

ANZFSS National Council Meeting

MINUTES

Scientific Section

24 November 2006

Members Present:

Bill Crick, President

Brad Hall, Vice President

David Keatinge, Qld

Alison Sears, NSW

Melissa Wakefield, ACT

Darren Bales, SA

Chris Budge, President - NZ

Darren Pobar, Secretary

Ken Fowle, WA

Carol Macdonald, Tas

Judith Fordham, WA

Meeting opened 0910 hrs

1. Welcome by Bill Crick

- Apologies for timing with cricket and accommodation
- Important to keep 6 monthly meetings going, important to keep focus

2. Branch Reports

Vic - Karen Ireland absent. Report presented by Bill C.

- 120 members, ½ students and public,
- \$10000 in funds,
- no. of speakers this year,
- AGM 40 people attended, new committee formed with 12 members.

Qld - David K

- 100 financial members 20% students, Fees: members \$50, stud \$35,
- 4 meetings since March, have found it successful for meeting numbers to get presenters from outside Qld - usually 40 members but with outside Qld presenters got >80 people. James Crippen from the US got 150 persons, travel award winners have also presented,
- AGM – change in President now Cathie Allen.

SA - Darren Bales

- SA approx 140 members, 85 practitioners, 15 students, 40 non-practitioners, Meetings included topics such as box day tsunami, pre-symposium meeting scholarship winners, gun safety, legal challenges to evidence, art restoration, 3 speakers on Snowtown murders & sports science.
- Membership satisfaction survey- 51 responses provided feedback on meeting timings, what they want, if happy, many want case studies,
- Funds: \$40000 in bank, \$6500 granted in scholarships this year.

NSW - Alison Sears

- 216 members, 1/3 pract, 1/3 stud, 1/3 public, membership drop in no. police members, looking at ways to address issue,
- Meetings – Xmas meeting old murder, education day – ‘Inside Forensic World’ for students, 120 attended, public pres Snowtown Ted Silenieks - SA, have meetings each month, average 40 persons/meeting,
- newsletter now sent electronic, some not happy about e mail,
- Alan Hodda scholarship to be dev locally as well as National,
- \$15000 in funds, scholarships to Symposium \$10000,
- State website – used to post meetings, merchandise.

WA - Ken Fowle

- AGM to be 12 Dec, membership drive - email unis got 11 students as new members,
- Meetings 4 this year– including joint meeting with A and NZ Assoc Psy and Law, normal meetings usually 50-60, bigger meeting get 120,
- Merchandise - spent \$6017 at conference,
- Treas report unavailable – still to final sym accounts

ACT - Melissa Wakefield

- current 77 members, usually have 120 need to get renewals, most members AFP,
- \$11000 in bank,
- 4 meetings this year- travel awards presentations, Sofie Dixon (London bombs), AGM (James Robertson Fut For Sc), Ted S (Snowtown), 200 attended,
- Committee has new Pres Eric Davies, 2 VP - Renee Wilson, Carol Stroud, Sec: Sarah Jess,
- Suggestion of placing notice board on national web site for upcoming events speakers etc.

NZ - Chris Budge

- members 261, 223 pract and stud, 3 sub branches, Wellington, Auckland, Christchurch,

- have travel scholar. up to \$2000 anywhere in world, spent \$9500 to send members to Fremantle,
- get asked why become a member - networking, educational aspect, about to send satisfaction survey, 4 meetings this year Thailand, dirt.footprints/ search & rescue, arson, e crime.

TAS - Carol Macdonald

- 5 financial members, 30 non fin,
- \$4000 in bank, want soc to run similar to other states,
- suggest National President travel to Tas to talk to police members, attempted to get Andrew Horsley to do presentation.

