



AUSTRALIAN INSTITUTE OF INTERPRETERS AND TRANSLATORS

**WA BRANCH
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

DATE: Saturday, 17 September 2022
TIME: 1.00 to 2.00pm
VENUE: University of Western Australia
ARTS: [G61] Arts Lecture Room 5
Hackett Drive, Crawley WA 6009

MINUTES

1. Acknowledgment of country and Welcome by WA Branch Chair

Catherine Pfammatter opens the AGM by acknowledging the Whadjuk Noongar people as the traditional owners of the land, then welcomes attendees and invites them to join the committee or attend committee meetings as observers, if they would like to know more or become involved with the branch activities. Before starting the AGM proceedings, the Branch Chair also congratulates the AUSIT Student Excellence Award 2022 winners.

2. Attendance & Apologies

Committee members attending: Catherine N. Pfammatter, Elisa Michelini, Nora Pucci, Mary Street, Corinne Perrin, Hawra Latif, Kamran Afshar, Natasha Brown.

Branch members attending: Annamaria Arnall, Natsu Asakura, Mariam Ashrat, Chindy Christine, Costas Demetriades, Lidia Elicegui, Yutaka Kawasaki, Siew Ngiap Cyril Loo, Thi Kim Thi Nguyen, Rita Ormsby, Obang Girma Othow, Fabiola Kely Pinheiro, Stefania Ravelli, Francika Roberts, Jade Sciberras, Li Tang, Lujan Vitale, Zoe Womack, Yanwu Yang.

Observers: Kate Magno, Harry Li, Yolanda Yuanyuan Sun, Yijun Wang (Student Excellence Award winners), and Nicole Zhou (BIC representative).

Apologies: Chuhang (Kelvin) Xian, Sally Wals, Nasrin Alkhani, Vida J Ark, Susana C Schmidt, Michèle Dreyfus, Rossana Perino.

3. Confirmation of the Minutes of the 2021 WA Branch AGM

Moved by Nora Pucci, seconded by Mary Street.
Confirmed and accepted with no amendments.

4. Report from the Chair (Catherine N. Pfammatter)

Our committee had a few departures and additions over this year of activity. For personal reasons, we lost three members along the way: Lia Bridgman and Isabel von Prollius, who resigned from the committee in November 2021, and Aida Oye Gomez, who resigned in May 2022. We thank them for the time they spent in the committee and for their contributions to the committee discussions and activities. Although we lost 3 members, we also had 3 new additions: in February 2022, Corinne Perrin joined the WA Branch committee, bringing her expertise as part of the AUSIT National Communications team. Later in May and June we welcomed 2 more committee members: Chuhang (Kelvin) Xian and Hawra Latif.

In the lead-up to this AGM, several long-term members of our branch committee have taken the decision to step down and to give other translators and interpreters the opportunity to get involved. Today, we are farewelling Natasha Brown, who we acknowledge particularly for her coordination of YTY; Sally Wals, former PD coordinator and committee member over many years; and Vida Jafari Ark, our MLO, who brought a lot of enthusiasm and conscientious activity to her role. Chuhang (Kelvin) Xian has found working FIFO meant that he was not able to participate actively in the committee and has also decided to resign.

Going back to the second half of 2021, our committee was very busy with the organisation and running of the AUSIT National Conference in Scarborough, which took place in November. We would like to acknowledge AIWA for their contribution to the National Conference with a beautiful Welcome to Country ceremony. We thank all committee members involved, who worked hard on bringing the speakers and sponsors, and helped hosting the online sessions during the conference. This hybrid National conference was the first of its kind and was a great success, but also required a lot of effort and coordination. The AUSIT WA branch committee is proud of being part of this success, in spite of the challenges caused by the pandemic and border closures.

Another big event at the end of last year was the Young Translator of the Year competition, which we were once again able to host in person with the ceremony held at UWA.

During the first half of 2022, we organised two professional development sessions as part of the WA Interpreting Scholarship program for Babel International College, providing the opportunity for students to ask questions and exchange opinions with practising interpreters. A major event on our PD calendar was a workshop on Interpreting in Police Interviews, in collaboration with the WA Police. This was prepared over six months and was one of our largest F2F events in some time.

