
**MINUTES OF THE SIXTY EIGHTH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING (AGM)
OF THE AUSTRALIAN SOCIETY OF ANAESTHETISTS (ASA)
HELD ON MONDAY 7 SEPTEMBER 2009 AT THE DARWIN CONVENTION
CENTRE AUDITORIUM 1 AT 1030**

1. Attendance

Drs Elizabeth Feeney (Chair), Michael Abbott, Kenneth Ahmat, Waleed Alkhazrajy, Alexander Babarczy, Lee Barnard, Michael Barrington, James Barson, Peter Grattan Beahan, Jennifer Beckett-Wood, David Beilby, Adam Black, Andu Borsaru, James Bradley, Christopher Bradshaw, David Brownhill, Kester Brown, Richard Clarke, Charles Clegg, Margaret Cowling, Colin Crowe, John Copland, Martin Culwick, Jerry Coombes, Reginald Cammack, Chris Cokis, Mark Colson, Nicholas Courtney, David Crankshaw, Philip Cumpston, Steven Clulow, James Cowling, Gregory Deacon, Tony Dilforio, Stuart Day, Prudence Dale, Roberta Deem, Aileen Donaghy, Glenn Downey, Marrow E.A, David Fenwick, David Gibb, Roger Gouke, Neville Gibbs, Richard Grutzner, Barbara Gaden, James Griffiths, Antonio Grossi, Andrew Hardy, John Hains, William Herlihy, Michael Hellings, Hamish Holland, Robert Hare, Paul Herreen, Ross Holland, Peter Harbison, Ken Harrison, Roger Henderson, Glenys Ismail, David Jarvis, Christopher Jelliffe, Norman Juengling, Ross Kerridge, Alex Kan, Fiona Kilpatrick, Steven Katz, Diana Khursandi, Daniel Lane, Michael Lawrence, Peter Lindberg, John Lauritz, Chris Lowrt, Peter Lillie, Michael Levitt, Gareth Lyttle, Michael Loadsman, Graham Mapp, Donald Maxwell, Daniel McIntyre, Andrew Mulcahy, David McCuaig, James Muir, Elizabeth Maycock, Adam Molnar, Ian Metcallfe, David Merefield, Michael Mackay, Patricia Matthews, Jane McDonald, David McConnel, Melanie Nicolson, Suzi Nou, David Olive, Neville Opie, Rashmi Patel, Anthony Padley, Ian Painter, Justin Porter, Ylanesh Patel, Piers Robertson, Pauline Palmer, Beverley Peers, Michael Paech, Allan Palmer, Renald Portelli, John Richards, W.J. Russell, Paul Rodoreda, Paul Swan, Nigel Symons, Mark Sandford, Markus Schmidt, Albert Saady, Derick Selby, Robert Storer, Mark Sinclair, Anthony Stark, Andrew Schneider, John South, Peter Sayers, David Scott, Peter Seal, Robert Singleton, Matthew Swann, Geoffrey Silk, Tao Slykerman, Alan Stern, Keith Streatfeild, Richard Steele, Walter Thompson, Michael Tuch, Sandra Taylor, Michael Tisdall, Jeanette Thirlwell, Gerald Turner, David Vote, Maurice Vialle, Vida Viliunas, Ian Woodforth, Linda Weber, Liam Walker, Gregory Wotherspoon, William Watson, Andrew Walpole, Rodney Westhorpe, Kerry Warner, Jimmy Wong, Douglas Welch, Craig Young, Michael Zajd, Zufar Tameev, John Zubevich.

Secretariat Staff in Attendance

Mr Peter Lawrence and Ms Gordana Stevanoski

2. Apologies

Alan Bradshaw, David Bollinger, Paul Champion, James Cowling, Peter Dodds, Paul Ferris, David Goodie, Paul Kwei, Min Lee, Lala Mohan, Robert Popovic, Jein Seunt, Nola Schmel, Deidre Sun.

3. Confirmation of Minutes from the Previous Annual General Meeting

3.1 Minutes of the ASA AGM held Monday 13 October 2008

“That the Minutes of the ASA AGM held 13 October 2009 (Item 3.1) be accepted as a true and accurate record.”