3. Membership lists

- Current rules state Nat Exec must have membership lists, Required under Incorp Act, also before AGM must notify by post, email not OK, need to fix , also Nat Exec need lists of current Exec in Branches,
- Have ACT, NSW, SA, VIC, NZ memberships, need WA, NT, TAS

Action: Each Branch to forward membership lists and details of current Executive

- Application Forms different for each state, req check with Incorp law to determine whether law says home or postal address required. Research has indicated that incorporation requirements state name and address of each member is required, so contact address should be sufficient.
- Need to prioritise setting up lists on web site.

Action: Nat Exec to set up membership lists on website

4. Website

- Some states WA, NSW currently using site, like to have all States using it
- Like to have all sites with unified look – corporate with white background
- KF clarified that Branch can still have own webmaster
- BC has been sending out emails to corporate addresses ie President NSW Branch not personal names – more professional

Action: Melissa W to tuw Bill C to set up discussion board

- Need to change web provider to get greater security
- Bill C showed various parts of webpage and asked for suggestions
- Alison S suggested links to Aust Academy of For Science

Scholarships

- NSW to offer Alan Hodda local scholarship, AH often spoke of forensic scientists being unable to continue education due to financial constraints or organisations therefore NSW branch decided to do scholar program
 - Bill C stated National Branch currently has scholarship funds to attend symposium, Ian Reibling memorial medal for new forensic practitioner, Adelaide medal presented at International Assoc Forensic Science meeting
 - Also like to start National Travel scholarship thinking about \$5000 to go overseas for research
 - Judith F suggested scholarship should be open to any member not only scientists.
 - Bill C proposed that the application be similar to Michael Duffy Fellowship
 - \$50,000 sym funds to go into term deposit with interest to fund scholarship, app \$5,000 per year.
 - Called 'ANZFSS Alan Hodda Research Scholarship', every two years to be announced at symposium but not given if unsuitable applicants
 - SA have Sandy Condon scholarship award for conference attendance, NSW also have scholarships, \$2000 to 1 members as well as part school.
 - Discussed Application Forms for Nat scholarship applications, delegates were happy with format developed by Nat exec this year
- Action: Bill C to attend NSW to TUW Alan Hodda's wife to seek permission to use AH name in award.**
- Bill C suggest Nat Exec to travel to other states to attend meetings.
 - NSW has AGM in March , could announce AH award with a view to present before next symposium

5. Merchandise

- New merchandise now available Umbrella, Compendium, Towels with body, Tea towel with body outline, New style of cap.
- Query on any Copyright on body outline – no copyright
- Darren B indicated in SA survey – some think body inappropriate
- Alison S indicated NSW females would prefer fitted shirt, plain black more fitted, Nat exec to look at female shirt options
- Merchandise costs for Nat branch designed to break even with all profit going to Branches

7. Future Symposia

- Symposia are to such a size now they require significant financial management
- 2008 Symposium date 6-9 October 2008 to be held at Melbourne Convention Centre, Southbank
- Sydney nomination approved at last delegates meeting for 2010

- Tas indicated interest for 2012
- Adelaide poss. 2014
- Canberra poss. 2016
- Brisbane poss. 2018

8. Changes to the rules

- Considerable discussion reviewing rules, agreed changes were amended on working copy by Bill C.

Action: Amendments to draft completed and sent to Branches by 20 Dec 06

Action: Responses back to Nat Exec from Branches by 31 Jan 07

Action: Notice to Special General Meeting by Wed 28 Feb 06

Action: Special General Meeting to be held 3 May 07, Nat Council 4 May 07

Meeting closed 1415 hrs

Summary of Action Items

- 1. Each Branch to forward membership lists and details of current Executive**
- 2. Nat Exec to set up membership lists on website**
- 3. Melissa W to tuw Bill C to set up discussion board**
- 4. Bill C to attend NSW to TUW Alan Hodda's wife to seek permission to use AH name in award.**
- 5. Amendments to draft completed and sent to Branches by 20 Dec 06**
- 6. Responses back to Nat Exec from Branches by 31 Jan 07**
- 7. Notice to Special General Meeting by Wed 28 Feb 06**
- 8. Special General Meeting to be held 3 May 07, Nat Council 4 May 07**