



**MINUTES OF THE SIXTY THIRD ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE
AUSTRALIAN SOCIETY OF ANAESTHETISTS LTD
HELD ON SUNDAY, 19 SEPTEMBER 2004 AT THE
SYDNEY CONVENTION CENTRE, DARLING HARBOUR, SYDNEY**

1. WELCOME

The Chair and President, Dr Jim Bradley, declared the sixty-third ASA AGM open at 4:07 pm, as a quorum of ASA members was present, and welcomed all attendees.

Dr Bradley especially welcomed guests, Dr Peter Hendrix (Secretary of the American Society of Anesthesiologists) and Dr Wally Thompson (in his capacity as Vice-President of ANZCA as well as being an ASA member).

ATTENDANCE & APOLOGIES

Members in Attendance

Drs B Abeyasiri, N Abrahams, S Alexander, P Allen, J Allison, A Anderson, S Armarego, D Barker, R Boughton, R Bown, J Bradley, T Brown, S Browne, R Cammack, R Clarke, R Cohen, M Colson, R Connolly, A Coorey, M Crawford, M Culwick, G Deacon, A Donaghy, R Edwards, B Egan, D Elliott, E Feeney, D Fenwick, L Ferrari, S Fransi, S Gatt, N Gibbs, A Gilroy, M Gleeson, J Goldsmith, G Goulding, I Graham, A Grossi, J Hamilton, G Handley, R Hare, A Harris, M Haylen, M Hodgson, W Hoffman, R Holland, J Horne, J Hunter, A Kelly, S Kinnear, R Krippner, A Kumar, L Landsey, J Lauritz, H Lawrence, A Liew, P Lillie, W Lim, H Liu, B Luey, J Lynch, B Main, P Mainland, P Martin, E Maycock, C McAndrew, B McAwaeny, A McCready, D McCuaig, R McDougall, I McGlen, S McKay, G McLeay, C Melville, A Mercer, D Merefield, C Merridew, V Moo, R Morgan, A Mulcahy, T Mullins, P Myles, M Nerlekar, H O'Brien, P Ogden, T Palmer, P Peres, H Prevedoros, G Purcell, P Read, S Reilly, J Roberts, P Robertson, H Roby, E Rubinstein, M Sandford, M Scarf, C Schwab, C Scott, D Scott, M Sinclair, R Singleton, R Smiles, A Stern, R Storer, N Symons, J Thirlwell-Jones, W Thompson, P Toom, T Torda, M Tuch, M Vialle, R Walpitagama, A Watt, R Westhorpe, J Wong, D Wood, S Wood, I Woodforth, G Wotherspoon.

Guests in Attendance

Dr P Hendrix.

Secretariat Staff in Attendance

Mr P Lawrence, Ms C Hargreaves, Ms M Marson, Ms S Davey.

Apologies

The following apologies were noted:

Drs W Alkharajy, H Anderson, D Barnes, M Beem, A Colby, P Coyle, R Gray, J Hains, G Hool, G Kellerman, B Lashansky, G Long, J Marum, N Maycock, R Maynard, A McCready, R Morris, L Roberts, J Russell, A Smith, I Stevens, M Stocks, S Taylor, R Wansey, R Waters, L Weber, J Williams, T Wong.

2. CONFIRMATION OF THE MINUTES OF THE SIXTY SECOND ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING (available on the ASA website*)

“That the Minutes of the Sixty second ASA AGM held on 3 October 2003 be accepted as a true and accurate record of that meeting”

Moved from the Chair

CARRIED

3. BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

Nil.

4. PRESIDENT'S REPORT (available on the ASA website*)

4.1 Welcome

4.1.1 Dr Bradley spoke to his second and final report as President of the Society. He stated that all reports from the AGM would be available on the ASA website with further detail in the Annual Report.

4.1.2 The President gave special thanks on behalf of the Society to those who had helped the ASA during his Presidency, especially fellow councillors, office bearers, committee chairs and the Secretariat.

4.2 The Year in Review

4.2.1 The President reported that it had been a very busy and unpredictable year. There had been several issues of importance including medical indemnity issues, a new Federal Health Minister, and various policies surfacing through the Federal election campaign including the potential influence of minor parties' policies.

4.2.2 The future preservation of anaesthetists' professional status and independence would remain the most important area of interest to the Society for the next few years. There was an increasing encroachment on the traditional independence of the profession, regardless of the country's political leadership.

