



AOA

AUSTRALIAN  
ORTHOPAEDIC  
ASSOCIATION

**MINUTES OF THE 2009 NSW BRANCH  
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING  
HELD ON FRIDAY 21 AUGUST 2009  
AT THE SYDNEY HARBOUR MARRIOTT HOTEL, SYDNEY  
COMMENCING AT 5.15PM**

**1. ATTENDANCE:**

T Musgrove, D Dickinson, E Marel, P Holman, A Loeffler, M Stening, D Bray, J Harrison, M Stuckey, I Meakin, Michelle Atkinson, R Hudson, R Elliott, J Beer, P Giblin, A Sachdev, W Lennon, David Maxwell, Bill Cumberland, Ralph Stanford, Bruce Caldwell, John Morton, A Nicholls, G Etherington, R Boyce, A Gursel, A Wou, R Molner, M Cooligan, G Bruce, J Nagamor, J Sullivan, M O'Sullivan, J Batten, L Grujic, B Holt, R Brighton, I Dickinson, J Powell, H Kiyork.

**APOLOGIES**

As noted at the meeting

**2. MINUTES OF MEETING 16 AUGUST 2008**

The Minutes of the previous meeting were amended to correct the date confirmed as 16 August 2008, then proposed by David Dickison and Seconded by Tim Musgrove.

**3. BUSINESS ARISING**

Nothing to report.

**4. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT**

Simon Coffey presented the Chairman's Report (Attached).

**5. TREASURER'S REPORT**

Andrew Ellis presented the Treasurer's Report. (Attached).

Andrew Ellis acknowledged the support of members particularly the "spirit and camaraderie" following the death of Dr Jim Ellis.

Andrew Ellis advised that the NSW Branch was in a favourable financial position. The role of Geoff Clarke, Financial Manager at AOA, in respect of NSW Branch matters was noted with thanks.

Note of the diminishing surplus over the previous 3 years from 30% to 10% was highlighted. Reasons suggested were:

- a fall in subscriptions with no increase in fee over the period
- profit from the Scientific Meeting had fallen
- sponsorship had not been accepted

A suggestion to include a fixed figure in the subscription to cover the branch dinner was proposed for the NSW Executive to consider.

## **6. NSW REGIONAL TRAINING CHAIRMAN'S REPORT**

Ian Incoll acknowledged the work of Roger Brighton, Greg Burrow, Vinny Mamo and Rob Kuru in regional roles and Tim O'Carrigan, Ian Edmunds, Andrew Wines and Simon Coffey in training and selection.

Ian Incoll discussed the role of the Regional Training Committee in organising and coordinating training but emphasised the role of the members of the AOA in teaching and supervising.

2007 – 2009 saw the transition to the SET program with a 25% increase in trainee numbers although the output of trainees was not increased. The progression of training is now through Pre-SET to SET and the BST program has ceased. The ideal number of trainees remains in question.

There is no assumption that once on the program a trainee will exit, unless yearly assessments are satisfactory.

Concerns regarding the quality of trainees selected were discussed and although the average trainee standard may have been less over the last 2 years this reflected the need to select an extra half year of candidates. However, assurance was given as to the overall good standard of candidates.

Curriculum redesign had resulted in not only an increase in trainees but also fewer trainers. Trainer fatigue was acknowledged.

Barriers to the progression of trainees through the SET program were outlined.

Complaints forwarded from members regarding the lower standard of candidate were explained as reflecting a different generation of trainee from a "give it to me" not a "go and get it" philosophy.

Undertrained and underperforming trainees are identified in quarterly assessment reports (QARs). Trainees are selected to start training not to finish.

Future training may involve simulator based learning, video-conferencing, training the trainers and competencies. The increase in medical graduate numbers would see an increase in demand for training.

Gratitude was conveyed to all training and coordinators, hospital inspectors and interviewers for selection.

A note of thanks was extended to Vinny Mamo for accepting the nomination as NSW Regional Training Chairman.

Discussion and questions followed:

- Members discussed that candidates were being removed from training with the concept of "failure to progress" rather than "dismissal"
- Insurance cover for trainers, training in a supervised role would see indemnification through RACS. Any member may write a report on a trainee without fear of being sued.

Simon Coffey then spoke in recognition of the outstanding role of Ian Incoll as Chairman of the Regional Training Committee. Ralph Stanford was also thanked in his role as Scientific Secretary.

## **7. SCIENTIFIC SECRETARY'S REPORT (Attached)**

Ralph Stanford presented the Scientific Secretary's Report.

Ralph Stanford addressed the meeting in his departing role as Scientific Secretary acknowledging the role of Cheryl Jury.

Ralph Stanford reported receiving 16 abstracts for the meeting. 12 were chosen for presentation with the varied quality noted. A strong submission from Ian Harris' group was noted. A request for other groups to submit papers for the meeting, to help support and grow attendance was made.

Ralph Stanford advised that the meeting continued without sponsorship and that the incoming committee was requested to consider a possible attendance fee.

Ralph Stanford congratulated the incoming Scientific Secretary, Ian Harris.

## **8. NEW MEMBERS**

New members were acknowledged.

## **9. IAN DICKINSON, FIRST VICE-PRESIDENT ADDRESS**

Ian Dickinson addressed the meeting.

Ian spoke of his advocacy for orthopaedic surgeons particularly reassuring members that he would act without conflict of interest given his AOA and RACS appointments.

He reported that RACS is a college of surgical specialties. In the role as President of AOA Ian Dickinson, emphasised that he would put the interests of AOA first and that he would declare any conflict of interests at RACS meetings, stating that RACS determines the approval to train, however AOA is responsible for the training of the candidates.

Ian Dickinson discussed that the challenge for AOA was to ensure that the Association continued to be relevant to orthopaedic surgeons (and all specialty groups).

Ian reaffirmed his desire to represent the interests of all AOA members.

## **AOA PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS**

John Batten, President of AOA addressed the meeting.

John advised that he sought a commitment of improved representation of all AOA members.

John Batten acknowledged the role of Ian Incoll and Ian Burgess in AOA.

John Batten highlighted the following items:

- Board efficiency initiatives
- Conduct of the AOA AGM
- Board member obligations
- Board corporate responsibilities
- The vital role of communication

- The potential of the member's open forum at the AGM
- The requirements and procedures in calling for an EGM in light of recent issues.

John Batten reaffirmed an open and transparent AOA Board, where communication was encouraged.

Simon Coffey acknowledged with thanks the attendance and addresses of Ian Dickinson and John Batten.

Nothing further was discussed.

The meeting closed at 6.40pm

**Dr Tim Musgrove**  
**Honorary Secretary**  
**NSW Branch**  
**Australian Orthopaedic Association**