



MINUTES OF THE AUSTRALIAN MILITARY MEDICINE ASSOCIATION
12th ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
18 OCTOBER 2003
HILTON HOTEL, ADELAIDE

1. *Present*

Gerard Gill, George Carter, Rosemary Landy, Glenn Wells, James Ross, Tim Maddern, Carmel Moore, Kevin Donovan, Neil Westphalen, Tony Austin, Tracy Smart, Jenny Graham, Robert Black, Bill Heddle, David Andrew, Adrian Neath, Adrian Smith, Maggie Parker, Margaret Hine, Beverly Wright, Darryl Duncan, Douglas Randell, Adeline Chong, Janet Scott, Steve Rudzki, Michael Garvin, John Parkes, Andrew Gordon, Douglas McKenzie, Peter Habersberger, Graham Boothby, Nader Abou-Seif, Russell Schedlich, Andrew Robertson, Dave Emonson, Fabian Purcell, Paula Leishman

2. *Apologies*

Robert Beal, Mike Flynn, Damien M Jensen, John Pearn, Charles New, Rolland C. Reynolds, John Hilton, Derek Moore, Stanley Papastamatis, Bruce Short

3. *Previous Minutes*

The previous minutes were circulated to the membership.

Motion: That the minutes of the previous AGM were accepted.

Moved: Andrew Robertson

Seconded: Beverly Wright

Motion carried

4. *Annual Report*

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

It is my pleasure to present the 2002/03 Annual Report of the Australian Military Medicine Association. In doing so, I refer you to the printed Annual Report that was in the Conference satchel, and in this address wish to merely point to some of the highlights of the year.

The Military Health Environment

As I mentioned in my Conference opening, world and regional events continue to provide a focus on the need for a wide variety of military health responses.

In support of the need to provide an environment for promotion and egalitarian discourse and discussion on the health sciences and professions within the military, the Association continues to occupy, I believe, a pre-eminent position.

Activities

The Association held its Annual Scientific Conference in conjunction with the 2002 Defence Health Symposium, and over 600 delegates attended.

I must acknowledge the continuing work of Nader Abou-Seif in continuing to lead the Association's conference organising activities.

Under the continuing tutelage of Andy Robertson, *Australian Military Medicine* continues to evolve and improve. A major enhancement of the Journal is the decision to peer review articles, which enhances its attractiveness as a medium for scientific publication.

Membership

The Defence Health Symposium provided the Association the opportunity to greatly enhance its membership, and over 50 new members were recruited. This achievement is reflected in the growth in the Association's membership that has occurred this financial year.

Finances

The Association remains in sound financial health. This is not least due to the hard work of our Treasurer, Graham Boothby, who continues to ensure that the accounts properly kept and Council receives sound financial advice in relation to the Association's affairs.

Council

Council has continued to preside over the strengthening of the Association.

Council has also given consideration to aspects of its corporate governance responsibilities, and at its meeting yesterday endorsed a series of policy and procedural documents to support the activities of the Association and Council.

Secretariat

I wish to acknowledge the role of our Secretariat, Leishman Associates, in providing us with high quality support and assistance in the day-to-day running of the Association.

Corporate Image

In my last Journal offering, I foreshadowed an approach to the membership in relation to the Association's corporate image and name. It has become apparent to Council that over the last few years, the Association's membership and focus has remained largely static. Council is of view that there is much more that the Association can do in promoting the military health professions. Council is of the view that the Association's name, which is seen to drive its corporate image, has a negative impact on some health professionals, and that this inhibits the Association's ability to be inclusive of them and so become a much more vigorous and progressive Association. This is reflected by a membership that does not proportionately represent the health professions either in the military or, indeed, civilian health workforce. There would appear to be a largely untapped group of potential members amongst the other health professionals who work within the profession of military health.

Council continues to prepare a discussion paper leading to a formal approach to the membership to change the Association's name to one that more broadly represents the Association's fundamental philosophy, that is, the advancement of military health and the military health professions.

