



AUSTRALIAN INSTITUTE OF INTERPRETERS AND TRANSLATORS

MINUTES

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
of the Western Australian Branch

DATE: Saturday, 19th September 2020
TIME: 1:00 pm - 2:00 pm
VENUE: Arts Lecture Room 5 [G61],
University of Western Australia,
Hackett Drive CRAWLEY WA 6009

Attendees:

Executive committee members

Catherine Pfammatter
Sally Wals
Elisa Michelini

General committee members

Natasha Brown
Ella Davies
Isabel von Prollius
Nora Pucci
Mary Street

Branch members

Whonam Perret
Aida Oye Gomez
Corinne Perrin
Xiaohua Zhao
Kamran Afshar
Khalil Albawy
Yumi Attfield
Kim T. Lai
Thi Kim Thi Nguyen

Matters:

1. Welcome by WA Branch Chair

Catherine Pfammatter welcomes members, introduces the AUSIT WA committee functions and activities, and declares all positions vacant.

2. Attendance and Apologies

Attendance: 17 people present, quorum reached

Apologies: Michèle Dreyfus, Cheng (Alfred) Gu, Yutaka Kawasaki, Vida Jafari Ark, Annamaria Arnall, Rossana Perino

3. Confirmation of the minutes of the WA Branch AGM 2019

Moved by Natasha Brown

Seconded by Isabel von Prollius

Carried unanimously

4. Report from the Branch Chair (Catherine Pfammatter)

Thanks to all committee members for the support to the association, this year we had a large committee hoping to organise the annual conference in Perth, but this has sadly been moved online due to Covid.

This year, the AUSIT WA branch ran 6 PD events:

- *“Are you Cybersafe?”*, 14th September 2019. Attendees learned about keeping documents protected, keeping passwords safe and having good anti-virus software installed.
- *Recertification Workshop & Panel*, 7th November 2019, at the State Library of WA. To help practitioners navigate through the process and requirements of NAATI recertification.
- *Interpreting in Court Settings*, 28th February 2020, Perth Magistrates Court of WA. This was our last face-to-face PD event before the Covid restrictions were enforced. Thanks to Ella for organising this with the Court and to Rocco Loiacono for the presentation and valuable discussion on the challenges of interpreting in court.
- *Tax Matters*, 13th May 2020. This was our first event conducted online via Zoom. The presenter from the ATO, Steven, was very knowledgeable and tailored his remarks for translators and interpreters.
- *Ethics Webinar*, 23rd July 2020 – This was an innovative Ethics session, held online via Zoom, and featuring scenarios taken from professional experiences in translating

and interpreting. Breakout rooms allowed for better discussion and more personal participant interaction.

- *Advance Care Planning Webinar*, 11th August 2020 - First national online event with around 70 attendees. Put together following a suggestion made by a branch member, Andrew Kozlowski, this webinar featured a panel composed of a medical practitioner and advocate of the Advance Care Planning practice, a social worker and an interpreter. It was a very rich three-way exchange, which offered different perspectives on the scenario.

Our branch also ran the following social events:

- *Branch AGM*, 10th August 2019, UWA. The AGM was preceded by the AUSIT Student excellence awards and presentations from the winning students on their research topics in translation.
- *Young Translator of the Year (YTY) competition*, 5th October 2019, UWA Murdoch Lecture Theatre. This was the fourth edition of this initiative and it was a huge success this year, also receiving a mention in the press! Special thanks to Annamaria Arnall and Natasha Brown for organising this event and increasing awareness of the T&I profession.
- *End-of-Year Social Event*, 6th December 2019, The Oxford Hotel, Leederville. Members joined together for a social end-of-year sundowner, to meet colleagues and chat over festive nibbles and drinks.
- *New Members Meet & Greet via Zoom*, 25th June 2020. A good initiative to meet our new branch members and allow them to put a face to committee members.

In this year, which should have seen WA hosting the AUSIT National Conference, there have been many changes to the way we run things. Thanks to our innovative PD Coordinator, Sally Wals, we have successfully transitioned to hosting online events and the audience for these has grown on a national level.

