

**AUSTRALASIAN TRAUMA SOCIETY
16TH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
ON 27TH OCTOBER 2012
AT 1500 - 1555 HOURS
PERTH CONVENTION & EXHIBITION CENTRE,
PERTH, WA, AUSTRALIA**

Chairpersons: Ian Civil

1. **Present:** Maxine Burrell, J Cason, Ian Civil (chair), Kate Curtis, Bronte Douglas, Mark Elcock, Mark Fitzgerald, Belinda Gabbe, L Hayes, Andrea Herring, Annette Holian, Andrew Holland, Li Hsee. Alicia Jackson, G Johnson, Sharon Johnson (minutes), Tony Joseph, Helen Jowett, Kate Martin, Patricia McDougall, Rhondda Paice, Michael Park, Sharon Parkinson. Andrew Pearce, Cliff Pollard, Suddakar Rao, Soundappan Soundappan, Melissa Webb, Debra Wood
2. **Apologies:** Erica Caldwell, Graeme Chilbb, Scott D'Amours, Stephen Deanne, Paul De Jong, Mike Hollands, Sheryl Jonescu, Cameron Palmer,
3. **Minutes from the previous meeting – 3rd November 2011**
Accepted as a true and accurate report by Debra Wood and seconded by Tony Joseph.
4. **Business arising from previous minutes**
Nil business is outstanding from previous minutes.
5. **Executive reports**
 - 5.1 **President's report – Ian Civil**

Ian Civil circulated his president's report & briefly spoke about his report.

Report is as follows;

This year has been a demanding one for the ATS with most of the Committee's energy dedicated to the organisation of forthcoming conferences (Trauma 2012 in Perth and Trauma 2013 in conjunction with the Trauma Association of Canada in Whistler) and managing our membership numbers and associated financial stability to run the organisation we would quickly become invisible to the wider community. It is reassuring that we have been able to meet our attendance target for our annual conference this year and hopefully we can capitalise on our first venture to the west by enlisting a significant number of new members from this part of Australia.

The Treasurer will report on our overall financial status and there are two resolutions before this AGM, which are vital to the survival of the organisation.

Presently we have 276 members of whom 181 are financial. This compares with a similar time last year when there were 243 members of whom 213 were financial.

While our modest size limits our ability to devote much more time to the wider trauma scene, many members have highly active profiles in relation to injury prevention, injury care and outcome analysis. During this year however, it was disappointing to note the demise of the Binational Trauma Registry run out of Queensland. This is an organisation we supported financially in better times and it produced some important data and some useful reports. While it is reassuring to note that the National (Australian) Trauma Registry is making significant progress under Russell Gruen it does feel like one step forward and one step back.

Our affiliated journal, INJURY continues to prosper and while the impact factor fell back slightly during the year, this was a common feature for journals in our category. It is likely that Thompsons altered the methodology slightly resulting in a general “deflationary effect”. It is worth noting that the Journal of Trauma also suffered a fall in its impact factor with the net result being that our impact factors are closer together than they were this time last year. In the three “non-orthopaedic” issues of INJURY in 2012 a total of 18 papers from Australia and New Zealand were published in these issues, the vast majority of which included authors who are members of the ATs.

2013 will be another significant year for the ATS. Our Canadian colleagues at the 4th combined ATS-TAC meeting, in Whistler, will again welcome our presence. We need to maintain our membership numbers and hopefully grow them throughout the year. In the second half of the year we will have a meeting, probably in Sydney, to undertake our AGM and elect our office-bearers for the forthcoming two years. In 2014 we intend to have our Conference in Queensland, possibly on the Gold Coast.

Treasurer’s report – Andrea Herring

The financial statement, cash flow statement, balance sheet ended June 2012 and notes to financial statements for the year ended June 2012 were tabled and discussed.

Andrea Herring discussed the current ATS financial status and we do not have a great buffer zone compared to about seven years ago were we had a \$60,000.00 buffer zone. Once the seeded funding for the Trauma 2012 conference of \$14,098.00 is taken out of the ATS account there will be a buffer zone of about \$6,000.00 - \$7,000.00.

