

**MINUTES OF THE 24th ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
OF THE MENZIES MEMORIAL SCHOLARS ASSOCIATION**

held at 12pm, 21 November 2013
210 Clarendon Street, East Melbourne

24.0 Present

Laakso, Liisa (<i>President</i>)	Dobson, Fiona	Park, Susanna
De Sousa, Dariel (<i>Secretary/Treasurer</i>)	Galvin, Jane	Pase, Matthew
	Hill, Anne-Marie	Peterson, Kathryn
	Kiernan, Matthew	Pimanda, John
Ash, Christopher	McCallum, Adrian	Sathanapally, Aruna
Coff, Brittany	Nix, Sheree	Shekhar, Rohan
Darian-Smith, Mark	O'Shea, Simone	Williams, Frances
	Pang, Ken	Wu, Zhichao

24.1 Welcome and Apologies

The President, Liisa Laakso, welcomed those attending the 24th meeting of the MMSA.

Apologies (please see Appendix 1 - last page)

24.2 Minutes of the previous meeting held on 29 November 2012

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: John Pimanda / Seconded: Fiona Dobson

24.3 President's Report

As my term as President of the MMSA comes to a close, I refer to the most recent Menzies Brief in which I have made some comments in the President's column. In addition to those comments, I wish to flesh out some details of the past 12 months or so, since the last MMSA annual meeting.

This year we saw the retirement of the Menzies Foundation Executive Director Prof John Matthews, and the appointment of the Foundation's new CEO Sarah Hardy. I took the opportunity on Prof Matthews' retirement to wish him well on behalf of the MMSA and to present him with a small gift of thanks on our behalf. Scholars will have received information about the new CEO and I take the opportunity in this annual report to wish Sarah well in her new position for which she is eminently qualified to take the Foundation in to its next phase. The MMSA looks forward to playing its part in this next phase.

Last year we saw the retirement of stalwart Sandra Mackenzie who has since been appointed a Director of the Foundation. It is fortunate that Sandra will continue her involvement given her long association with the Foundation and her memory of, and association with Menzies Scholars. The initiative to develop state chapters of Scholars was trialled with a proposed meeting with Sandra Mackenzie and MMSA Secretary-Treasurer,

Dariel De Sousa in Melbourne. Unfortunately, the initiative did not produce the outcomes envisaged, so a subsequent meeting in Queensland did not go ahead either. I have suggested that perhaps discipline chapters may have a greater chance of success – the thoughts of Scholars would be appreciated on this idea or alternative suggestions would be welcomed.

I have been involved over the last 3 years or so in discussions and planning towards the development of a Menzies-auspice Allied Health Research Centre. Progress has been slow yet incremental, and there now appears to be some positive developments taking shape. I would hope that the new President of the MMSA will be able to report on significant developments at the next annual meeting.

In relation to electronic communications, I have continued to “tweet” regarding appropriate topics but this avenue requires further development. The Facebook page and the Twitter account will be the subject of further review in the coming period as part of the Foundation strategic planning process. I would encourage those with an interest and predilection for such technologies to become involved as opportunities arise. Continuing the process that gained a soft start under the former President (Dr Marie Estcourt), the main personal aim that I had of my Presidency was to gently call Scholars ‘to arms’ – to bring Scholars in to the MMSA after time away but more specifically to consider how we each repay the generosity of the Foundation which set the majority of us on our career pathways. I have tried to give back to the Foundation through my activities within the MMSA, and have done that freely and largely without compensation for my time or costs.

There are many ways by which Scholars might consider ‘giving back’ to the Foundation, not all of which involve money. This includes the annual visit to Dimboola Memorial Secondary College to present the Menzies Centenary Prize. My visit in 2012 was an excellent opportunity to engage with the history of the Foundation and Sir Robert, his formative years and community, as well as to take some annual leave to visit a part of country Victoria that I would not have visited otherwise. Last year’s trip was so positive that I have put my hand up to do it again in 2013 but to take a bit more time to see the countryside and experience its delights. I encourage anyone who has an interest, to volunteer for this opportunity.