4.2.3 The President spoke to the issue of teaching institutions and believed one of the prime areas of interest for the Society and the AMA over the years to come would be maintaining independence from the learned Anaesthesia Colleges in Australia.

4.2.4 The President stated that anaesthetists were soundly positioned despite claims of a workforce shortage and a healthy number of candidates had achieved the status of FANZCA in examinations as well as through overseas trained doctors' programs, which resulted in the specialty being ahead of AMWAC projections.

4.2.5 The College was still seen as the sole provider of specialist vocational training in anaesthesia and related disciplines in Australia, something that the Society would continue to promote into the future.

4.2.6 The President suggested that upcoming events such as the Healthcare Practitioners' Competency Assurance Act in New Zealand and the possibility that alternate providers of anaesthesia may be able to declare their own interest by "putting their hand up" could affect situations in Australia.

4.2.7 The President highlighted the possibility of value adding the FANZCA. One problem with this being that if contemporary workforce practices saw anaesthetists as technicians tied to operating theatres and unable to talk to patients, others might be tempted to do what they perceived as a technical job, not understanding or appreciating that anaesthetists were trained specialists.

4.2.8 There were two organisations representing anaesthesia in Australia: the Society represented the professional, economic and industrial interests of anaesthetists, while the College was responsible for the training and examination of anaesthetists, teaching hospital reviews and professional standards. The Society and College both had an interest in welfare and continuing education. The Society Council had observed this dichotomy over the last two years with the ensuing belief that the profession was well served by it.

4.3 Secretariat

4.3.1 The President expressed sincere thanks to the staff of the Secretariat for their services and in particular, the Executive Director, Mr Peter Lawrence, for his stewardship. He noted that the Executive Director would report on the Secretariat later in the agenda.

4.4 Budget

4.4.1 The President noted that the Honorary Federal Treasurer, Dr Michael Tuch, would report on the budget later in the agenda.

4.5 Council and Executive Meetings

4.5.1 The President informed the meeting that Council had met six times, three being face to face throughout the year. Executive had also met six times, four being face to face. He cited the cost advantages of conducting meetings via teleconference.

4.6 Executive, Council and Committee Issues

4.6.1 Department of Health and Ageing (DHA)

4.6.1.1 The President stated that the EAC Chair, Dr Andrew Mulcahy, had been in continuous contact with the DHA and would report on some of those deliberations later in the agenda.

4.6.2 Teaching Hospitals

4.6.2.1 The President stated that one area that needed to be addressed in the future was the industrial and economic implications of training specialists in the private sector. He spoke to the issue of the AMA's developing interest in the issue of teaching hospitals and felt it would be of further note in the short term.

4.6.2.2 The AMA had launched a Clinician's Public Hospital Advocacy Group, which the Staff Specialists' Advisory Committee (SSAC) was aware of. Although the SSAC would be able to lobby this group there was no opportunity to gain membership.

4.6.2.3 The President emphasised that the Society believed high quality teaching hospitals underpin the professionalism of the anaesthetic specialty.

4.6.3 Australian Council for Safety and Quality in Health Care (ACSQHC)

4.6.3.1 The President stated that as a result of events of the past several years, there were a number of agencies funded by Federal and State governments and perhaps other parties that the ASA was engaging with where practicable.

4.6.4 Australian Patient Safety Foundation (APSF)

4.6.4.1 The President noted that there continued to be ongoing interest by the Society, in conjunction with the College and New Zealand Society, in incident monitoring.

4.6.5 Associate Members

4.6.5.1 The President stated that there were 110 GP anaesthetist members who, due to recent debates regarding workforce shortages in rural areas, were now more in the limelight.

4.6.5.2 There had been a number of teleconferences with representatives of this group in the past year, with a proposal due to go to Council soon for the establishment of a more formal group for voicing the needs of specialists. This would happen, to some degree, with the help of the Rural Doctors' Association of Australia (RDAA).

4.6.6 Constitutional Amendments

4.6.6.1 Dr Michael Hodgson would address proposed changes to the Constitution later in the agenda.

4.6.7 Common Issues Group (CIG)

4.6.7.1 The President informed the meeting that this group had met in Quebec, Canada, in June 2004. The CIG agenda had many items of shared interest that appeared on Society Council agendas. It was interesting to note how other organisations dealt with these similar items.