Discussion was held on ways to improve the ATS finances;

1. To increase membership fees. See approval of special resolutions AGM Motion 1 later in the minutes.
2. To introduce a special membership levy. See approval of special resolutions AGM Motion 2 later in the minutes.
3. To have discounted fees if you pay your membership fees on time.
Action 1: To be discussed at the next ATS executive committee.
4. To incorporate membership fees into conference fees.
Action 2: To be discussed at the next ATS executive committee.
5. To have an annual direct debit membership.
Action 3: To be discussed at the next ATS executive committee.

6. To look at secretariat fees. Currently the secretariat fees are \$1,500.00 per month.

Action 4: Andrea Herring to investigate other secretariat services to compare prices.

The Treasurer's report was accepted by Belinda Gabbe & seconded by Mark Fitzgerald.

Secretaries report – Simone Betar

Nil report tabled.

Sharon Johnson spoke about the confusion between the ATS minute secretary role & the secretariat role.

Action 5: Issue to be clarified at next ATS executive committee.

6. Subcommittee reports

6.1 Registry/Research – Kate Curtis/Kate Martin

Kate Curtis spoke on the lack of funding and lack of resources to conduct ATS research. Kate Curtis is happy to co-badge the Trauma Coordinators research on trauma coordinators and trauma resources.

6.2 Programme – Maxine Burrell/ Ian Civil/ Andrea Herring/ Tony Joseph/ Patricia McDougall/ Suddakar Rao/ Melissa Webb

Tony Joseph spoke about the Whistler Conference in Canada on the 11th – 13th April 2013. A call for abstracts has been sent out by email. The deadline for abstracts is the 1st November 2012. There was only a 6-week turn around to get the abstracts in. Please can you email your interest to Tony Joseph by COB 5pm on 31st October 2012 if you would like to present. Tony Joseph will see what he can do to extend the abstract submission deadline date. Deb Wood was nominated to be the Australian & New Zealand point of contact for the Trauma Coordinators meeting that is usually held on the day before the conference commences.

6.3 Publication – Ian Civil/ Deb Wood

There have been some great publications in the journal INJURY and a lot of the publications have come from ATS members. INJURY is fortunate to have Rebecca Ivers as the epidemiology editor.

6.4 Media – Andrea Herring

Andrew Pearce raised a very good point that the ATS has not been involved with the media in a very long time. We have a great opportunity to talk about civilian mass casualty evacuation capability in Australia. David Templeton & Anthony Bergin should be involved in regards to this issue.

Action 6: ATS executive committee to follow up.

7. Approval of Special Resolutions

As the financial status of the ATS is not in a great position in order for the ATS to survive the following 2 resolutions were proposed.

7.1 AGM Motion 1: That the ATS membership fees will increase to \$180.00 plus GST for Ordinary members and \$120.00 plus GST for Associate members on 1st July 2013.

Motion proposed by Andrea Herring and seconded by Kate Martin. Resolution passed.

7.2 AGM Motion 2: Introduce a Special membership levy of a one off payment in December 2012, of \$50.00 (no GST to be applied).

Motion proposed by Andrea Herring and seconded by Patricia McDougall. Resolution passed.

Andrea Herring discussed that a covering letter will be sent out with the special levy. Discussion was held on have a donation/contribution box added to the letter if members would like to donate to the ATS.

Action 7: Simone Betar to send out covering letters to the ATS members

8. New Business

8.1 Media opportunity: See discussion in media section of the minutes.

8.2 MOU with the Australian and New Zealand Association for Surgery of Trauma.

Kate Martin spoke of a draft MOU for the ATS to discuss. The advantages are to increase surgeons to the ATS and to co-badge events.

Action 8: Simone Betar to circulate the MOU to the ATS members.

9. Next meeting

The next ATS AGM will be scheduled in November 2013 probably in Melbourne during the College of Surgeons week.

10. Meeting closed

The meeting was closed at 1555 hours.