



▶ NZATS ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING Nov 4th 2005

SKYCITY Convention Centre, Auckland

Present:

Karen Bennett, Janine Gunn, Michelle Peck, Cathie Hepworth, Patricia O'Brien, Mark Jackson, Andrew Warmington, Louise Goodwin, Julie Bromley, Anthony Shaw, Lillian Natin Stephanie Lewis, Pauline Jacobs, Keith de Carteret, Creina Findlay, Tania Kennedy, Craig Love, Tony Prangnell, Patsy Rose, Joan Redpath, Charlie Raymond, Doug Williams, Shane Reid, Tony Matthews, Heather Godfrey, Janice Owens, Kris Sidney, Sarah – Jayne Hanley, Hayley Webb, Mark Jahnsen, Kerry Bye, Diane Mc Clelland, Peter Barber, Ted Hughes, Kirin Nahna, John Ballard, Louise Morgan, Jane Jones, Mike Nash, Mandy Hays – Jacs, Nicola Smith – Guerin, Grant Scarf, Brenda Knowles, Nisha Ali, Damian Mahoney, Michael Smith, Karen Absil, Karl Roberts, Ross Imlay, Ian Clarke, Muriel Cooper, Helen Nati, David Hooper, Vinnie Nera, Erin Baker, Martin Van der Kaay, Morgan Potter, Kelly Brooker, Gary Poulson, Dave Rush, Siaso Sika, Antonio Nichols, Theresa O'Brien, Daniel Williams, Charlotte Waiariki, Vanessa Ashley, Rebecca Henderson, Tony Scaramuzza, Stephen Kane, Lynne Vander Waadt, Mary Fuscic, Johnathan Shaw.

Apologies:

Malcolm Stuart, Mary Fuscic

Opening:

Karen Bennett opened the meeting. The NZATS executive committee were introduced. The conference convenors were thanked for their excellent conference and professionalism.

Past minutes - 2004 A.G.M.:

Accepted as a true and accurate record.

President's report:

Karen Bennett read out her chairperson's report. This included that there have been significant developments in our profession this year. Karen thanked the members of the executive for their work and the Anaesthetic departments that support the executive allowing NZATS work to be carried out during normal working hours. 5 executive meetings have been held this year.

- The NZSA was also thanked for their secretarial support. NZSA sent letter to NZATS to explore the idea of a Memorandum of understanding.
- Significant costs have been incurred in developing the constitution as well as education and registration costs the increase in fees has proved prudent in managing the societies finances.
- The Diploma in Applied Sciences (Anaesthetic Technology) replaces the Certificate in Anaesthetic Technology in early 2006.
- Our application for compulsory registration with the HPCA has been signed off by the executive and will be forwarded to the Ministry of Health in the near future. Once submitted a decision from the MOH will not occur for another 6 – 12 months. Once registered the financial implications will be beyond the current money available in the NZATS account. A special levy from members will be sought to cover the costs when the time arises (refer remits).
- NZATS website is the leading means of communication. It is updated regularly and provides

a professional forum for all of us to participate in. The Script has gone from strength to strength over the year. Helen Mahoney was thanked for her voluntary editorial skills producing this journal.

- 4 training hospital surveys have been carried out and 1 follow up survey. NZATS continue to ensure that the rules and regulations of training are adhered to.

- Julie Bromley and Karen Bennett attended the 60th Anniversary AODP Conference in Manchester in April. It proved to be an informative and educational experience as well as providing opportunities for ongoing relationships with our counterparts in the UK. AODP have been instrumental in providing guidance and support in our registration application.

- The financial position of NZATS Inc was commented on with the main expense (which will appear in the financial period of 1st April 2005 to 31st March 2006) being for solicitor's fees.

Questions Asked from the floor:

- Has an official financial statement by an auditor been performed and that the auditor's report should be circulated to members – Karen confirmed the auditor's report had occurred and read their statement.

Difficulty with circulating the report was acknowledged.

Registrars Report

Read out by Julie Bromley

- Julie acknowledge that the registrars position was a bigger job than expected and difficulties encountered trying to do her role as Charge Anaesthetic Technician as well as the registrars role. Apologies were made to those who experienced difficulties when issues arose with the card manufacturer.
- The Society currently has 83 registered trainees and 315 Trained. 100 new members have registered this year, and 130 registration packs have been sent overseas.
- Lauren Reid and Sarah Jayne Hanley were thanked for their assistance with overseas applications.
- Julie was spending an average of 15 hours per week on registration. At the last executive meeting a decision was made to pay someone to take on the role of overseas registrations. This role has been taken up by an AODP who is not currently practising. To offset the expenses incurred the fee for overseas applications will rise to \$300 as of 1st December 2005.
- Julie thanked Michele Peck for standing in for her when she is on leave. Julie also thanked Lauren Reid and Ted Hughes for their voluntary help on the registration committee. The committee try to meet on a regular basis.

