



Australasian Society for Breast Disease

Dedicated to promoting knowledge in the areas of prevention, diagnosis and management of breast disease.

ACN 078 271 324

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of the Australasian Society for Breast Disease held on Sunday 1 October 2006 at the Sea Temple Resort & Spa, Port Douglas

The meeting opened at 3.05pm.

1. **Present:** Jennet Harvey (Chair), Marie-Frances Burke (Treasurer) and members as per attached list
- Apologies:** Carolyn Cho, Barry Fryar, Jack Jellins, Margaret Pooley
- Proxies:** Fraser Brown, Jack Jellins, Michael Moreny and Simon Palfreeman to Chair, Jennet Harvey; Letitia Peters to Lisa Erzetich

2. Minutes from previous meeting

Minutes from the previous Annual General Meeting, held on Saturday 24 September 2005 at the Surfers Paradise Marriott Resort, Gold Coast, were tabled. The acceptance of the minutes as a true record of that meeting was moved by Marie-Frances Burke and seconded by Michael Izard. The motion was carried.

3. Business arising from minutes of previous meeting

The Port Douglas Primer

Jennet Harvey explained that this year was the first time the Society had held a small Meeting. She congratulated and thanked the 2006 Meeting convenors, Margaret Pooley, Geoffrey Beadle, Daniel de Viana and Susan Fraser.

Sixth Scientific Meeting

Jennet Harvey reported that planning for the 2007 Scientific Meeting was well on the way and that the format will remain very similar to that of 2005. She referred to the announcement flier distributed in the 2006 Meeting satchels and said that three international keynote speakers had been invited – Stefano Ciatto from Italy (radiologist), Mark Pegram from USA (medical oncologist), and Richard Rainsbury from UK (surgeon). The Meeting will also have two local keynote speakers – Michael Bilous (pathologist) and David Joseph (radiation oncologist). Professor Harvey mentioned that the 2005 Meeting was over-subscribed so some people were unable to register, and encouraged those planning to attend in 2007 to register early.

4. Reports

President's report

Jennet Harvey said that since the 2005 Annual General Meeting, four Executive Committee meetings had been held via teleconference. She thanked all the Committee members for their participation during the year. The convenors for 2006 and 2007 Meetings held a number of teleconferences in between. She commented that some of the issues the Executive Committee have discussed this year included forming a closer relationship with the American Society of Breast Disease, the establishment of a 'Futures Committee', and potential subscriptions to further publications, the *Breast Journal* and, more recently, *Breast Diseases: A Yearbook Quarterly*.

Professor Harvey reported that the Society currently had 213 financial members (in comparison to 215 at the 2005 Annual General Meeting), the biggest group being surgeons (96) followed by radiologists (31), pathologists (29) and breast physicians (24).

Treasurer's report

Marie-Frances Burke said she was pleased to report that the Society's account on 31 December 2005 showed a positive balance of \$180,640. The operating profit for the year 2005 was \$86,556, mainly due to the Fifth Scientific Meeting being held that year. Other income during the 2005 year was received from membership fees and bank interest on term deposit.

She said that the Society's financial year runs from 1 January to 31 December and referred to the selected pages of the Auditor's Report provided for the members attending the Meeting. She also mentioned that the full Report is available from the Executive Officer, should any member wish to see it. Dr Burke said that as the Annual General Meeting is held in the second half of the calendar year, she would also present an interim profit and loss statement / balance sheet to 31 August 2006.

On 31 August 2006, the Society's net assets stood at \$265,811, including an operating profit of \$69,532. These figures were due to two factors:

- 1) Most members have paid their membership fees for the year 2006-2007 but the Society is yet to receive an invoice for *The Breast* subscription.
- 2) A proportion of the profit represents income from the Port Douglas Meeting registration fees and sponsorship, whilst much of the Meeting expenditure is yet to be paid. The Meeting is expected to produce a loss of around \$15,000.

Dr Burke reported that since 2003, the Society membership fee has been \$215, which includes a \$150 component for the subscription to the journal, *The Breast*, and a Society component of \$65 (of which \$5.90 is GST). In view of the increasing operating costs of the Society, she recommended for this fee to be reviewed for the 2006-2007 membership year. An increase in the fee will also need to cover any potential increase in the subscription to *The Breast*. Dr Burke concluded by thanking Solei Gibbs on her work on the Society's financial matters and the Treasurer's report.