4.6.8 Professional Issues Working Group (PIWG)

4.6.8.1 The President stated that at the recent Council Meeting the PIWG had been formally established as a committee (now the Professional Issues Advisory Committee – PIAC), to deal with risk management in the context of medical indemnity and driven through to the AMA and government.

4.6.8.2 Dr Nigel Symons had been invaluable to the Society over the past few years with his help and advice in this area.

4.6.8.3 The President further noted that the ASA had produced seven or eight brochures on varying topics of importance to the public including "Informed Financial Consent".

4.6.8.4 Finally, the President thanked Dr Buff Maycock for her efforts in initiating communication workshops, some in conjunction with ANZCA.

4.6.9 Medical Indemnity Matters

4.6.9.1 The President did not read from this section of his report, citing that the issue went back several years and that there was now a final form of the medical indemnity package with a number of components.

4.6.9.2 The President directed members to the website for further information, concluding that the issue had quieted down, but would require ongoing attention, particularly in light of future plans for a single medical indemnifier with only the government as a backup.

4.6.10 Workforce and Survey

4.6.10.1 The President stated that the Committee's findings on workforce shortage, largely ignored by those to whom it had been presented, was in fact a misdistribution of anaesthetists and could be addressed by offering attractive terms and conditions.

4.6.10.2 Most recently the Federal Health Minister, Hon Tony Abbott, gave the Society a hearing on this issue and was seen to appreciate the Society's views on the matter. The President informed the meeting that the Society would continue to push ahead in this area.

4.6.11 Education Committee and NSCs

4.6.11.1 The President sincerely thanked Drs David Fenwick, John Lauritz, Piers Robertson and their Committee members for their activities, reflected largely through the effort involved in NSCs, ACECC and the SIGs.

4.6.12 Retired Anaesthetists' Group (RAG)

4.6.12.1 The President thanked the Chair, Dr Des O'Brien, for his efforts on behalf of the RAG. He noted that some initiatives had been made to enable retirees financial viability to access meetings such as the NSC.

4.6.13 Salaried Specialists' Advisory Committee (SSAC)

4.6.13.1 The President stated that Council felt this Committee to be the key to more effective representation of staff specialists, with detailed information on their activities contained in his report and the Annual Report.

4.6.13.2 He informed the meeting that the Society was committed to staff specialists' proper funding and fair handling of their public and teaching hospitals. This interest was shared with the AMA and would continue to be into the future.

4.6.14 Overseas Aid Sub-committee

4.6.14.1 The President informed the meeting that Dr Steve Kinnear had achieved remarkable outcomes as Chair of this committee and thanked him and the committee for all their efforts. He stated that there was more detail in the Newsletter and Annual Report. The President concluded by saying that Dr Kinnear was always looking for volunteers.

4.7 "Anaesthesia and Intensive Care" (AIC)

4.7.1 The President spoke briefly to the issue of Agenda Item 7, the Chief Editor's Report, stating that the production of a peer-reviewed scientific journal was a source of great pride to the Society. He sincerely thanked the Editorial Board for their efforts.

4.8 Economics Issues and EAC

4.8.1 The President informed the meeting that the Chair of the EAC, Dr Andrew Mulcahy, would report on this topic later in the agenda and hoped there would be some time for questions at that time.

4.9 GASACT

4.9.1 The President thanked Dr Waleed Alkhazrajy and his predecessor, Dr Amanda Curo, for their efforts. He stated that the role of GASACT was to represent young anaesthetists in a broad professional context, including networking, career options, and forums where leadership and individual skills could be developed.

4.10 Awards, Prizes and Research Grants

4.10.1 The President informed the meeting that Dr Michael Hodgson would report later in the agenda. He would be retiring from Council and the President thanked him greatly for all the counsel he had given during his Presidency and his consistent contributions to the Society.

4.11 AMA

4.11.1 The President stated that he would report briefly on behalf of Dr Ian Woodforth at agenda item 11, as Dr Woodforth had apologised and was attending another session at the NSC.

4.12 Standards Officer's Report

4.12.1 The President informed the meeting that Prof John Russell had also sent his apologies for the AGM and his report would be addressed later in the agenda. Prof Russell would be retiring as Standards Officer after 30 years of representing the Society and the President noted that on behalf of the ASA he was owed a great debt for his contributions over this time.

4.13 WFSA

4.13.1 The President spoke briefly to the issue of the world meeting in Paris this year, at which the Society was well represented among the group of attendees, which was one of the largest. He stated that it had been an interesting scientific and educational activity with memorable cultural highlights.

