



## AUSIT SA/NT Annual General Meeting held on 25 August 2021

<b>Date:</b> 25 August 2021 (Wednesday) at 7:00 pm		<b>Place:</b> Zoom meeting
<b>Present:</b> Joe Van Dalen Jan Ng Magdalena Rowan Imelda Galmesa Shahin Entesari-Tatafi Sudas Nouman Abdul Jadier Ludmila Berkis Alicia Rex Amanda Tan Arudkumar Rajaretnam Daniela Kautsky Deborah Kalei Emira Rojevic Farshid Salehi Garbriela Kuzio Haleh Khazrai	<b>Present:</b> Hana Shakir Huirong Qian Margareta Velichova Rebelos Marina Morgan Mitry Chigrinsky Monisa Yaser Ning Zhang Tek Bahadur Rai Tets Kimura Thomas Kruckemeyer Trung Khanh Lam Xiomara Ruiz Ze Harty Jessica Nguyen Vesna Poljak	<b>Apologies:</b> Zsuzsanna Jover
<b>SA/NT ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING</b>		
<b><u>Welcome</u></b>		
1. The Chair, Joe van Dalen welcomed all present.		
<b>2. AUSIT Student Excellence Awards</b>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Two student awards were announced, they were presented to students from the University of Adelaide and TAFESA.</li><li>• Dr. Ning Zhang from the University of Adelaide was present on behalf of the student award winner, who was located in China.</li></ul>		
<b>3. Minutes of last meeting</b>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Given the online nature of the AGM during the pandemic, it was problematic bringing the minutes of the last AGM to the attendees attention. However, minutes exist.</li></ul>		
<b>4. Chairperson's Report</b>		
<p>Welcome to you all in these continuing and unusual circumstances and times. Thank you for taking the time to be with us at this moment on Zoom.</p> <p>In a sense, it has been a quiet year because of the pandemic restrictions but we were able to meet at times at the Multicultural Community Centre of South Australia in Gilbert Street, Adelaide, and at other times via Zoom. As a Branch we are members of that organisation enabling us to use their premises for a modest fee. Nevertheless, it is pleasing to note that our membership in this state and territory has increased and we welcome all newcomers to AUSIT.</p>		
<b>Professional Development and Social Activities</b>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• At our last AGM on August 26<sup>th</sup>, 2020, we had the presence of the President of AUSIT Dr Erika Gonzales for a half hour beforehand and she presented a very valuable overview of AUSIT and the developments planned and challenges we have for the future for the</li></ul>		

benefit of the members. She answered questions after that from some of the 39 members who attended.

- Our efforts to run face to face PD were hampered by lockdowns and other restrictions. Fortunately, there were plenty of PD sessions available online, and this technology allows for easy linking up on a national basis.
- Our endeavours to have network meetings, which are not only social but a valuable time to network and learn from each other in an informal way, were also hampered by the current situation and the fact that it is just so hard to get a suitable location where a fair number of people can meet for a cup of coffee in relative comfort, and not be forced by proprietors to have breakfast or other meals. Kappy's was a favour venue but changes there ruled out continuing with that site.
- Nevertheless, we managed to organise a network meeting on 13 March at Bonython Park. The 6 people who attended enjoyed it but we had to contend with bucketing rain which discouraged many, I'm sure. Were we to know with the timeline necessary to disseminate information to members through our online distributor?
- On the 20<sup>th</sup> April, we organised a PD even via Zoom run by Melanie Robinson, a Legal Education Officer whose presentation on Community Law and Legal Concepts for Interpreters and Translators, attended by 135 members and interested people from across the country and overseas, was highly successful and much appreciated.

### **Membership report**

- Firstly, thanks again to Alicia Rex, our membership representative. Although National Council has now taken over registrations of membership, Alicia does send out letters of welcome to all new members to encourage their participation in AUSIT affairs.
- Our membership has increased in the last 12 months from 108 members at this time last year to 133 at the end of June this year. At the end of July, the new membership year, the number stands at 100, and in line with trends in other states and territories in the country, a number of people have not renewed as yet. It may be because we had an influx of student members who have not continued. Anyway, this is being looked into by the National Council. The membership fee is still a 45% discount on the 2019 fee, given the Covid-19 situation.

### **Report from Northern Territory David Moore, N.T. sub-branch**

The recent Covid lockdown in Darwin stopped movement with a ban on travel to South Australia and other states. Recently the border to SA has re-opened but we are very much alive, well and active in the Northern Territory language professions and industries. In January I travelled to Tennant Creek to find out about how interpreters work in that town. Having worked late last year as a NAATI examiner for the Alyawarr and Anmatyerr languages. Five out of six candidates failed their NAATI exam. We need to find better ways for candidates in those languages to succeed at the exam and to build and scaffold a way of supporting them.

At the Alice Springs Language Centre Arrernte teacher Jannette McCormack and I are continuing to teach Cert II and III in Applied Language, supported by Ripponlea Institute. We are developing Assessment Tasks which are oriented to language comparison and translation, with a focus on courts, hospitals and practical community translation. Many of these are based upon lived experience in interpreting and translation. This year there are more Arrernte trainees working in language teaching at the Alice Spring Language Centre and we have broadened our work to other languages such as Western Arrarnta and Pitjantjatjara.

