strategies to ensure the sustainability of the organisation.
- Development of Policies and Procedures for determining the appropriate distribution of funds to eligible entities.

We understand that now more than ever AYS needs a broad range of skills, experience and a diversity of backgrounds to truly meet these new needs. AYS would benefit greatly by having a diverse and committed group of individuals who are able to offer their experience and insights to its management and governance. By calling for new members, our immediate aim is to:

- Strengthen and diversify the governance structure to support the current governing Committee; and
- Provide input into the development of policies and practices that will provide an operational platform that will enable AYS to achieve its objective to support the community and remain a sustainable entity.

### **Diversity of values and perspectives.**

Ideally membership would include a mix of people who:

- Know how to create relationships within the community that encourage and support individuals to grow personally, professionally and spiritually thereby enriching our whole organisation;
- Have experience in adapting organisational structures and processes to meet the changing needs of society, technology and the environment;
- Have the skills to assess priorities, interests and values and allocate resources in ways that are effective and that foster creativity and innovation;
- Understand the fundamental importance of culture and its impact on an organisations credibility within its community; and
- Communicate the decisions and directions of the organisation to a diverse community.

### **Specific skills and experience.**

AYS wishes to participate in the broad Yoga community as well as the Health and Wellbeing sectors. As such one or more skills in the following areas would be considered very desirable:

- Organisational dynamics, ethics, compliance and governance.
- Research/Yoga Research.
- Collaborative planning and strategy development.
- Community engagement development.
- Collaborative partnerships.
- Business management.

- Organisational finance.
- IT Systems and infrastructure.
- Fundraising.
- Communication and marketing.
- Financial investment skills.
- Legal knowledge relating to any of the above.

**Welcome attributes.**

- Willingness to engage in constructive and meaningful discussions.
- Ability to support and guide others in their respective roles.
- Available time to participate in the Governance of the organisation.
- Membership of a Professional Association.
- Member of the Australian Institute of Company Directors (AICD).

**The role of members will be to: -**

- Contribute to the AYS vision for the future by providing knowledge, skills, experience and advice appropriate to current needs and circumstance;
- Act in an advisory capacity to support AYS's Committee Members (i.e. the Board of Directors);
- Participate in Tele & Video conferences from time to time;
- Attend AGM's; and
- Vote for the AYS Committee (i.e. Board of Directors) from within the AYS membership.

**Participation requirements.**

Members will be asked to attend at least 4 meetings (including one AGM) a year as well as participate in group training relevant to their role in the governance of the organisation.

Attendance may be in person or via tele or video conferences.

If you are interested, please complete the Application Form and return it to the [secretary.ays@mangrovevoqa.org](mailto:secretary.ays@mangrovevoqa.org) together with a copy of your CV.

**Deadline for this application is 14<sup>th</sup> June 2020.**

The AYS constitution requires applicants to be nominated and seconded by a current member who know the applicant. We will arrange these necessary signatures for the successful applicants. To facilitate this process the following steps will be followed:

1. All applications will be circulated to Committee Members for review.

2. The Committee Members will review all applications and determine the eligible applicants during their Committee Meeting.
3. Committee Members may contact applicants for more information if they do not know them personally. Alternatively, a meeting may be suggested to meet applicants, either in person or via teleconference facilities.
4. A General Meeting of AYS members will be called after all applications have been reviewed. Details of all nominated applicants will be circulated to all the AYS members as part of the Notice of the General Meeting.
5. Existing AYS Members will vote to accept or reject the nominated applicants.
6. All applicants will be notified in writing by the Secretary of the outcome as soon as practicable.
7. Successful applicants will be asked to accept the position and pay a \$10 joining fee.
8. A formal communication will be sent to the broader yoga community to inform them of the new members.
9. A formal induction program will be implemented following the appointment of the new members.

We look forward to hearing from you.

Yours sincerely,

Wynand Janssen

Committee Member and Secretary.