Questions Asked from the floor:

- Is the \$300 for overseas applicants only? – Julie confirmed that this increase is for overseas applicants only due to the processing costs.
- Clarification was sought on the person employed for dealing with overseas applications and their non practising status being appropriate – Julie confirmed that the person was doing paper work only and was not involved in any decision making.
- The processing time for applications was queried – Julie informed them that this varies as there are sometimes issues with applicants sending in incomplete documentation and there is often difficulty in contacting their referees.
- Clarification was sort on the paid position for dealing with the paperwork for overseas applications – Julie confirmed that this was on a contract basis.

The registrars report was accepted

Education Report:

Read out by Pat

Wendy Emsons Education report from AUT was also read by Pat

- Diploma was approved for development by AUT in May 2005. The Diploma will commence in 2006 The outline and programme are available on the website and were published in The

Script. Advice has also been forwarded to the NZ Peri-Operative Nurses Journal for publication. The Certificate subjects Anaesthesia 5A and 5B will continue through to the end of 2006 only. Charge Anaesthetic Technicians have been sent a suggested "Transition" format for current trainees.

AUT and NZATS will enter a formal partnership agreement that will provide protection for both parties. AUT will appoint a monitor from ANZCA to oversee validity of the programme. AUT will ensure the Diploma programme has QA initiatives for review, delivery and content. This includes terms of employment for markers writers' etc.

5 writers have been appointed to write a paper each these should be completed by mid December.

Assessment criteria is out for final review. 2 executive members are working with the writers in setting up assessments.

There will be work-based assessors and National assessors – these positions will be advertised on the website and in The Script. AUT will provide a training course for assessors.

Block course dates will be on NZATS website in the next 2 weeks.

Education meeting was held in Christchurch hosted by Doug Williams. 17 people attended and the feedback received was that it was a very worth while day.

COP May 2005 at Palmerston North Hospital 60% pass rate.

COP October 2005 Counties Manakau Super Clinic 72% pass rate.

Next COP details will be on website in 2 weeks.

Future of COP has been discussed with the Examination Committee and the NZATS Executive.

Several private hospitals have taken up training.

Questions Asked from the floor:

Since overseas candidates had a poor pass rate for the COP exam should they be offered pre-training courses? – Pat explained that options had been discussed at the executive meeting and that certain hospitals has offered training to candidates but the offer had not been taken up.

It was questioned whether overseas applicants (not ODP) who failed the machine check should be able to sit the whole COP as they have travelled far – Pat indicated that if this was to occur then NZ trainees would also have to be offered the opportunity. A discussion took place around whether this would be fair to all candidates. It was also mentioned that the rules and regulations state that the COP must be sat before you can practise with an unrecognised qualification – Pat informed the floor that the executive needed to discuss this further. The question was also asked regarding the input on this matter of the NZQA the member was informed that the NZQA have nothing to do with the COP the member then suggested that we

change the rules and regulations. They were informed that the rules and regulations can only be changed if remits are put forward at the AGM.

The Education report was accepted

Remits:–

- **Proposal by Peter Barber to have an associate membership**

Questions were asked as to the reason for this Peter informed the members that this would allow Doctors and reps to join and would increase income and membership – Passed

- **To change wording to include “registered” in the training regulations**

Clarification was sought on whether this would be detrimental to any current trainees should the supervisor of training be an Anaesthetic Technician and not be registered, Andrew Warmington informed the group that existing trainees would not be affected – Unanimously Passed this will now read “NZATS registered qualified Anaesthetic Technician”

- **That permission by members be given to NZATS to obtain a levy from members to pay the registration board costs of \$21,000 approx that would be incurred**

Questions were asked as to the reason for the levy. The floor was informed that this was the cost to set up the administration and database. The levy would be approx \$50.

The registration fee would be in the region of \$500 - \$1000 and would be an annual fee

Questions were raised about ability to pay this increased fee - Karen informed the group that she had written to the PSA and NZNO so that this would be included in the contract negotiations. Karen was then asked if membership would be on top of registration and she confirmed this. It was commented on that the UK lost lots of members to the society when registration came in. Karen said that the NZATS is to work out a way of keeping members to the Society. Andrew Warmington explained that payment was required to the registering body to meet legal requirements and for efficiency. He commented that he thought \$500 was reasonable as the registering body needs to employ lawyers etc which are expensive.

The question was asked whether this would include indemnity insurance – Karen is looking into this.

Other discussions that took place were around the number of hours to maintain registration for Anaesthetic Technicians compared to Nursing.

Whether the NZSA and college of Anaesthetists had been approached for financial assistance – Andrew Warmington indicated our chances would be very limited as NZSA would need agreement of their membership and they also have financial restraints. Also it is our application.

The question was also as asked to why there wasn't a nationwide orientation package for trainees – Pat informed the group that Anaesthetic technology 1 was based on a step by step booklet through



the training from the very beginning and that this program will be monitored.

Is the job description nationally similar? – Karen said she thought so and that under registration we will be required to maintain professional development. The Executive is currently working on tools for maintenance of professional development.

Other items

- Peter Barber – thanked Intermed for supporting their regional meetings and requested that a member of the executive attended the meetings – The regional representative is the way of members gaining open forum to the executive.
- Peter also requested that meeting minutes be placed in The Script - minutes are on the website.

Meeting closed at 1715