4.13.2 The President spoke to the issue of two new members of Council who would be becoming Directors of the Society: Dr Mark Skacel as the new Chair of the ACT COM and Dr Elizabeth Feeney as the new NSW COM Chair.

“That Dr Mark Skacel and Dr Elizabeth Feeney be accepted as Directors of the Society”

Moved from the Chair

CARRIED

4.14 Society awards

4.14.1 The President spoke to the issue of the Council recommendation for awarding of Society honours, requesting Dr Westhorpe and Dr Lilly to leave the meeting. He then informed the meeting that Society Council, in accordance with the By-laws, wished to recommend Prof John Russell, Dr Peter Lillie and Dr Rod Westhorpe be approved for elevation to life membership of the Society. He stated that the support of all three over the years had been noteworthy, multifaceted and well deserving of the honour. The meeting agreed.

“That Prof John Russell, Dr Peter Lillie and Dr Rod Westhorpe be approved for elevation to life membership of the Society.”

Moved from the Chair

CARRIED

4.15 Thank you

4.15.1 The President concluded his report by once again thanking Dr Michael Hodgson. He thanked those leaving the Council, in particular Dr Genevieve Goulding and Dr Greg Purcell. He gave thanks to Dr Greg Deacon for his support as Vice-President and the NSC team for all their efforts and organisation.

“That the President’s Report be received.”

Moved – Dr Jim Bradley

CARRIED

5. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR’S REPORT (available on the ASA website*)

5.1 Mr Peter Lawrence informed the meeting that his written report was available on the ASA website and October Newsletter. Mr Lawrence outlined the core structure of the Secretariat, emphasising that the staff were available to assist members in anyway possible. While there had been several staff changes in the last year, he specifically mentioned the resignation of Margaret Conolly, after 10 years at the Society. She would be greatly missed.

5.2 Mr Lawrence expressed his gratitude to the Committees Department and in particular Ms Cassandra Hargreaves who had been working behind the scenes to coordinate business meetings held at the NSC and the Gala Dinner.

5.3 Mr Lawrence informed members that the current membership services and benefits included automotive fleet buying, Diners Club, Westpac and SBT Travel all of which allowed the Society to keep membership fees down. Details were available on the website. He encouraged members to contribute any additional ideas for useful membership benefits.

5.4 In conclusion, Mr Lawrence spoke of data capture, in particular broadcast emails to members containing links to short surveys. He stated that the benefit to the Society was immense, allowing for the use of hard data in negotiations with the government and other organisations to obtain a positive effect.

5.5 Mr Lawrence thanked the committee members and Chairs for their help over the preceding year and the President for his leadership.

“That the Executive Director’s Report be received.”

Moved from the Chair

CARRIED

6. HONORARY FEDERAL TREASURER’S REPORT (available on the ASA website*)

6.1 Dr Tuch spoke to his first report as Honorary Federal Treasurer, outlining two major points:

6.1.1 The Society showed a surplus this year of \$575,000, details of which were available in his written report.

6.1.2 As a result of this surplus there would not be an increase in subscription fees for the coming year.

6.2 Dr Tuch thanked Deborah Jones and Martina Hughes (the Society Financial Controllers) for their support during his first year as Honorary Federal Treasurer, and the members of the Secretariat.

“That the Honorary Federal Treasurer’s Report be received.”

Moved from the Chair

CARRIED

7. CHIEF EDITOR’S REPORT (available on the ASA website*)

7.1 Dr Thirlwell-Jones, the Executive Editor reported on behalf of Dr Alan Duncan. She informed the meeting of several changes to the Editorial Board: Dr Alan Duncan had been appointed as Chief Editor in July 2003, and Dr Neville Gibbs as Associate Editor, Profs Peter Cam and Jeff Lipman (ANZIC representative) to the Board earlier in 2004. Dr John Roberts had also been made Editor emeritus.

7.2 Dr Thirlwell-Jones spoke of the departure of Margaret Connolly, to whom she attributed the development of a smooth running Journal Office. Dr Thirlwell-Jones wished her well in her new career.

7.3 Other changes in staff included the temporary replacement for Margaret Connolly, Helena Berglund, the new Publications Manager, Clarissa Fletcher and her assistant Melanie Starr.

