

## **Annual Report 2023 – AUSIT ACT Branch**

### **Committee for 2022–2023**

Chair:	Dave Deck
Secretary:	Mécia Freire
Treasurer:	Henry Chen
Branch delegate to NC:	Dave Deck
PD coordinator:	Jessie Huang
Membership liaison officer:	[ <i>vacant</i> ]
Other members:	Vesna Cvjeticanin, Gabrielle Edmonds

- While there have been no changes to the composition of the branch committee, the list above – particularly the inability to fill the MLO position, and the small number of ‘other members’ – highlights one of the difficulties the committee has faced: that the jobs that need to be done are spread across too few people. The fact that Vesna also held a busy position at national level (Vice-president Communications and PR) has exacerbated those difficulties. In addition, while Mécia – who was previously a committee member over many years, including as branch chair – has conscientiously carried out the duties of branch secretary, she agreed to fill that role only because there were no nominations by the time of the 2022 AGM.

### **Professional Development Activities**

- Because a number of PD activities are now being offered as webinars at national level, there has been less urgency to schedule local PD activities. The committee therefore decided to pause the planning of local PD events in the second half of 2022, and resume them in 2023.
- However, especially once the relaxing of Covid-19 restrictions made it possible to once again run in-person PD events, the committee also recognised the benefits of conducting them locally: namely that in-person events also allow members to meet each other and network face-to-face. In order to get the ‘best of both worlds’, and maximise AUSIT’s revenue from PD – and after discussion in the National PD Committee – whenever possible the committee has run (and plans to continue running) events in ‘hybrid’ mode: in-person attendance locally, but simultaneously live-streamed (and recorded) as a webinar.
- The first of these was a hybrid PD event on 28 February: ‘Meaning-based Translating and Interpreting (Pt 3 – Phrase Level)’, presented by Dave Deck. (This was a sequel to two previous webinars in the same series, which Dave presented in 2018 and 2019.) Fourteen members attended locally (and enjoyed light refreshments beforehand), and just over 100 participants attended remotely. After expenses (venue hire, refreshments) the net revenue for AUSIT was just over \$2,500.00.

### **Social Activities**

- The committee on several occasions scheduled Saturday coffee mornings at ‘Assembly’ in Barton, but as attendances were rarely more than half a dozen, is reviewing this activity and considering ideas for other social get-togethers.
- Similarly, members were invited to a ‘start-of-year’ get-together on 04 February at Southern Cross Yacht Club, Yarralumla, but unseasonally cold weather for that month appeared to discourage all but a handful of attendees.

### **The Year in Review**

- With only about 70 members of all types in the ACT branch at the most recent count (early August), organising a full program of PD and social events will no doubt always be a challenge – as will electing a branch committee of a suitable size to organise such events without overloading individual committee members.

- Our view is that 'rebuilding' the branch committee – and the branch as a whole – will need to be a gradual process that may not necessarily show dramatic results in the short term. The first priority that the committee has identified is to try to conduct more frequent PD events (a side effect of which will hopefully be to bring more members together physically, more often). To that end, the committee plans to make more use of webinars already on the AUSIT website that can be screened at a venue such as the YWCA; and also to look at inviting speakers from Sydney or Melbourne if not many can be found locally.
- As a second priority, the committee also hopes to find other forms of social event (and other venues for them) to encourage more frequent contact between practitioners in what tends to be an 'isolating' profession.
- One future event that the committee particularly has its eyes on is that in 2025 it will again be the ACT's turn to host the National Conference, as it did in 2017. Although National Council has now agreed that branches, even the larger ones, need the assistance of a professional conference organiser to host these conferences, which have been steadily growing larger as AUSIT gains more members, each conference still needs a local organising committee with local knowledge and local contacts.
- The committee had planned to seek affiliation with any local educational institution that offers T/I courses, as AUSIT has done in most other states, allowing AUSIT to encourage student membership and possibly gain access to lecture theatres or the like for PD events. However, we have now discovered that the only institution offering a relevant course (ANU, with an M Trans degree) discontinued that degree two years ago.
- Ultimately, though, the solution to the problem has to rest with branch members themselves: unless significant numbers of them attend the events – PD or social – that are organised, and unless more members offer their time and efforts as part of the branch committee, the branch as a whole will tend to limp along as it has for the past few years.

### **Thanks**

- The committee would like to thank the staff of NAATI, particularly Michael Nemarich as their Operations Manager, for making available the boardroom at the NAATI office in Deakin for committee meetings and other activities.
- Personally, as branch chair, I would like to thank the members of the committee for their support during the year.

Dave Deck  
Branch Chair