Minutes of the 61st Annual General Meeting of the Australian Institute of Radiography

Minutes of the 61st Annual General Meeting of the Australian Institute of Radiography were held at Henry Jones Hotel Hobart, Tasmania on Saturday 6th March, 2010.

Mr Tim Way, President of the AIR welcomed members to the 61st Annual General Meeting of the Australian Institute of Radiography and opened the meeting at 2.05 pm on Saturday 6th March 2010.

In his presidential address, a presentation of AIR activities over the past year.

President’s Address

“...As I come to the close of this year, as President, it is an honour to present the Institute’s activities during 2009. It has been an exciting, challenging and satisfying year. “The Combined Scientific Meeting in October 2009, held in my home city of Brisbane in association with the Royal Australasian College of Radiologists (RANZCR), Faculty of Radiation Oncology (FRO) and Australasian College of Physical Scientists and Engineers in Medicine (ACPSEM), is fresh in my memory as I write. While there was some criticism of the cost, the conference was well attended, and feedback from members and the other disciplines clearly indicate the value of this becoming a regular event. “As President, it was particularly inspiring to witness the professionalism demonstrated by the members of the Institute presenting at this collaborative conference. The Institute stands for professionalism, commitment and outstanding dedication. These are values to be treasured; and these were the values represented by those honoured at our awards ceremony. I have mentioned in Spectrum reports that, in the course of the year, I travelled to the CAMRT Conference in Canada and then on to UKRC, meeting up with our counterparts in Canada, America and the United Kingdom. Medical imaging and radiation therapy sciences in Australia are well regarded internationally and it is refreshing to meet our members practicing in those countries - often in positions of leadership. The work we do to develop and extend professional standards is a vital component in our value and identity to other national professional bodies in this area. “There is much that is happening in Australia that has, and will have, major impact on professional standards. During the next two years, this profession will join with the legislative programme. We have no difficulties with the approval role of the National Registration Board in this process but have argued consistently that the potential for conflicts of interest inherent in the new structures must be avoided. “Throughout the year, members of the profession at state and national levels were involved in discussions of models of care with regard to the introduction of medical imaging assistants. The Board released a position statement with regard to the role of medical imaging assistants so as to add clarity to the discussions on this topic. “The AIR supports the concept of medical imaging assistants, but only for safe and non-radiographic tasks, and always in the immediate physical presence of a fully qualified radiographer. As members continue to raise concerns, we will maintain a watching brief as a key stakeholder on this issue. The Board has no doubts about the necessity for a degree qualification as the entry standard into the profession. “In response to meeting the changing demand for breast screen services, the Board has reviewed and approved a more streamlined approach for attracting overseas radiographers to sponsored breast screen positions. It has also approved, on recommendation from PAEB and MIAP2, an accelerated and focused pathway for those Australian radiographers wishing to return to professional practice in this field. We continue to meet with BreastScreen Australia to explore other appropriate solutions to meet predicted future needs. “The continuing national review of the Professional Development Year is expected to be complete during 2010. The initial draft recommendations have been circulated to our members for their consideration and comment. The next step in this review will be the presentation of the final report and the consequent further call for comments. “The discussion paper of the Advanced Practice Working Group was released in August. The next step in progressing, this will commence in early 2010 through the establishment of an Inter-Professional Advisory Team and the first meetings for new panel of the AIR, the Advanced Practice Advisory Panel (APAP). “In meeting the objectives set in our strategic plan, we continue to improve access to professional development opportunities for members of the profession. “The research symposia have been conducted this year. The first in Sydney was held in late February in conjunction with the AGM. The second was held in August in Perth. These events provide a showcase opportunity for those currently involved in research to share their experiences and achievements and in doing so provide a great opportunity for those wanting to take their first research steps. The symposia have provided the tools and guidance required through local networks, to encourage and support newcomers to participate in research. “Areas of interest from the initial question to publishing are covered. “In accordance with our strategic objectives, these symposia continue to provide increased opportunities for CPD to members and to strengthen our publishing profile. “The revised website, the new look of the AIR in its presentations, its submissions, its focus on scholarship and learning – all represent a sense of invigoration and excitement. “The website will provide expanding opportunities for enhancement in the near future. “The Institute is in a strong and effective position financially and professionally. I can assure you that although there has been significant expenditure this year, it has been directed towards enhancing services and opportunities we can provide to a growing membership. Our emphasis on continuing professional development education is important, and will continue to dominate as it is the heart and soul and of a vibrant and dynamic profession. “Throughout the year, we will continue this search for an appropriate alternate location to meet the expanding needs and activities provided at the Secretariat Space. “I acknowledge the leadership of the Board of Directors, the counsel and advice of David Collier, Executive Officer, the dedication and professionalism of the staff at the Secretariat, and the contribution made by volunteers that make up the backbone of the specialist and expert advisory panels whose strength and commitment build an effective and efficient association. “I would like to thank you for your continued support of the AIR. The leadership provided across our country through state branch involvement, expert panel involvement and member participation is instrumental in shaping our future as a dynamic and reputable profession. “Your engagement encourages the Board to continue to meet the political challenges a changing health care system faces”. Mr Way concluded by thanking everyone for their support.

