

**23rd ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
OF THE MENZIES MEMORIAL SCHOLARS ASSOCIATION**

**held at 12pm, 29 November 2012
210 Clarendon Street, East Melbourne**

MINUTES

23.0 Present

Laakso, Liisa (<i>President</i>)	Galvin, Jane	Pase, Matthew
De Sousa, Darel	Hassett, LeanneHill,	Pimanda, John
(<i>Secretary/Treasurer</i>)	Anne-Marie	Rawlinson, John
Barbaro, Josephine	Hogan-Doran, Justin	Shekhar, Rohan
Bigos, Oren	Hooper, John	Souvlis, Tina
Chang, Angela	Huntington, Nicholas	Vandenberg, Jamie
Dobson, Fiona	McCarthy, Maria	Ward, Stephanie
Gainsbury, Sally	O'Neill, John	
	O'Shea, Simone	

23.1 Welcome and Apologies

The President, Liisa Laakso, welcomed those attending the 23rd meeting of the MMSA.

Anderson, Karen	Graves, Stephen	Park, Susan
Arkwright, Peter	Hall, Leanne	Peterson, Kathryn
Barrett, Jaci	Hartford-Davis, Sebastian	Proctor, Kerry
Bond, David	Heath, Will	Raffin, Luke
Brown, Chester	Hogan-Doran, Dominique	Rich, Anina
Cassidy, Maja	Jenkinson, Mark	Savulescu, Julian
Chien, Andy	Kenny, Susan	Siskind, Dan
Darian-Smith, Mark	Kenyon, Andrew	Slatyer, Tracy
Dawson, Anna	Kiernan, Matthew	Spagnolo, Benjamin
Dawson, Sarah-Jane	Lamond, Grant	Thiagarajan, Premala
Dennis, Carina	Leon, Renee	Upcher, James
Dinelli, Albert	Ludlow, Marie	Van Zwieten, Kristin
Donaghue, Stephen	Mackenzie, Anne	Walsh, Deborah
Epstein, Richard	Maddocks, Simon	West, Alexandra
Estcourt, Marie	Nix, Sheree	Wilkins, Stefanie
Fetter, Joel	O'Hehir, Robyn	Worthley, Dan
Fleming, Jennifer	Pacey, Verity	
Gibson, Belinda	Pang, Ken	

Liisa Laakso noted that the combination of those Scholars in attendance at the meeting coupled with those who had sent in apologies indicated a good degree of engagement by Scholars.

23.2 Minutes of the previous meeting held on 24 November 2011

The minutes of the previous meeting were distributed prior to the meeting and were available for reading at the meeting.

Motion: That the minutes of the previous meeting be approved.

Moved: Liisa Laakso

Seconded: Simone O'Shea

23.3 Business Arising from the Minutes

Nil

23.4 President's Report

The past 12 months have been a time of stability for the MMSA.

The primary aim of the year has been to explore ways in which the MMSA could contribute to the objectives of the Foundation including its fund-raising efforts. The Secretary-Treasurer (Dariel De Sousa) is working on some potential opportunities focused on the Law alumni, awareness raising and fundraising. Liisa Laakso's efforts have been around exploring opportunities to partner with the professional societies on a jointly-funded scholarship as well as developing possibilities for a centre for allied health research excellence and integrated care. The latter initiative is being promoted through joint activities of the Foundation and a number of universities in three states.

Dariel De Sousa and Liisa Laakso have also had the pleasure of contributing to the interview panels for short-listed candidates for the Law and AH Scholarships, respectively. These are tremendous opportunities to not only give back to the Foundation but to see the continuing high quality of the applicants. If past scholars have the opportunity to contribute to scholarship selection processes, they are urged to do so.

Liisa Laakso congratulated and welcomed the new Menzies scholars and the Menzies Centenary Prize winner. Liisa Laakso also thanked the alumni for their continued donations to the MMSA's contribution to the Menzies Centenary Prize.

The President also thanked the secretariat for their work on behalf of the MMSA and wished Sandra Mackenzie well in her retirement, and Pam Shearman the very best in taking over.