## **Branch Delegate's Report**

- I attended the online National Conference in November last year, as some of you did, I am sure. It was a successful event offering many interesting professional insights and advice.
- This year the national Conference will be held in Perth, if you wish to go there, on November 19-21, but is also to be conducted online given the Covid situation. I encourage you to register when notices are distributed to the membership.
- The redevelopment of the AUSIT website, the replacement of the e-bulletin with Learnbook, and change of our administration provider to Office Logistics, have been the major changes now for the last 12 months or more. We will see further refinements of the website in the next 12 months. You will appreciate that the website and Learnbook, where you can log on for discussion of topics of interest to your professional work, do use a large amount of AUSIT's budget every year to run successfully.
- During the last few months, our President Erika Gonzales, has successfully negotiated with FECCA, the Federal Ethnic Communities Council of Australia to train interpreters and translators of new languages in particular in the context of the poor translations the government has produced to explain the Covid-19 and vaccination materials to all diverse communities. It was a major task to explain that for proper translation, qualified translators should be used, not Google, that it is checked by another translator and foremost, that the material in English to work from should be in simple comprehensible language.
- Across states and territories, there is the constant lament from the professionals in the industry of the use of non-certified translators and interpreters by language service providers, the far from satisfactory working conditions for interpreters in particular. NC has promoted the proper use of interpreters in court which is slowly being adopted. The health sector is the next challenge. Because AUSIT is a volunteer organisation, and NAATI for that matter is not a government legislated body, we have little legal authority to force change and compliance with our Ethics Policy. NC has also established an Ethics and Professional Practice Committee to deal with disputes and complaints that arise from time to time, with members coming from all sectors of the industry. However, this group is going through a process of clarifying exactly what can be done under the current AUSIT constitution.

## **AUSIT Award**

- On behalf of AUSIT, congratulations to all those who have won awards as mentioned earlier in this session. We wish all graduate students well and in particular those recipients who obviously did very well. Their teachers too are to be congratulated for guiding them through the demands of the courses.

## **Conclusion**

- Before we get on to the election officers, I would also like to say I have been in contact with Niki Baras from Professionals Australia in regard to the continuing quest of improving the working conditions of interpreters in this state and their remuneration. Niki is in charge of the Translators/Interpreter section of this union organisation and in Victoria at least, they have been successful in lobbying the government there for an increase in pay Niki quite clearly tells me that we need more members in this state so I would ask you to consider that. You can log on to Professionals Australia website and check out their subscription costs. It is based on income so it may suite your situation. But without members, AUSIT as a volunteer organisation has no authority over government when it comes to pay but as a union PA can have an influence.

- In conclusion, a sincere thank you to each and every committee member for their time and effort and making all our events possible this past twelve months A thank you again to Patricia Vila for providing our PD. We hope to see new faces on our Branch Committee. Here is an opportunity to contribute to the profession. Thank you.

Joe van Dalen

Chairperson

25 August, 2021

## **5. The outgoing committee**

Chair: Joe van Dalen

Treasurer: Shahin Entesari-Tatafi

Secretary: Ludmila Berkis (appointed by committee after AGM)

Branch Delegate: Joe van Dalen (appointed by committee after AGM)

NT sub-branch representative: David Moore

PD coordinator: Marina Morgan (appointed by committee after AGM)

Membership officer: Alicia Rex (appointed by committee after AGM)

Committee Members: Tets Kimura; Haleh Khazrai; Deborah Kalei; Jan Ng; Zsuzsanna Jover

## **6. Dissolution of old committee and re-election of new committee**

- Chairperson Joe van Dalen, nominated by Marina Morgan and seconded by Ludmila Berkis
- Secretary Yee Jan Ng, nominated by Joe van Dalen and seconded by Ludmila Berkis
- Membership Liaison Officer Alicia Rex, nominated by Haleh Khazrai and seconded by Shahin Entesari-Tatafi
- Committee member Shahin Entesari-Tatafi nominated by Joe van Dalen and seconded by Ludmila Berkis
- Committee member Tets Kimura nominated by Joe van Dalen and seconded by Yee Jan Ng
- Committee member Haleh Khazrai nominated by Ludmila Berkis and seconded by Alicia Rex
- Committee member Deborah Kalei nominated by Joe van Dalen and seconded by Marina Morgan
- Committee member Ludmila Berkis nominated by Yee Jan Ng and seconded by Haleh Khazrai
- Committee member Zsuzsanna Jover nominated by Ludmila Berkis and seconded by

Joe van Dalen

- Committee member Marina Morgan nominated by Joe van Dalen and seconded by Ludmila Berkis
- NT representative David Moore nominated by Joe van Dalen and seconded by Ludmila Berkis

There being no other nominations for the above positions, they were all declared elected.

Positions not filled will be determined at the next meeting of the committee.

The Chairperson extended welcome to anyone who is interested to join the committee; they can email [sant@ausit.org](mailto:sant@ausit.org) to express their interest.

Zsuzsanna Jover will be taking a leave of about 3 months due to medical reasons.

## **7. Other Business**

- Alicia Rex expressed concern over loss of membership due to the many free PD sessions available as members joined in the past for discounted PD sessions; emphasized the need to educate people on the benefits of being member of a professional association.
- Sudas Abdul Jadier suggested organising short tailored courses in English and LOTE languages for language maintenance.
- Imelda Galmes queried about the AUSIT education committee. Marina Morgan explained the role of the education committee.
- Daniela Kautsky suggested organising a Saturday network meeting again as the weather gets better. MCCSA has been booked for our next network meeting in October or November.

## **8. Closing**

Joe van Dalen thanked everyone for their attendance. Meeting closed around 8.30pm