7.4 Dr Thirlwell-Jones stated that at the last Editorial Board meeting, agreement had been reached to proceed in-house with the development of custom-made software for online reviewing. A review by *Icon Computer Publishing Company* of the online Journal process was to be presented at the Editorial Board meeting the following day. A new category of paper had also been established at the meeting: “The Critically Appraised Topic” the first submission of which had been made in August 2004.

7.5 Dr Thirlwell-Jones stated that submissions continued at a satisfactory rate, the yearly total of original papers reaching 183, which was fifty more than in the previous year. Case report submissions had fallen, which was seen as encouraging for the overall standard of the submissions.

7.6 The best paper award for 2004 including a \$2000 prize would be presented at the Editors’ Session on 21 Sept 2004.

7.7 *Anaesthesia and Intensive Care* subscriptions remained at approximately 3,600 of which 157 were online subscriptions and institutions. Dr Thirlwell-Jones noted that advertising remained satisfactory.

7.8 In conclusion, Dr Thirlwell-Jones thanked the members of the Editorial Board and the many reviewers for their continued support and contributions.

“That the Chief Editor’s Report be received.”

Moved from the Chair

CARRIED

8. ECONOMICS ADVISORY OFFICER’S REPORT (available on the ASA website*)

8.1 On behalf of Council and the Society members, Dr Bradley, thanked the members of the EAC for their hard work.

8.2 Dr Andrew Mulcahy then spoke to his report and highlighted several areas of activity:

8.2.1 Medicare Benefits Schedule, encompassing the RVG, consultations, pain medicine items and medical perfusion.

8.2.2 MSAC and the reduction of funding for TOE.

8.2.3 Ongoing discussions with many health funds regarding in-room consultations.

8.2.4 The 7th Edition of the RVG, for which he gave special thanks to Mark Sinclair for his efforts.

8.2.5 Introduction of the RVG into MBS in 2001, eventually leading to the parameters of “cost neutrality” being re-determined, with full cost neutrality effective May 2005.

8.2.6 The extra indexation due after ‘reach recovery point’, equivalent to \$5million, and options for use of this additional funding. The anaesthesia consultations reform within the MBS that had been greatly assisted by data collected through online surveys. Discussions on this topic are ongoing with the Department of Health.

8.2.7 The Informed Financial Consent Taskforce and the importance for anaesthetists of aiming for 100% compliance with IFC practice.

8.2.8 Current fees data – 71% of anaesthesia services were provided at no cost to the patient, which was shown to be at the better end of the statistics for relative specialties.

8.2.9 The increase in funding for specialists’ services, effective January 2005, by the Department of Veterans’ Affairs (DVA), with the exception of, among others, anaesthesia.

8.2.10 The detailed proposal by the Society, submitted to the DVA the week before the AGM, for an RVG based unit payment.

8.2.11 In conclusion, Dr Mulcahy stated that any anaesthetist receiving more than \$11,000 in Medicare rebates had had the cost of membership to the Society covered by higher rebates.

“That the Economics Advisory Officer’s Report be received.”

Moved from the Chair

CARRIED

9. FEDERAL GASACT CHAIR’S REPORT (available on the ASA website*)

9.1 The President informed the meeting of Dr Waleed Alkhazrajy’s apologies and that the GASACT report had been pre-circulated and included on the ASA website.

“That the GASACT Chair’s Report be received.”

Moved from the Chair

CARRIED

10. AWARDS, PRIZES AND RESEARCH GRANTS CHAIR’S REPORT (available on the ASA website*)

10.1 Dr Michael Hodgson informed the meeting that it had been a disappointing year for his committee due to the withdrawal of funding by Abbott Australasia who were the major sponsors of the Abbott/ASA Research Grant (AUD\$80,000). It was also disappointing to note that there had been no applicants for the Boots Young Investigator Awards this year.

10.2 However in the positive, Dr Hodgson reported that there had been two new awards offered in 2004 and an improved Awards administrative process had been developed within the Secretariat which was proving effective.

10.3 Dr Hodgson stated that as a matter of some urgency, there was a need to review the criteria for the awarding of the Boots Young Investigator Award, the Diners Club Award and the Pacific Medical Award due to the low numbers of applications for each. He informed the meeting that if the sponsors of these awards did not receive an acceptable number of applicants, funding would surely be withdrawn.

10.4 Council had responded to this concern and the Marketing and Sponsorship Committee would address the matter in the near future.

