

**MINUTES of the  
27th ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING of the  
MENZIES MEMORIAL SCHOLARS ASSOCIATION**

**held at Pier One, Walsh Bay Sydney**

**2.30pm on Thursday, 17 November 2016**

**Present**

Josephine Barbaro (*President*)  
Adrian McCallum (*Secretary*)  
Chester Brown  
Colleen Canning  
Sally Gainsbury  
Olsen Garland  
Leanne Hassett

Anne-Marie Hill  
Justin Hogan-Doran  
Sheree Hurn  
Matthew Kiernan  
Simon Maddocks  
Mahala McLindin  
Verity Pacey

Susanna Park  
Peter Parsons  
Bill Rawlinson  
Anina Rich  
David Riglar  
Nathan Van Wees  
Jamie Vandenberg

**1.0 Welcome**

Josie Barbaro welcomed all and introduced both Adrian McCallum and Sheree Hurn in their new office bearer roles. Josie particularly acknowledged Prof Simon Maddocks, the first Menzies Scholar to now serve as Chairman of the Menzies Foundation.

**2.0 Minutes of the previous meeting held on 26th Meeting, 26 Nov 2015**

The Minutes of the previous meeting previously distributed for approval; no apologies were noted.

**Motion:** That the Minutes of the previous meeting be approved.

*Moved: Jamie Vandenberg / Seconded: Simon Maddocks*

**3.0 Incoming Office Bearers**

Josie outlined the new structure whereby nominations for Secretary are called from the members of the Alumni Advisory Group. Josie advised that Sheree Hurn, 2010 Allied Health Sciences Scholar, had been successful in nominating as Secretary and that her appointment had been approved by the Board.

Josie wished Sheree and Adrian well in their new roles.

**Motion:** That Sheree's appointment as Secretary of the MMSA be ratified.

*Moved: Kate Peterson / Seconded: Anina Rich*

#### **4.0 Admission to the Register of Members**

The following people were congratulated on their recent award of a Menzies Scholarship and are to be added to the Register of Members as Associate Members:

- Allied Health Sciences 2017 Bernadette Brady PhD in Physiotherapy, WSU
- Engineering 2016 Olsen Garland MBA, London Business School
- International Law 2017 Lyndon Goddard LLM, University of Cambridge
- Law 2017 Nathan Van Wees BCL, Oxford University

#### **5.0 Menzies Centenary Prize Dimboola**

Kate Peterson gave a brief report on the benefits of attending the 2015 Dimboola Memorial Secondary College presentation night as a representative Menzies Scholar to present the Menzies Centenary Prize.

Josie sought a volunteer to make the 2016 presentation to recipient Andrew King in Dimboola on 15 December. No one volunteered for the overnight trip at the Meeting; Alumni to consider attendance; a reminder to be issued in the post-event online survey.

#### **6.0 MMSA initiatives from Strategic Plan**

##### **6.1 MMSA Communications/Online Presence & Survey**

Josie outlined key survey results including: response rate, scholar location, scholar relationship with the Menzies Foundation and the lack of clarity re purpose of MMSA.

Numerous Alumni noted that the role of the MMSA is unclear.

Josie further outlined that noted stories of scholars will continue to be outlined on the website, that web traffic is up, the external newsletter is proving a success and that the Facebook Group has been reinitiated.

Josie outlined that the scholars' video has been a useful asset. A number of highlighted scholars present noted their experience with the video production and the benefit of being involved.

Josie noted that new communications initiatives would be discussed in Feb 2017 at both a Foundation Board and Advisory Group level.

The establishment of a Menzies Scholar Blog would be further discussed by the Advisory Group.

##### **6.2 Mentoring Framework: update**

Adrian gave an update on the Menzies Mentoring framework and suggested that there appeared limited support or rationale for a standalone Mentoring framework via the Menzies Foundation website and that a less formal/'organic' mentoring process via existing preferred professional social media channels was probably preferable.

It was suggested that informal local networking events could be advantageous; however, others noted that the support for such initiatives in the past had been poor.

It was suggested that Alumni should be reminded via newsletters of the benefits, both tangible and otherwise, that are available to them as Alumni and that this may result in increasing Alumni engagement.

Discussion ensued re the need to link new scholars up with existing scholars at their academic institution in order to assist their transition. It was discussed that this does occur in some instances but perhaps this process should be formalised.

Adrian outlined the draft process for the re-engagement of scholars upon their return to Australia post-scholarship. Adrian emphasised the need to strongly engage personally with scholars immediately upon their return in an attempt to nurture their ongoing relationship with the Foundation. General support was expressed for this initiative.

### **6.3 Menzies Legal Sector Alliance for Thought Leadership & Academic Excellence: update**

Kate Peterson gave a brief update on this initiative. Discussions amongst working group members had concluded that such an initiative might divert energy from the Foundation as a whole; however, two other ideas were proposed that:

- thought leadership outside of law was ripe for investigation, with interdisciplinary engagement, and
- transition to the bar was a time when the law alumni can offer support to other alumni.