MOVED FROM THE CHAIR

SECONDED BY DR RICHARD CLARKE

CARRIED

There being a quorum of ASA members present Dr Elizabeth Feeney, the ASA President, opened the meeting at 1030 and welcomed those in attendance.

4. Business Arising From Minutes

4.1 Nil

5. President's Report

5.1 Dr Elizabeth Feeney spoke to her report which was available on the ASA website. She congratulated Dr Brian Pezzutti and A/Prof Stephen Gatt for their recent honours.

5.2 Dr Feeney reminded members of the successful Common Issues Group (CIG) Meeting held in Vancouver in June. She advised that the relationship between all members of the CIG was positive.

5.3 She congratulated Dr Michael Tuch, Honorary Treasurer for his continuing dedication and assiduous management of the Society's finances throughout the financial crisis.

5.4 Dr Feeney advised that the GPALS project funding had been approved by the Department of Health and Ageing, she hoped that this initiative will not only provide holiday, education and respite opportunities but will also increase the retention and recruitment of GP anaesthetists to rural and remote areas.

5.5 Finally she thanked all ASA Members, State Chairs and Committee Representatives with special mention to Drs Duncan, Schneider, Cook and Donaghy as they stepped down from their chairmanship role and welcomed Drs Gibbs, Grossi, Turner and A/Prof Gatt in accepting their new positions.

“That the President's Report (Item 5) be received.”

MOVED FROM THE CHAIRSECONDED BY DR LINDA WEBER CARRIED

6. Honorary Federal Treasurer's Report

6.1 Dr Tuch provided a perspective on the year's performance. The investment portfolio was showing an overall loss of 8.4% since inception. Further to this he advised that Council has approved an increase in member subscription rates for 2010 of 6%. Finally, Dr Tuch thanked Ms Christine Ingate, Financial Controller for her hard work and the continual improvement in clarity and timeliness in the reporting to Council.

“That the Honorary Federal Treasurer's Report (Item 6) be received.”

MOVED FROM THE CHAIRSECONDED BY DR RICHARD CLARKE CARRIED

6.2 Annual Financial Report Year ended 30 June 2009

6.2.1 The AGM noted the Financial Report.

6.3 Appointment of Auditor

6.3.1 Dr Tuch proposed that KPMG be appointed the auditors for 2009/2010.

“That the KPMG be appointed the ASA's auditors for the period 2009/2010”

MOVED BY DR MICHAEL TUCH SECONDED BY DR RICHARD CLARKE CARRIED

7. Executive Director's Report

7.1 Mr Peter Lawrence presented his report to Council and highlighted the constraints of the global financial crisis and how this has impacted the staff at the ASA HQ. He advised that staff numbers had remained static and was pleased to report staff costs continue to remain within budget and overall have increased only to accommodate increases in capability.

7.2 Further to his report he welcomed any comments to the new website which was to be launched on the 1 October.

7.3 On another note he mentioned that membership numbers were slowly continuing to increase.

7.4 Finally Mr Lawrence spoke to the GPALS project and reminded members that the project was totally funded by the DHA and open to specialists wishing to provide locum services for GP anaesthetists.

“That the Executive Director's Report (Item 7) be received.”

MOVED FROM THE CHAIRSECONDED BY DR LINDA WEBER CARRIED

8. Economics Advisory Officer's Report

8.1 Dr Andrew Mulcahy presented his report advising of the productive year the EAC has had with a wide range of issues. The EAC had a particular focus to improve access for patients to Medicare rebates for ultrasound services provided in association with anaesthesia. In addition to this he advised the EAC had also prepared a number of submissions for the Department of Health and Ageing seeking changes or additions to the Medicare Benefits Scheme (MBS) to provide for benefits, new services and conditions. Finally he advised that the EAC has continued its annual production and distribution to Members of the Society's Relative Value Guide (RVG).

“That the Economic Advisory Officer's Report (Item 8) be received.”

MOVED FROM THE CHAIR

SECONDED BY DR MICHAEL TUCH

CARRIED

9. Professional Issues Advisory Committee

9.1 Dr James Bradley presented his report and spoke to the numerous issues the Committee has dealt with over the last year. He expressed the importance of PIAC in assisting the Society with the deliberations of Council and encouraged members to put forward their issues. Finally he thanked the Committee and Federal Secretariat for their continuing support.