Council has considered a number of options. The logical name is "Australian Military Health Association", but there may be other ideas that would be worthy of consideration.

This proposal will not be hastily pursued. The discussion paper will be completed and forwarded to the members to allow feedback. Other consultation as appropriate will occur this will allow Council to determine both the level of support for a change and a preferred new name. Council would then be in a position to present a formal proposal at the October 2004 AGM to alter the Constitution to effect a change of name.

The Association has always prided itself on representing the broad church of the military health profession, of being an Association that works to break down the professional and military barriers that often hinder the advancement of health care. Council feels that now is the time to seriously consider whether the Association's name and image should be updated to reflect these aims.

Conclusion

Notwithstanding the need to move forward, the Association is healthy and continues to grow and develop.

We remain the peak organisation committed to the scientific progress of military health, and as such are looked to by those who have an interest in military health.

Close

In closing, I wish to record the appreciation of the Council and the Association to our major corporate sponsor, GlaxoSmithKline, who continue to provide a significant financial support with minimal demands. It has been a privilege and pleasure to work with the team of Council and Secretariat, and I thank them for their continuing support.

SECRETARY'S REPORT

Total Membership stands at 374

New members in the last 12 months = 54

Resignations = 12

Membership Breakdown

NSW	116
Victoria	76
Queensland	59
South Australia	38
ACT	42
Tasmania	10
Northern Territory	7
Overseas	11

Motion: That the Secretary's Report be accepted.

Moved: Maggie Parker

Seconded: Jenny Graham

Motion carried

JOURNAL EDITORS REPORT

As per annual report. Journal was published 3 times during the year. A total of 19 scientific articles were published, of which 13 were original work. The remainder of the articles represented historical reviews, editorials, abstracts, opinion pieces and a variety of AMMA news and information.

We continue to look for Peer Reviewers, any one interested, please contact Andy Robertson. The intention will be that no article will be published unless it has been peer reviewed.

We've had 4 articles submitted from the Israeli Defence Force.

Motion: That the Journal Editor's Report be accepted.

Moved: Maggie Parker

Seconded: Jenny Graham

Motion carried

TREASURER'S REPORT

Graham Boothby indicated that he had 4 items to achieve today.

- That the Auditor's Report for the 2002 year be ratified.
- That the appointment of a new auditor be approved, and at the recommendation of the auditor that we move fully to MYOB, with the Secretariat recording all transactions, and preparing cheques for the signature of the Treasurer, Graham Boothby.
- That the interim figures submitted for the 2002/03 year be accepted.
- That a fee increase of \$10 per year taking effect from the renewal period next year be accepted.

Audited Figures for 2003

Are not available, due to the resignation of our previous auditor. These will be submitted at the next AGM for ratification.

Interim Report

GB submitted an interim report. James Ross advised that there was an error in the addition of the Net Worth report. GB indicated that this would be rectified in the final figures submitted to the auditor.

Motion: That the interim figures be accepted.

Moved: Graham Boothby

Seconded: Russ Schedlich

Motion Carried

Fee Increase

Motion: That a fee increase of \$10 per standard membership take effect from the 2003/04 financial year.

Moved: Graham Boothby

Seconded: Adrian Neath

Motion Carried

Appointment of New Auditor

Motion: The AMMA appoint Macquarie Accounting as our auditor.

Moved: Graham Boothby

Seconded: David Emonson

Motion Carried

5. Council Nominations

There were no new nominations for council, and so therefore remains unchanged.

President: Russ Schedlich
Vice President: Nader Abou-seif
Treasurer: Graham Boothby
Public Officer: David Emonson
Secretary: Fabian Purcell
Journal Editor: Andy Robertson
Member: Beverly Wright
Member: Janet Scott

6. General Business

David Andrew raised the issue of the AMMA library, and called for donations of books. He discussed that he is currently searching for historic material, where the copyright had expired.

7. *Meeting concluded, with no further business at 5.40pm.*

Next AGM will be held on Saturday 16th October 2004, at the Annual Conference to be held in Canberra.