The outcomes of my time in the role as MMSA President are hard to measure. We can look at the numbers of Scholars who attend or submit apologies for the Annual Meeting as an indicator of Scholar interest; and we note that these numbers are increasing year-by-year but this may simply mean we are adding to our Scholars list rather than gaining traction in MMSA activity. At this stage of the MMSA, I think the only way to evaluate personal engagement with the MMSA is mostly in our hearts, as we consider the benefit that we have each individually gained from a Menzies Scholarship in whatever discipline it may have been awarded. I would hope that as the MMSA continues to mature we will be able to measure more objectively our collective activity, so I urge you to become involved in the strategic planning process and opportunities that might arise from the process.

I have enjoyed the opportunity to sit on the Board of Directors of the Foundation and to gain a clearer insight in to the activities of a not-for-profit organisation, the way that the

Foundation’s monetary corpus is managed, and the highly significant work in which the Foundation has been and remains engaged. The Foundation Directors are well-qualified, connected and knowledgeable, and I thank them for their generosity of spirit and their on-going commitment to ensuring that the youth of today become the Scholars of tomorrow, and the leaders of the future.

I wish to also recognize the unfailing commitment and support provided by Pam and Anne-Maree of the Foundation secretariat. No request either small, large or otherwise has been too much. Their desire to see the MMSA succeed and for Scholars to do well makes the role of President such a pleasure. Their knowledge of procedures and matters associated with the MMSA has been invaluable.

Finally, I extend my best wishes to the incoming President, Dariel De Sousa and the new Secretary-Treasurer. In particular, I wish to thank Dariel for her commitment, generation of ideas, efficiency and all that she has done in her role as Secretary-Treasurer over the last couple of years. I hope that all Scholars will provide to the incoming MMSA executive the continued support and enthusiasm that I have received from you over the last four years in the service of the MMSA.

A/Prof Liisa Laakso

Menzies Allied Health Science Scholar, 1991

Motion: That the President's report be accepted.

Moved: Liisa Laakso / Seconded: Mark Darian-Smith

24.4 Secretary/Treasurer’s Report

24.4.1 Financial Report

The donations and expenditure report (set out below in Table 1) was presented and discussed.

Table 1. Menzies Memorial Scholars Association Donations and Expenditure,
1 November 2012- 31 October 2013

Year	INCOME				EXPENDITURE			FUNDS AVAILABLE
	MMSA Donations	Menzies Centenary Prize (Dimboola) Donations	TOTAL DONATIONS	Interest Income	Menzies Centenary Prize (Dimboola) Expenditure	Other Expenditure	TOTAL EXPENDITURE	
2008	\$1,925	\$1,895	\$3,820	88	(\$1,500)		\$1,500	
2009	\$2,350	\$2,610	\$4,960	2	(\$5,000)	(500)	\$5,500	
2010	\$4,630	\$3,910	\$8,540	1,503	(\$5,000)		\$5,000	
2011	\$3,425	\$4,925	\$8,350	1,668	(\$5,000)		\$5,000	
2012	\$3,350	\$5,116	\$8,466	1,664	(\$5,000)	(349)	\$5,349	
2013	\$4,855	\$5,765	\$10,620	\$1,620	(\$5,000)	(1,632)	\$6,632	
Balance at Bank							\$60,441	
Less PAYMENT DUE for 2013 MCP							\$5,000	\$55,441

It was noted that, while the number of MMSA members has progressively increased to 121 members at present, the level of MMSA donations has not increased at the same rate. It was also noted that the funds currently available to the MMSA will be used in the future to cover air travel to the AGM and annual dinner in exceptional circumstances, such as cases where scholars have just returned from study and are not yet employed and where scholars are facing difficult financial circumstances. The funds could also be used to support engagement and strategic activities undertaken by the MMSA in the future. The Dimboola donations will continue to be used to support this important prize.

Motion: That the Treasurer's Report be accepted.

Moved: Dariel De Sousa / Seconded: Anne-Marie Hill

24.4.2 Donations

It was noted that the recommended donation levels at present are \$50 and \$80 respectively for the MMSA donation and the Dimboola donation. However, scholars are free to donate more than the recommended amounts. It was suggested that scholars could take into account the level and likely use of the MMSA funds in deciding how much to donate.

24.5 General Business

24.5.1 Welcome to new Scholars

The meeting congratulated all new Scholars who were awarded scholarships in 2013.