In addition to its PD and social activities, AUSIT WA acts as an advocate for the profession, maintaining working relationships with organisations like NAATI and OMI. This has resulted in initiatives such as the WA Interpreter Scholarship program, jointly sponsored by our 3 organisations. Committee members have attended careers expos at NAATI's request, to showcase translating and interpreting. Committee members also represented AUSIT at 2 workshops organised by OMI and the NDIA about Disability and the NDIS.

In the interest of the T&I profession as a whole, following discussions which took place at the Perth 2021 conference and at the request of the Minister for Multicultural Affairs, AUSIT WA has been working with WAITI, AIWA, ASLIA and Professionals Australia on the establishment of a representative industry group. This group has notably been active in providing feedback on proposed changes to the Skills IQ framework and consequently the Diplomas/Advanced Diplomas of Interpreting & Translating.

Current branch membership numbers (as at 31 Aug) stand at 153 for WA and 1700 nationally.

5. Report from PD Coordinator and Treasurer (Nora Pucci)

AUSIT WA ran the following events in the 2021-2022 financial year:

Professional Development Activities

- **Ethics discussion night, for the WA Interpreting scholarship program:** 7th April 2022, online via Zoom. Committee members attended as panel members, good discussion and well-prepared students.
- **Running a home-based business workshop,** Friday 27th May 2022, Hillview Community Centre. Presenter: Waseem Naroo, Accountant. In-person event, 21 attendees, including a few students from Babel College and UWA. Good opportunity for people to ask questions and receive answers that were useful for everyone.
- **Strategies and issues in telephone interpreting, for the WA Interpreting scholarship program:** 9th June 2022, online via Zoom. Committee members attended as panel members, good discussion and great participation with 19 students.
- **Interpreting in Police Interviews,** 4th August 2022 at UWA. In-person event organised in collaboration with the WA Police. Presenters: Detective Senior Sergeant Bruce Bowers and Detective Sergeant Brian Hill, from the Investigative Standards Unit of the WA Police Force. Very successful event, more than 70 attendees, including students from UWA, and members of sister organisations such as AIWA, WAITI & PA.

Social Activities

- **Branch AGM,** 4th Sept 2021 at UWA. Preceded by members meet & greet and networking session. 23 attendees.
- **International Translators' Day,** 30th Sept 2021 at The National Hotel in Fremantle. Informal gathering, not many members attended, but it was an opportunity for branch committee members and a few other general branch members to catch up over a glass of wine, with a beautiful view from the rooftop.
- **End-of-Year Social Event,** 15th December 2021, at The Windsor Hotel, South Perth. Many thanks to Nora Pucci for finding this lovely venue, it was a very enjoyable evening with delicious food!

Committee activities

- **AUSIT Student Excellence Awards,** 2nd September 2021, via Zoom. In past years, we presented the award to recipients during our AGM event, but as in 2021 most students attended their courses online from different areas of Australia and the world, the award ceremony was held online via Zoom. The ceremony was moderated by the coordinator of the Master of Translation Studies, Anna Gadd; 3 out of 4 award recipients attended, together with the AUSIT WA Branch Chair and Secretary.
- **Young Translator of the Year (YTY) competition,** 4th December 2021 at UWA. This was the sixth edition of this initiative, back in person after having to move online in 2021 due to the pandemic situation. Special thanks to Natasha Brown for coordinating all the parties involved in the competition, and to Aida Oye Gomez, who helped Natasha in the organisation of this event. It was great to see a lecture theatre full of young translators and their proud families!

All events income and expenses are now managed nationally. For the 2021-22 F.Y., the WA branch generated a net profit of A\$108.75.

The PD coordinator acknowledges and thanks UWA as affiliate institution for providing the venue for some of our branch events.

6. Election of Branch Office Bearers

All positions declared vacant. Election process moderated by Natasha Brown.

2022-2023 AUSIT WA Branch Committee Voted In	
Catherine N. Pfammatter	Chairperson and Branch Delegate
Elisa Michelini	Secretary
<i>(to be decided at branch meeting)</i>	Deputy Branch Delegate
Nora Pucci	PD Coordinator and Treasurer
<i>(to be decided at branch meeting)</i>	Membership Liaison Officer
Francika Roberts	Committee member
Hawra Latif	Committee member
Kamran Afshar	Committee member
Mary Street	Committee member
Mariam Ashrat	Committee member
Corinne Perrin	Committee member

7. No other matters arising

8. Close of meeting: 1:57pm