The Treasurer's report's acceptance was moved by Roslyn Drummond and seconded by Heidi Wong. The motion was carried.

Auditor's report and appointment

The Auditor's report's acceptance was moved by Daniel de Viana and seconded by Richard Lee.

The appointment of Griffin Carr as the Society's Auditors was moved by Marie-Frances Burke and seconded by Daniel de Viana.

4. Items of business

Proposed ordinary resolution: To increase the number of Directors

Jennet Harvey referred to recent correspondence sent to members regarding a proposed ordinary resolution to increase the number of Directors from eight to nine. She explained that, in the past, there has been a significant turnover of Directors during some years, which is not ideal. Also, the Executive Committee composition is complex in that certain disciplines must be represented and, also, the Committee should have representatives from each State. Therefore, increasing the number of Directors to nine would allow for more flexibility as well as consistency.

The resolution was to change Clause 6, part 6.2 (a) in the Society's Articles of Association to read:

"The Executive shall consist of not more than 9 persons as directors who shall be appointed in accordance with these Articles; "

The members discussed the advantages and disadvantages of increasing the number of Directors. Michael Iazard commented that this would incur extra costs in Executive Committee's attendance at the Society's Meetings. Mary Rickard agreed with the increase in principle but queried whether it would achieve an improvement. Jennet Harvey commented that it would at least help improve the situation. Warwick Lee said that the Executive Committee carried a heavy burden in organising Meetings and an extra Director would help to share the workload.

Tim Porter enquired about the number of members from New Zealand. Solei Gibbs responded that the numbers had decreased to around a dozen. She added that, ideally, the Society should have a Director from New Zealand, to help increase membership numbers and involvement, but the cost associated with teleconference participation would be considerable.

The majority of members voted for the ordinary resolution (25 to one) and the motion was carried.

The Breast Journal

Jennet Harvey discussed the responses to the survey recently circulated to members together with correspondence from the Editors of *The Breast Journal*. She commented that any decision relating to offering members access to the journal would not impact on the Society's affiliation with *The Breast*.

Only 10.3% (22) of members responded to the survey. Of the respondents, 45.5% said a subscription to *The Breast Journal* should be offered as an option to ASBD members, 45.5% said subscription should be made a part of ASBD membership subscription, one member (4.5%) said the Society should not become affiliated with *The Breast Journal*, and one member (4.5%) said they would accept the majority's decision. A number of comments were also received, ranging from making the subscription an option for a year or two and then surveying members again, to queries on the standard and value of the journal.

If *The Breast Journal* was offered as an option to ASBD members, 45.5% said they would subscribe to it, 31.8% said they would not subscribe to it and 22.7% were unsure.

The Editors had offered two options: 1) A subscription to *The Breast Journal* would be offered as an option to all members. A print plus online subscription to the journal would be US\$90 (55% off the regular individual-rate price of US\$194); 2) A subscription to *The Breast Journal* would be offered as a member benefit. The cost would then be US\$60. This option would incur benefits to the Society, including: The Society's name would appear on the journal cover; complimentary advertising; the Society would be mentioned in international promotional materials about the journal; and, the Society could appoint a representative to the editorial board.

Jennet Harvey invited members to voice their opinions on the matter. Susan Fraser commented that the inclusion of the journal in membership subscription would increase membership fee only to around A\$300. Mary Rickard said she supported offering the journal as an option but not as mandatory due to the increase in membership fee. Warwick Lee suggested that the inclusion of the journal in membership subscription could have a negative effect on membership numbers. David Clark suggested for the Society to absorb the journal cost and, instead, increase Meeting registration fees as this could potentially attract more members. He also said that, to increase membership base, members should be offered a higher discount on Meeting registration fees. Mary Rickard and Warwick Lee agreed that non-members' registration fees should be increased for members to receive a higher discount.

Roslyn Drummond queried whether minimum subscription numbers applied to the US\$90. Solei Gibbs said that there had been no mention of this in correspondence. It was agreed that *The Breast Journal* would be offered as an option to members as from 1 July 2007. Tim Porter suggested for the matter to be reviewed after one year.