As always, the branch committee has provided support and shared their professional experience and advice as required. Particular thanks go to Elisa Michelini, who has kept us connected and on track even during lockdown.

We continue to work towards hosting a real, live conference in Perth in November 2021 and look forward to being able to welcome our interstate colleagues.

5. Report from the Branch Delegate to the National Council (Catherine Pfammatter)

Catherine took over as Branch Delegate from Yutaka Kawasaki, who covered the role for many years, stepping into the role after the Hobart conference. It was a steep learning curve to understand the scope of the association, which has grown from 855 members since October 2017 to 1535 members in October 2020 (+79.5%). At the national level, the

discussion is mostly about coordination between the States, and this year a lot of discussion was about innovation in offering online events.

A national initiative to mention, is the WA Interpreting scholarship. A lack of professionally trained interpreters in certain language pairs was identified in the State, so OMI, NAATI and AUSIT equally funded the WA Interpreting scholarship. The reason why this was offered in WA is because there was an issue with training at North Metro TAFE, and there was no real training course in place. The greatest need was identified in 5 or 6 languages, so suitable candidates were identified, screened, and selected. In the meantime, Babel college started offering a course with the same requirements, so the scholarship was offered to students from Babel as well. AUSIT also ran a mentoring session at Babel, where students could ask our committee members about 'real-life interpreting'.

Finally, the Perth conference became the online conference this year, but the theme that our branch chose was carried through in the National conference.

6. Report from the Treasurer and PD coordinator (Sally Wals)

This year, the transition online was very interesting as we can now offer PDs nationally and share responsibility nationally when organising content-heavy PDs. Something good came out of the pandemic, the technology was always there, but we now took the opportunity to use it. It is also a convenient way to be engaged.

The money generated this year is \$2,199.55. This figure doesn't include the 'Are You Cybersafe' amount, and was mostly generated from the Advanced Care Planning webinar. The money generated is used to organise future branch events.

Sally invites branch members to send an email if they want to share any ideas for PD events or good presenters. Also welcomes branch members to come along to a committee meeting.

7. Election of the Branch office bearers

All positions vacant. Election process moderated by Isabel von Prollius.

Motion by Sally Wals: Catherine Pfammatter be accepted as Chairperson.
Seconded by Elisa Michelini. No objections, carried unanimously.

Motion by Catherine Pfammatter: Elisa Michelini be accepted as Secretary.
Seconded by Isabel von Prollius. No objections, carried unanimously.

Motion by Natasha Brown: Sally Wals be accepted as Treasurer.
Seconded by Whonam Perret. No objections, carried unanimously.

Motion by Sally Wals: Catherine Pfammatter be accepted as WA branch Delegate.
Seconded by Elisa Michelini. No objections, carried unanimously.

Motion by Natasha Brown: Sally Wals be accepted as PD coordinator.
Seconded by Whonam Perret. No objections, carried unanimously.

Motion by Natasha Brown: Vida Jafari Ark be accepted as Membership Liaison Officer.
Seconded by Kamran Afshar. No objections, carried unanimously.

General committee members:

Nora Pucci - proposed by Catherine Pfammatter, seconded by Aida Oye Gomez
Mary Street - proposed by Catherine Pfammatter, seconded by Ella Davies
Khalil Albawy - proposed Kim T. Lai, seconded by Kamran Afshar
Kamran Afshar - proposed by Vida Jafari Ark, seconded by Natasha Brown
Aida Oye Gomez - proposed by Nora Pucci, seconded by Mary Street
Ella Davies - proposed by Catherine Pfammatter, seconded by Sally Wals
Natasha Brown - proposed by Vida Jafari Ark, seconded by Kamran Afshar
Isabel von Prollius - proposed by Elisa Michelini, seconded by Catherine Pfammatter

There were no votes against any motions, and no one present abstained from voting.

8. General Business:

Catherine Pfammatter introduces Corinne Perrin, French-English interpreter, who joined the national communications committee.

Sally invites members to attend our next social events: the International Translator's Day movie event on the 30th September and the End of Year party on the 11th December.

AGM closed 1:50pm