Treasurer’s Report

The Honorary Treasurer, Ms Caroline Knipe, presented the financial statements for 2008/2009, speaking to the documents provided. Ms. Knipe reported as follows:

Overview

“...The 2008-09 Annual Expenditure shows that the AIR’s funds continue to remain in a strong position in spite of significant expenditure incurred as planned in the course of the year. This was part of the overall plan to provide more technologically advanced services for the membership. “Following is a summary of last year’s financial performance (as compared to the approved budget) and next year’s budget submission for the members’ consideration. The audited Annual Report for 2008/2009 shows an approved loss of $280,462 for the year. “The AIR’s proportion of the profit from the Combined Scientific Meeting (CSM) in Brisbane, which was held during October 2009, is $174,670. The AIR incurred expenses of $64,224 on behalf of the CSM, which appeared as part of the Prepayments on the 2009 Balance Sheet. Therefore the AIR earned a net profit, in relation to the CSM, of $110,446. This will appear in the 2010 financial report, but would have reduced the 2009 loss to $170,016.”
Income and Expenditure Indicators

“Membership subscriptions grew significantly during the year with an increase in membership of around 10%. This was an increase in membership fees of $239,339 over the 2008 figure and due in large part to the suspension of the penalty fee to reinstate the Institute.

“The impact of the global financial crises (GFC) can be seen in the substantial fall in income from dividends, finance revenue and the lesser drop in advertising income.

“In total there was a shortfall of $170,214 against 2008 from the impact of the GFC on these three items. CPD corporate sponsorship income is up by nearly $40,000. As mentioned earlier the ASMIRT income, as part of the Combined Scientific Meeting with RANZCR, FRO and the ACPSTM in Brisbane resulted in a profit of $110,446 above budget. The Board recognised this possibility once the attendance numbers became apparent and made available a number of further travel and support scholarships for attendees presenting at the conference.

“All other variances are of acceptable tolerance compared to budget.

“The five major expenditure indicators are detailed below.”

1 Panel Expenses

“The overall savings against budget in this area totalled $106,445 mainly due to RTAP completing their “train the trainer” programme as scheduled, and all government funding for this being received. The other savings accrued from panels not holding their budgeted meetings, the introduction of more cost efficient systems for teleconferences and through linking meetings, such as the attendance of MIAPI at the CSM. PAEB expenses are significant and during the year the Board revised the budget to allocate funding to better support the site accreditation visits. Panel members now receive an honorarium of $440 per day with the obligation that this payment is to assist the panels complete their reports within the necessary time frames. Most other panels did not hold more than the one face to face meeting during the year, reflecting the rest of the savings in this area of our expenditure.”

2 Board Expenses

“Board expenses were down this year by $20,904 and the Executive Officer’s expenses were up by $10,176 against the budget allocations. This reflects the Board intent that the Executive Officer spends more time meeting as many branch members as possible and in lobbying government.”

3 Allocation and General Expenses

“A reasonable result for the year with no major deviations from approved expenses in the budget allocation.

4 Publications Expenses

“Overall result of a saving of $9,226 against budget again reflects good controls over this area of membership expenditure.”