6. Election of Executive membership

Jennet Harvey listed the current Directors since the 2005 Annual General Meeting as:

- Jennet Harvey (Pathologist) - President
- Marie-Frances Burke (Radiation Oncologist) - Secretary/Treasurer
- Nehmat Houssami (Breast Physician / Clinical Epidemiologist)
- James Kollias (Surgeon)
- Warwick Lee (Radiologist)
- Lynne Mann (Surgeon)
- Wendy Raymond (Pathologist)
- Robin Stuart-Harris (Medical Oncologist)

Jennet Harvey reported that co-opted members for the year were Geoffrey Beadle (Medical Oncologist), Natacha Borecky (Radiologist), Michael Izard (Radiation Oncologist), Veronica Macaulay-Cross (Breast Cancer Network Australia Representative), Margaret Pooley (Surgeon) and Mary Rickard (Radiologist).

Jennet Harvey explained that each year, the three longest term serving members have to step down but are eligible for re-election, providing they have not served for three full terms. This year, Nehmat Houssami, James Kollias and Warwick Lee stepped down but all were standing for re-election. Natacha Borecky, after being co-opted for two years, was nominated to become a full Executive Committee member.

Professor Harvey announced the following composition of nine full members for election to the Executive Committee for the coming year:

- Jennet Harvey (Pathologist) - President
- Marie-Frances Burke (Radiation Oncologist) - Secretary/Treasurer
- Natacha Borecky (Radiologist)
- Nehmat Houssami (Breast Physician / Clinical Epidemiologist)
- James Kollias (Surgeon)
- Warwick Lee (Radiologist)
- Lynne Mann (Surgeon)
- Wendy Raymond (Pathologist)
- Robin Stuart-Harris (Medical Oncologist)

As there were no comments from members, the Executive Committee was duly elected.

Jennet Harvey formally thanked Margaret Pooley, who would no longer be continuing as a co-opted member of the Executive, for the major contribution she had made to the Society over many years. She welcomed newly nominated Daniel de Viana (Surgeon) to the Executive Committee, as a co-opted member.

Julie Hassard and Solei Gibbs mentioned that a new representative from the Breast Cancer Network Australia would soon be co-opted to the Executive, to take over from Veronica Macaulay-Cross.

Helen Zorbas said that breast care nurses should be represented on the Executive Committee. Mary Rickard said that representatives from non-medical disciplines, such as nurses, can be co-opted to the Executive. Solei Gibbs responded that the Executive had discussed this issue at some length but had decided against co-opting a breast care nurse at this stage due to their fragmentation as a group, as it would be politically difficult to choose which group to co-opt from. Tim Porter suggested for the Society to offer reduced Meeting registration fees to nurses, to encourage their involvement. Solei Gibbs said that the Executive had discussed this issue and had found it complex due to various other groups such as registrars. She reported that Novartis Oncology sponsored a number of nurses to attend the 2005 Scientific Meeting and hoped this would also occur in 2007. Jennet Harvey commented that the Meeting venue's limited space would not allow for attracting a lot of new delegates.

7. Other Business

American Society of Breast Disease

Jennet Harvey reported on recent correspondence with the American Society of Breast Disease. The Society's Executive Director and the Board have been enthusiastic about forming a closer relationship between the two Societies. The Board agreed at their last meeting that the two organisations have much in common to suggest development of collaborative activities and are open to discussions on how best to coordinate efforts in the future.

Founded in 1976, the American Society of Breast Disease has been involved internationally throughout its history in various ways. The Society was a member of the Senologic International Society for a number of years and then (when the SIS splintered into two organisations) became involved in the World Society for Breast Health (until last year). The current president, Benjamin O. Anderson, MD, is the director of a project called the Global Breast Health Initiative (housed at the University of

Washington, Seattle) that has convened several multinational consensus conferences with the purpose of establishing benchmarks for developing countries regarding breast cancer. It is suggested that this could be of interest to us.

The American Society has around 1 150 members, of which about 9% are individual members outside the USA. Attendance at the annual symposium is 350-400. They also hold six to eight smaller meetings of 30-100 each year (January-March).

The Breast Journal is the American Society's 'official' journal and all members receive it as part of their membership. In 2005, the Society and *The Breast Journal* jointly launched *The Breast Journal Award* to recognise three outstanding posters at their annual meeting.

The members also get a bulk rate subscription to *Breast Diseases: A Yearbook Quarterly* (which provides summaries of articles of interest across the spectrum of breast specialties). It is a very popular publication with the Society's members. Jennet Harvey said that an optional subscription would be US\$123.50 (25% discount on individual subscription) but added that the publishers are yet to advise details of the group subscription rate. It was agreed that *Breast Diseases: A Yearbook Quarterly* would be offered as an option to members as from 1 July 2007.