Motion: That the President's report be accepted.

Moved: Liisa Laakso; Seconded: Fiona Dobson

23.5 Secretary/Treasurer's Report

23.5.1 Financial Report

	2012	2012	2011
Balance at Bank as at 1 Nov 2011:		\$39,544	\$34,526
Income:			
Menzies Scholars Association donations:	3,350		
Menzies Centenary Prize Donations:	<u>5,116</u>	8,466	
Deposit Interest*		<u>1,664</u>	
Total Income		\$10,130	\$10,018
Total Expenditure: Menzies Centenary Prize		- <u>5,000</u>	- 5,000
Balance at Bank as at 1 Nov 2012 :		\$44,325	\$39,544

*Funds in the deposit account are currently attracting an interest rate of 3.25%

Motion: That the Treasurer's Report be accepted.

Moved: Dariel De Sousa; Seconded: Tina Souvlis

23.5.2 Donations

Scholars discussed whether it would be timely to increase the level of requested donations to the Foundation and for the Menzies Centenary Prize. The donation levels at present are \$50 and \$80 respectively.

It was noted that there is some diversity among scholars in terms of their financial resources and that it would not be possible for certain scholars with limited financial means to increase the current level of donations. Nevertheless, it was agreed that it would be acceptable to encourage scholars to voluntarily donate more than the agreed amounts. This could be facilitated by providing more information both in the Brief and in the donation form regarding what the donations will be used for, particularly the benefits for recipients of the Menzies Centenary Prize. A photo of the recipient of the Dimboola prize and the course that the recipient would pursue with the prize money could provide useful context.

23.6 General Business

23.6.1 Welcome to new Scholars

The meeting congratulated all new Scholars who were awarded scholarships in 2012.

Allied Health Sciences:	Mrs Verity Pacey
Engineering:	Ms Mahala McLindin
Law:	Mr David Heaton
RG Menzies Harvard:	Mr Matthew Brown Ms Jessica Roth Mr Tristan Webster
NHMRC/RG Menzies Fellowship:	Dr Sarah-Jane Dawson

23.6.2 MMSA Membership: Admission to the Register of Members

Applications for MMSA Membership were received from the following scholars:

Full Membership:

Flynn, Patrick	Law (Cambridge)	2001
McCallum, Adrian	Engineering (Cambridge)	2011
Thiagarajan, Premala	Law (Oxford)	2005

Associate Membership:

Dawson, Sarah-Jane	Medicine (Cambridge)	2012
Heaton, David	Law (Oxford)	2012
McLindin, Mahala	Engineering (Oxford)	2012
Pacey, Verity	AHS	2012

Motion: That the new Full and Associate applicants be admitted to the Register of Members.

Moved: John Hooper; Seconded: Fiona Dobson

23.6.3 Menzies Centenary Prize (Dimboola)

Liisa Laakso noted that she will be presenting the Dimboola Prize for 2012. Simone O'Shea presented the prize in 2012 and explained how wonderful an experience it was. Liisa Laakso encouraged other scholars to consider presenting the Dimboola Prize in the future.

Liisa Laakso noted that the criteria for the Dimboola Prize provides that the prize will be "awarded to a Year 12 student as a contribution to the cost of the first and second years of tertiary study ... [A]lthough the primary criterion will be academic achievement, the successful candidate will be a person deemed to have made an outstanding contribution to the life of the College over at least two years". Liisa Laakso raised the possibility that the final year score for recipients of the Dimboola Prize has progressively been reducing and that it was conceivable that, in the future, the top student at the College will not have the requisite results to undertake tertiary education.

Scholars concluded that it would be preferable to maintain the current criteria to provide College students with an aspirational goal to attend university. Scholars also raised the possibility of providing recipients of the Dimboola Prize with on-line support, particularly for those students who have never lived outside of their local community. It was also suggested that a community of former recipients of the Dimboola Prize could be created to provide a support network for future recipients.

Motion: That the criteria for the Menzies Centenary Prize be maintained.