### **6.4 Alumni Advisory Group: ratification of Terms of Reference**

Josie spoke about the Alumni Advisory Group, the structure, members and its role.

Josie acknowledged that Foundation staff provide significant support to enable this Group.

Limited modifications are necessary in the ToR re the time period that alumni may serve on the Advisory Group due to a potential “clash” between the listed time frame (“Membership is for two years from appointment, with an option of a further two years”) and appointment of a member to Secretary/President in the final year/s of membership of the Advisory Group.

The existence and intent of the group was generally acknowledged to be a good idea.

Anne-Marie spoke on the merits of the Group, that it gives the opportunity for ongoing involvement and influence.

**Ratification:** That the Terms of Reference for the Alumni Advisory Group be ratified, noting incorporation of the minor change re time of service.

*Moved: Anne Marie Hill/Seconded: Colleen Canning*

### **7.0 Menzies Alumni Community Leadership Grants**

Josie gave a summary of the grants which are jointly sponsored by the Menzies Foundation and the Menzies Alumni. The inaugural recipients are:

1. The Satellite Foundation                      Dr Kerry Proctor (Allied Health Sciences, 2004)
2. Disability Sports Australia                      Dr Leanne Hasset (Allied Health Sciences, 2005)
3. Heartbeat of Football                              Dr Jamie Vandenberg (Medicine, 1989)

It was generally acknowledged that these grants offer a tangible means for the Menzies Alumni to support their communities whilst offering additional communication opportunities for the Menzies brand.

## 8.0 MMSA Finance Report

Adrian outlined the current state of the MMSA accounts and acknowledged the significant support that Foundation staff offer in managing and preparing information for the MMSA.

Adrian outlined the MMSA's contribution to the three initiatives to be jointly funded with the Foundation in 2017:

- Menzies Centenary Prize - \$5k
- Menzies Alumni Community Leadership Grants - \$15k
- Alumni Advisory Group meeting costs - \$2k

Chester Brown noted that it was unsustainable to continue transferring such sums of money, when the MMSA has limited income. Adrian acknowledged this concern and advised that this was one reason why the ongoing structure of the MMSA and relationship with the Foundation must necessarily be considered.

**Motion:** That the MMSA support the transfer of \$22K to the MF for the support of the three initiatives.

*Moved: Adrian McCallum / Seconded: Chester Brown*

## 9.0 Future role/structure of the MMSA

Adrian spoke to the differences that may arise between MMSA and Menzies Alumni.

Sheree highlighted additional distinctions between the structures.

It was noted that the dissolving of the Fulbright scholarships and the elimination of unnecessary structure is probably a sensible way to proceed.

It was acknowledged that the existing system is confusing; what role does the MMSA play? It can potentially facilitate disengagement. You can be an Alumni but not be a member of the MMSA?

Simon Maddocks noted his involvement in establishing the MMSA. It was established with the recognition that those who had direct links with Menzies would one day disappear and that something else might need to exist to sustain the ongoing work of the Foundation. It was designed to 'harness the alumni'.

Simon noted that the Menzies Foundation Board will hold a strategic workshop in February 2017. At the moment the Foundation does a lot of things; this needs to be examined. The Foundation needs to refine its compelling argument. "It is a time when hard questions need to be addressed..."

The MMSA was set up to be the 'future of the Foundation'; but the challenge is: what is the role of the MMSA?

What can the scholars do to support the Menzies Foundation?

If the MMSA gets absorbed into the Foundation and if scholarships are dissolved, what happens to the scholar base?

Simon proposed a briefly conceived new idea: if we all pledged to give up one day a year to do something that made a difference in someone else's life, what would you do? This could be the focus for social media etc.; and if that day was on the date of Sir Robert Menzies death: "Menzies Day?"

It could be a day to provide leadership in your local community; that this group of people can stand together for a common purpose.

Additionally, Simon challenged every alumni to give a financial amount every year to the MF.

He additionally posed: "What is it that would keep this Alumni group together?"

And: "What do we want the Alumni to be?"

Colleen suggested that at the very least, the MMSA name should be changed to Menzies Alumni, a more contemporary name.

## **10.0 Any Other Business**

Josie spoke re state based events. There has been limited response both in Victoria and NSW.

Anina Rich spoke about Menzies Alumni being used in a representative role by the Foundation; could this increase engagement from scholars?

Simon reiterated that all Alumni should highlight "Menzies Scholar" on any presentations that they deliver.

## **10.1 MMSA Excellence Awards**

Adrian advised that due to the limited meeting time remaining, that the MMSA Excellence Awards would be discussed at the next Advisory Group meeting.

Adrian thanked everyone for making the effort to attend the AGM and to provide support to the afternoon/evening functions.

Adrian proposed a vote of thanks to Josie for the time and commitment that she had made as MMSA President and as a member of the Menzies Foundation Board over the last two years. Adrian also acknowledged her professional success in recent times and on behalf of the Alumni, he wished her all the very best for her future professional career.

Josie closed the meeting at 4.20pm.