Professor Harvey reported that the American Society of Breast Disease suggested that we may want to discuss ways in which we can partner to mutually benefit our members and each other's organisations. She said that, as a start, the two organisations have now added a link from their website to the other's website, but invited members to consider other, more substantial possibilities.

David Clark queried the potential benefits for our Society. Solei Gibbs commented that, for example, the Executive Director and Chip Cody (keynote speaker in 2005) had suggested a future joint meeting. Daniel de Viana said that it would be necessary to get more information about the Society and its meetings to consider such a possibility. Dr Clark agreed and said that our Society's strength was in maintaining its meetings small. Susan Fraser also agreed that the meetings should remain small. Michael Izard said that a joint meeting would also require a larger venue. It was agreed that Solei Gibbs would obtain a book of abstracts from the most recent meeting as well as information on the benchmark programs. Mary Rickard suggested establishing an affiliation with the Asian Society. Alan Porter said he supported an affiliation with the American Society. Dr Izard suggested that the possibility of an affiliation with both Societies should be presented to the membership for discussion.

Futures Committee

Jennet Harvey said that Jack Jellins' suggestion to form a 'Futures Committee' was supported at the 2005 Annual General Meeting. The Committee will aim to plan for the long-term survival and development of the Society. It will review the Society's activities and provide recommendations to the Executive Committee on ways in which the Society can better meet the needs of its members over the next three to five years. She said she expects the Committee will hold its first meeting towards the end of this year and for that purpose, membership will soon receive a brief survey form asking for feedback on the Society's strengths and weaknesses, and for suggestions for the future. The Committee will complete a report within the next 12-18 months and submit it to the Executive Committee for discussion. Jennet Harvey encouraged all members to provide input through the survey.

Future Meetings

Jennet Harvey said that the 2007 Scientific Meeting will be held at the Marriott again. Susan Fraser requested for the inclusion of benign disease on the program. Nehmat Houssami said that this area was

of interest to many and that a topic would be included in the program. She said she also hopes to encourage relevant abstracts for proffered papers. Dr Houssami said that the program was likely to have a radiology / pathology workshop which would include borderline lesions.

Jennet Harvey asked for members' opinions regarding holding another small meeting in 2008. Michael Izard said that a loss of up to \$15,000 from the 2006 Meeting was relatively small and that the Society would have no problem with carrying it. He suggested that since feedback from the 2006 Meeting had been so positive, the Society should hold another small meeting in 2008 and perhaps in 2010, and that if these meetings continued to incur losses they should be discontinued. Solei Gibbs said that the sponsorship income from the Scientific Meetings can subsidise smaller meetings for a time, but it was not possible to rely on the high level industry support indefinitely. Nehmat Houssami pointed out that to hold a meeting in 2008 contradicted a decision made at a previous Annual General Meeting to not to hold a meeting close to the Leura Conference. Mary Rickard said that the small meetings should be held at different venues. Alan Porter suggested the Gold Coast Convention Centre as a venue for future Scientific meetings. Solei Gibbs disagreed with this as the main accommodation venue would have to be Conrad Jupiters Casino. Also, she commented that she had had an unfavourable experience with holding another meeting at the Casino, which has the management rights for the Centre. New Zealand, Adelaide and Ayers Rock were suggested as potential venues for the 2008 Meeting. Considering that New Zealand now has an annual breast meeting it was agreed that Solei Gibbs should enquire whether support would exist for the Society to hold a meeting there.

Other

Susan Fraser thanked the Society for allowing her to be part of organising the 2006 Meeting and for agreeing to have many local, north Queensland people involved in the program.

8. Next Annual General Meeting date

The next Annual General Meeting will be held on Saturday 29 September 2007 at the Surfers Paradise Marriott Resort on the Gold Coast.

9. Close of meeting

The meeting closed at 4.30pm.

**Attendance record for the Australasian Society for Breast Disease
Annual General Meeting held on 1 October 2006**

Natacha Borecky
Marie-Frances Burke
David Clark
Daniel de Viana
Roslyn Drummond
Susan Fraser
Robert Harris
Jennet Harvey
Julie Hassard
Nehmat Houssami
Michael Izard
Bronwyn Kennedy
Suellyn Kennedy
Richard Lee
Warwick Lee
Alan Porter
Timothy Porter
Mary Rickard
Franko Sardelic
Patsy Soon
Heidi Wong
Helen Zorbas

Minutes: Solei Gibbs, Executive Officer