“That the Professional Issues Advisory Officer's Report (Item 9) be received.”

MOVED FROM THE CHAIR

SECONDED BY DR LINDA WEBER CARRIED

10. Chief Editor of Anaesthesia and Intensive Care Journal's Report

10.1 Dr Neville Gibbs thanked the members for the opportunity and responsibility of the position as Chief Editor, he thanked Dr Alan Duncan who had now retired but will remain as an Intensive Care Editor. Tabling his report he drew attention to the increasing number of submissions, including many from overseas, to the AIC Journal.

10.2 Finally he announced that Dr Michael Corkeron had been appointed as the new Intensive Care Editor and he thanked Dr Rod Westhorpe who retired from the Editorial Board, however he will continue to contribute the Journal cover note and photos.

“That the Chief Editor of Anaesthesia and Intensive Care Journal's Report (Item 10) be received.”

MOVED FROM THE CHAIR SECONDED BY DR MARK SINCLAIR

CARRIED

11. Future Meetings

11.1 ASA National Scientific Congress – Melbourne: 2-5 October 2010

11.1.1 Dr Renald Portelli presented a video of Melbourne highlighting the Melbourne Convention and Exhibition Centre for next year's NSC. He discussed the scientific and social program and encouraged members to register early. Finally he expressed his appreciation for the assistance received from the Federal Secretariat.

11.2 ASA National Scientific Congress – Sydney: 8-11 September 2011

11.2.1 Dr Michael Levitt advised that the Committee had been established to organise the NSC 2011. The Congress would be held in Sydney at the Darling Harbour Convention & Exhibition Centre.

12. Election of Office Bearers

12.1 Dr Andrew Mulcahy announced the unopposed nomination for President of Dr Elizabeth Feeney.

12.2 Dr Elizabeth Feeney announced the unopposed nomination for Vice-President of Dr Andrew Mulcahy. Dr Michael Tuch as Honorary Federal Treasurer and Dr Nigel Symons as Executive Councillor.

13. Other Business

13.1 Quorum

13.1.1 Dr Feeney presented a proposition that was approved by Council regarding an amendment to the ASA Constitution of reducing the quorum for the Society's AGM from 5% to 50 members who are either ordinary or continuing. For consistency this would also apply the same value of 50 on a pro rata basis across each state and territory meeting.

13.1.2 Consequently she put forward the following motion:

“Except as otherwise provided in this Constitution 50 members in the case of the Society’s Annual General Meeting or a pro rata of 50 members for State/Territory Annual General Meetings, of the Ordinary and Continuing members present in person shall constitute a quorum, provided that of those Ordinary and Continuing members present, at least three (3) shall be Directors.”

MOVED FROM THE CHAIR SECONDED BY DR RICHARD CLARKE CARRIED

13.2 ASA Honours

13.2.1 Dr Richard Clarke presented five honours for consideration. The proposed honours were approved unanimously.

“That Dr Haydn Perndt be recognised for his outstanding and particularly meritorious service to the ASA and anaesthesia in Australia with the Gilbert Brown Award.”

MOVED BY DR KESTER BROWN SECONDED BY DR STEVE KINNEAR CARRIED

“That Dr John Lauritz be recognised for his outstanding and particularly meritorious service to the ASA and anaesthesia in Australia with the Gilbert Brown Award.”

MOVED BY DR JAMES BRADLEY SECONDED BY DR MICHAEL TUCH CARRIED

“That Professor Ross Holland be recognised for his outstanding and particularly meritorious service to the ASA and anaesthesia in Australia with the Gilbert Brown Award.”

MOVED BY DR REGINALD CAMMACK SECONDED BY DR ELIZABETH FEENEY CARRIED

“That Dr Richard Bailey be recognised for his long and distinguished service to the ASA by the award of Life Membership.”

MOVED BY PROF ROSS HOLLAND SECONDED BY DR JEANETTE THIRLWELL CARRIED

“That Dr Walter Thompson be recognised for his long and distinguished service to the ASA by the award of Life Membership.”

MOVED BY DR RICHARD CLARKE SECONDED BY JAMES BRADLEY CARRIED

There being no other business the Chair closed the meeting at 1200 and thanked those in attendance.