10.5 Dr Hodgson informed the meeting of the winners of the awards and grants for 2004 as follows:

10.5.1 Kevin McCaul Prize – Dr Fergus Davidson, Concord Hospital, NSW.

10.5.2 Pacific Medical/ ASA Fellowship – Dr Peta Lorroway, Princess Alexandra Hospital, Queensland.

10.5.3 Diners Club/ ASA Award – Dr Glen Hawkins, Prince of Wales Hospital, NSW.

10.5.4 GE Health Care/ Datex-Ohmeda/ ASA Research Grant – Dr Phillip Peyton, The Alfred Hospital, Victoria.

10.6 Dr Hodgson concluded by thanking the sponsors and adjudicators of the awards and grants in 2004.

“That the Awards, Prizes and Grants Chair’s Report be received.”

Moved – Dr Michael Hodgson

Seconded – Dr Jim Bradley

CARRIED

11. AMA CRAFT GROUP REPRESENTATIVE’S REPORT (available on the ASA website*)

11.1 Dr Bradley informed the meeting that Dr Ian Woodforth had forwarded his apologies for the meeting and his report had been pre-circulated and was also available on the ASA website.

11.2 Dr Bradley stated that the Society and the AMA had been liaising throughout the year on a number of issues of shared interest including expert witnesses, informed financial consent, area of need, overseas trained doctors, risk management and the ACCC.

11.3 Dr Bradley noted that the AMA remained concerned about positions in areas of workforce shortfalls. They had publicly accepted the need for Overseas Trained Doctors, but were concerned about their support in the field and the processes used to fill these positions.

11.4 Dr Bradley stated that the AMA was also concerned about the bonding of under-graduates and the position of teaching hospitals.

11.5 In conclusion, Dr Bradley stated that the relationship between the AMA and the ASA was close and mutually beneficial.

“That the AMA Craft Groups Representative’s Report be received.”

Moved from the Chair

CARRIED

12. STANDARDS OFFICER’S REPORT (available on the ASA website*)

12.1 Dr Bradley informed the meeting that the Standards Officer's, Prof John Russell had forwarded his apologies for the meeting and his report had been pre-circulated and was available on the ASA website.

“That the Standards Officer’s Report be received.”

Moved from the Chair

CARRIED

13. FUTURE MEETINGS

13.1.1 ASA NSC & AGM *Gold Coast 24 – 27 September 2005*

13.1.1.1 On behalf of the 2005 NSC Organising Committee, Dr Coorey extended a warm and cordial invitation to the Society's members and family to attend the meeting in September next year. He relayed that the Committee promised a friendly and stimulating meeting and educational environment.

13.1.1.2 Dr Coorey informed the meeting that the Scientific Program would have prominent international guests including: Michael Roisen, David Reich, Pedro Ibarra, as well as the Australasian visitor Joe Brimacombe.

13.1.1.3 Dr Coorey spoke briefly to the program for the 2005 meeting, highlighting some of the Gold Coast attractions such as the beach party planned for Seaworld.

13.2 ASA NSC & AGM *Sunshine Coast 21 – 24 October 2006*

13.2.1 Dr Bradley noted the dates of the 2006 NSC and informed the meeting that the Hyatt Coolum Resort had been chosen for the venue.

13.2.2 He pointed out that the desire to balance the distribution of meetings between the College and the Society was one of the reasons for having two Queensland meetings in a row. It was felt that this would also take the pressure off some of the smaller states.

13.3 Dr Bradley informed the meeting that 2006 would be planned in light of having the 2009 NSC in Darwin, which would require a more federal structure. Therefore 2006 would be a trial for a Federally run NSC.

14. GENERAL BUSINESS

14.1 Amendments to the Constitution:

14.1.1 Dr Hodgson stated that the following amendment was to enable persons other than practitioners or members of the allied sciences, who have interest in the ASA, to become honorary members, by inclusion of the words *or an individual*.

Clause 17 would then read: *“Honorary members shall be those who are Honorary members at the date of adoption of the Constitution and such other practitioners of medicine or allied sciences or an individual who may, by virtue of their services to or interest in the Specialty of Anaesthesia, be recommended by the Board of Directors and such membership confirmed at the next following Annual General Meeting. Honorary members shall have all the rights and privileges of ordinary membership except that Honorary members shall not be entitled to vote at business meetings of the Company nor be Directors, Officers or members of Committees of the Company.”*

“That the amendment to clause 17 be approved.”