5 Other Controllable Expenses

“Salaries were $222,836 over budget, which reflects the use of casual staff and the appointments of budgeted new staff where the final negotiated salary has some small movement.”

“The major variation of the controllable expenses from budget were in the area of consulting where $67,271 additional expenditure was approved for the necessary IT and surveying work which has now been completed.”

6 Members Equity

“As reported in the annual accounts, the Education Reserve Fund is currently $100,000 (for use to fund attendees from developing countries to future ASMIRTs), the Board will draw upon this fund for the ISRRT 2010 Conference on the Gold Coast in September.

“There was a net decrease of $280,462 in the members’ equity at the end of the year.”

Budget 2010/2011

Income

“The budget is based on no increase in the subscriptions fee for next year. Some funding from Government grants and increased CPD funding from sponsors is anticipated in the income budget. The income budget is set at $5,435,250.”

Expenditure

“Continuing initiatives planned for 2009/10 and 2010/11 are reflected in the increased expense budget allocations.”

Membership Growth

“It is pleasing to report that overall membership numbers are continuing to show a steady increase, as planned.”

Members of the Board

The Executive Officer announced the Members of the Board for the next 12 months:

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<th>State Branch Committees Representatives</th>
<th>Honorary Chairman</th>
<th>Honorary Secretary</th>
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<td>NSW</td>
<td>James Nol</td>
<td>Wajeeha Zaghram</td>
<td>Bernard Love</td>
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<td>Qld</td>
<td>Patrick Eastgate</td>
<td>Janet Ferrari</td>
<td>Greg Rattray</td>
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<td>SA</td>
<td>Diana Pilkington</td>
<td>Michelle Apostolou</td>
<td>Julie Olsen</td>
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<td>Tas</td>
<td>Christine Richardson</td>
<td>Marianne Hercus</td>
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<td>Gillian Tickall</td>
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<td>WA</td>
<td>David Cutt</td>
<td>Sharon Brackenridge</td>
<td>Marion Hayward</td>
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Amendment to the Constitution

A Special Resolution to accept an amendment to the Constitution was received.

“That the Constitution of the Australian Institute of Radiography be amended in the part that follows:

Clause 6.14 cessation of membership

Part (b) (iii) except for student member, will not be readmitted to the membership of the Institute unless they pay a penalty equivalent to the annual subscription or such other amount as is determined by the Board.

That this Part (b) (iii) be deleted”.

The Resolution was accepted.

General Business

Under General Business Jenny Cox (NSW) commended the Board on the running of the Research Symposium. She asked about developing the impact and status of The Radiographer.

The President responded that the Board had received a proposal from the Canadian Association to look at joining our Radiographer journal with their new journal. The AIR met with the publisher in Canada.

The Board was not prepared to take the loss of income that would arise from losing to publishing in Spectrum. There were other operational issues such as the inability to guarantee that there would be any Australian content on the Editorial Review Board or we would be guaranteed a number of papers per publication.

The AIR has met twice with the Chair of the Editorial Review Board to discuss strategies such as The Radiographer being on the open source network database and other items that the Chair of the Editorial Review Board has brought up, which we have prioritised.

Jenny Cox commented that Australia is doing more and better research in the world, but nobody knows this as we are not on the citation databases. Bruce Harvey (Victoria) commented that he had returned from Japan, meeting up with the Japan Association of Radiologic Technologists (JART).

During that meeting, Bruce presented them with several current copies of our publications and raised the possibility of encouraging Pacific Basin countries at present that don’t have an adequate pathway to publish in English to start sending their work our way to publish in English in The Radiographer. He said it is showing very encouraging results at this very early stage.

Ms Cox queried the New Zealand representatives and added why we haven’t been able to at least merge with New Zealand in terms of a research journal.

The President commented that the New Zealand Association approximately 2–3 years ago had just been through a restructuring programme at that stage and were content to continue on their pathway. The President went on to say that this is a very important issue for us and we want to get the right mix. We would like to boost the profile and those seeing The Radiographer and perhaps that will increase the input for people that want to publish in it.

There were no other matters of general business and the President closed the meeting at 2.43 pm.

Signed

T Way
President

D Collier
Executive Officer

Dated 6th March 2010