Moved: Anne-Marie Hill; Seconded: Tina Souvlis

23.6.4 Menzies Brief

Dariel De Sousa noted that, at present, the Menzies Brief is issued, on average, twice a year. The Brief typically contains information and news about Scholars. More recently, a section in the Brief has been included to "spotlight" scholars, including information about their careers, interests and how the Menzies Scholarship has affected their lives. Dariel De Sousa encouraged Scholars who received a request to be spotlighted to take 10-15 minutes to respond to the spotlight questions.

Scholars considered the current format, content and frequency of the Brief and agreed that the current approach was ideal. However, it was recommended that, in future, the Brief should contain reminders about key dates for the Foundation and for Scholars, particularly the MMSA AGM and Menzies Foundation Annual Dinner.

Motion: That the current format, content and frequency of the Brief be maintained.

Moved: Angela Chang; Seconded: Tina Souvlis

23.6.5 Sponsorship of Menzies lecture/presentation/workshop for 2013

Liisa Laakso noted that an amount of \$5,000 is available from the Foundation each year for sponsorship of a Menzies lecture, presentation, workshop or conference session to raise the profile of Scholars and the Foundation.

Liisa Laakso received \$5,000 from the Foundation in 2012 to partly cover attendance of a world-renowned speaker from Norway at the World Association of Laser Therapy conference. The Foundation was promoted in material received by attendees at the relevant session of the conference.

Liisa Laakso encouraged other scholars to consider opportunities for sponsorship in 2013. John Hooper recommended that information about this opportunity be included in the Menzies Brief.

Motion: That information regarding sponsorship by the Foundation for a Menzies lecture/presentation/workshop be included in the Brief.

Moved: John Hooper; Seconded: Tina Souvlis

23.7 Public Awareness activities

23.7.1 Inaugural Menzies Scholar Lecture – Julian Savulescu

Dariel De Sousa noted that the Foundation hosted the inaugural Menzies Scholar Lecture by Julian Savulescu at Clarendon Terrace on 24 September. The lecture was well-attended by around 60 people, most of whom were new to the Foundation. The Menzies Scholar Lecture is an important vehicle to profile Scholars and raise awareness of the Foundation.

23.7.2 Media – Science-in-Public

Liisa Laakso noted that Tim Thwaites from Science-in-Public had been engaged to help raise awareness of the Foundation. A media release had been prepared announcing the winners of the Menzies Scholarships for 2012.

23.7.3 Fundraising

Dariel De Sousa noted some options for Scholars to assist the Foundation with its fundraising activities. Helen Woods, the Foundation's fundraising consultant, also noted some ideas for Scholars to become engaged in fundraising activities.

Scholars expressed interest in contributing to these activities and were encouraged to provide the Committee with any additional ideas of ways in which Scholars could assist. Scholars also requested information/a brochure that they could use when they approach potential donors and/or entities with which to collaborate. Dariel De Sousa noted that a brochure is in the process of being finalised and a tailored version will be prepared for each of the disciplines.

23.8 Other Business

Professor John Mathews, the Foundation's Executive Director, attended the meeting to summarise the main activities and areas of focus of the Foundation.

Professor Mathews noted the transformational impact that the Foundation had had on many Scholars. He emphasised that the Foundation is faring well financially, despite recent economic woes. However, the Foundation is looking forward to the future, to identify ways in which the profile of the Foundation could be enhanced and to ensure that the scholarships can be sustained. A newly developed brochure prepared by the Foundation entitled "A foundation for the future" would help to attract additional funds for the future.

Professor Mathews noted that Scholars could play a greater role in relation to the affairs and activities of the Foundation, particularly given that a number of Scholars are leaders in the various professions. The Menzies Brief could also be used to raise awareness of the Foundation's activities and the positive impact of the scholarship program.

The meeting closed at 1:30 pm.

The AGM was followed by excellent presentations from Dr John Hooper, Justin Hogan-Doran, Dr Anne-Marie Hill and Dr Stephanie Ward. Thanks to all the speakers who provided some insights into their areas of research and expertise. Scholars were joined by special guests, Board members and the media and fundraising consultants to hear the presentations.