Moved – Dr Michael Hodgson

Seconded – Dr Peter Lillie

CARRIED

14.1.2 Dr Hodgson stated that the following amendments were to legitimise the recognition of retired members as presently acted upon by Society Council:

Clause 20 should read: *“Continuing Retired members shall be those members who have ceased all anaesthetic practice and have been members of the company for more than thirty (30) years or such other period as in any particular case determined by the Board of Directors in its absolute discretion. Continuing Retired members have all the rights and privileges of Ordinary membership.”*

Clause 21 should read: *“Continuing Retired Associate members shall be those Associate members who have ceased all anaesthetic practice and have been Associate members of the company for more than thirty (30) years or such other period as in any particular case determined by the Board of Directors in its absolute discretion. Continuing Retired Associate members have all the rights and privileges of Associate membership.”* Clause 22 should read: *“Retired members shall be those members who have ceased all anaesthetic practice and have been members of the company for less than thirty (30) years. Such members shall have all rights and privileges of Ordinary membership.”*

Clause 23 should read: “*Retired Associate members shall be those Associate members who have ceased all anaesthetic practice and have been Associate members of the company for less than thirty (30) years. Such members shall have all the rights and privileges of Associate membership.*”

“That the amendments to clauses 20, 21, 22 and 23 be approved.”

Moved – Dr Michael Hodgson

Seconded – Dr Robert Bown

CARRIED

14.1.3 Dr Hodgson stated that as a result of the above changes, amendments relating to membership were needed as shown below:

Clause 9 should read “*There shall be seven classes of membership namely, Ordinary, Associate, Honorary, Life, Continuing, Retired and Trainee.*”

14.1.4 Dr Hodgson stated that clause 123 (c): “Continuing members who are retired permanently from all medical practice” should be replaced with:

Clause 123 would then read: “*Continuing Retired and Continuing Retired Associate members.*”

“That the amendments to clauses 9 and 123 be approved.”

Moved – Dr Michael Hodgson

Seconded – Dr Robert Bown

CARRIED

14.1.5 Dr Hodgson informed the meeting that for varying reasons, members sometimes wish to cancel membership, such as trainees who travel, and at present are reluctant to do so and affect their continuity of membership. Therefore the following clause, with the heading “Suspension of Membership” had been introduced between Clauses 88 and 89:

“Upon application a member may apply for suspension of their membership. The decision on whether to grant this is at the entire discretion of the Board of Directors. If granted, the subscription is waived and the individual has none of the rights and privileges of membership. Such individuals may seek reinstatement as a member on making formal application to the Executive Director”. Such members do not lose continuity of membership, but period of suspension does not count toward their 30 year membership.”

“That the above clause approved for inclusion in the constitution.”

Moved – Dr Michael Hodgson

Seconded – Dr Richard Clarke

CARRIED

14.1.6 Dr Hodgson stated that the following amendment, decided upon at Society Council, changed cancellation of membership for unpaid subscriptions from 2 years to 1 year.

Clause 90 should then read: “*Members whose subscription remain unpaid for one (1) year shall automatically cease to be members of the Company and shall be notified accordingly by the Executive Director. Any such ex-member may seek re- instatement on payment of arrears of subscriptions and on making formal application to the Executive Director. Whether that application is approved shall be a matter entirely within the discretion of the Board of Directors. The Board of Directors is not required to assign any reason as its refusal to accept any application for re-instatement to membership of the Company.*”

“That the amendment to clause 90 be approved.”

Moved – Dr Michael Hodgson

Seconded – Dr Robert Bown

CARRIED

14.1.7 Dr Hodgson informed the meeting that presently, the following clause was quite lengthy, and Council had felt the meaning could be kept with a briefer script:

Clause 125 could be surmised as follows:” *The Board of Directors may at its entire discretion, waive or suspend the whole or any part of a members subscription.*”

“That the amendments to clause 125 be approved.”

Moved – Dr Michael Hodgson

Seconded – Dr Kester Brown

CARRIED

14.2 The President spoke to the matter of the Annual Financial Report of 2003 – 2004 and the need for audits.

“That KPMG be appointed to audit the Society of Council for 2004/ 2005.”

Moved from the Chair

CARRIED

14.3 The President spoke to the issue of the WFSA. The Paris meeting in April had marked the end of Kester Brown’s WFSA Presidency. The President congratulated him for his invaluable efforts.