- The Sir Robert Menzies Memorial Research Scholarship in the Allied Health Sciences for 2014-2015 has been awarded to Mr Zhichao Wu.
- The Sir Robert Menzies Memorial Scholarship in Engineering for 2014 has been awarded to Mr David Bowly.
- The Sir Robert Menzies Memorial Scholarship in Law for 2014 has been awarded to Mr Christopher Ash.
- The inaugural recipient of the Sir Ninian Stephen Menzies Scholarship in International Law for 2014 is Ms Christine Ernst.

24.5.2 MMSA Membership: Admission to the Register of Members

Applications for MMSA Membership were received from the following scholars:

Full Membership:

Johns, Fleur	Harvard (Law)	1995
Rao, Aparna	Oxford (Law)	2009
Hartford-Davis, Sebastian	Oxford (Law)	2010

Associate Membership:

Ash, Christopher	Oxford (Law)	2014
Wu, Zhichao	Centre for Eye Research – AHS	2013
Ernst, Christine	Oxford (NSM)	2014
Bowly, David	Cambridge (Engineering)	2014

Motion: That the new members and associate members be admitted to the Register of Members.

Moved: Liisa Laakso / Seconded: Simone O'Shea

24.5.3 Menzies Centenary Prize (Dimboola)

The Menzies Centenary Prize (Dimboola) for 2013 has been awarded to Louis Haines.

Liisa Laakso noted the importance of the Dimboola prize for recipients of the prize, the recipient's school and the broader Dimboola community. A number of attendees expressed how enjoyable the visit to Dimboola is. Liisa Laakso noted that she will be presenting the Dimboola Prize for 2013. Fiona Dobson indicated that she would be willing to make the presentation in 2014.

24.6 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 lecture, presentation, workshop or conference session to raise the profile of Scholars and the Foundation.

In 2013, the Foundation sponsored Dr Maria McCarthy's presentation on psychosocial screening at the recent Annual Scientific Meeting for ANZCHOG (Australia and New Zealand Children's Haematology Oncology Group) which was held in Melbourne.

Liisa Laakso encouraged other scholars to consider opportunities for sponsorship in 2014. She noted that scholars should lodge their application as soon as they become aware of the need for funding.

Liisa Laakso also noted that the Foundation offers a competitive "start-up" grant to Menzies Allied Health Sciences Scholars who have completed their PhD within the previous 5 years. This is a single payment of \$25,000 to help the Scholar's research at an early stage of his/her career. In 2013, the Start-Up Grant was awarded to Dr Sheree Nix at the Queensland University of Technology in furthering podiatry research into the impact of foot problems and foot wear as contributing factors towards major health problems such as, falls in older adults and diabetic foot complications

24.7 Other Business

24.7.1 Retirement of Executive Director

Liisa Laakso noted the retirement of Professor John Mathews, the Foundation's former Executive Director. She commended Professor Mathews for the extraordinary work that he had done despite difficult personal circumstances, which he had faced in more recent times. Liisa Laakso had presented a gift and card to Professor Mathews on behalf of the MMSA to thank him for his significant contribution to the Foundation.

24.7.2 Appointment of new CEO

Liisa Laakso noted the appointment of Sarah Hardy, the Foundation's new CEO. Liisa Laakso referred to Sarah's long-standing support for philanthropic organisations. Sarah will help the Foundation respond to changing economic conditions and, particularly, will assist with the Foundation's fundraising activities. Through the strategic review process, Sarah is likely to oversee change regarding the direction of the Foundation, which could provide opportunities for scholars to become more involved.

24.7.3 Context for strategic planning process

Dariel De Sousa noted that, as the community of scholars grows, the opportunities for the MMSA to contribute to furthering the MMSA's strategic objectives will also grow.

Dariel De Sousa noted that the role for the MMSA to support the Foundation to assist the community is well-documented in a letter from David Morgan (Medicine Scholar 1985) to the Foundation in 1988, where David conceived the establishment of the MMSA. In that letter, David stated that "This group which would naturally draw members from both the legal and medical professions, will by definition grow in numbers as the years pass by and could in time become a formidable force in the field of community service."

Dariel De Sousa noted that the strategic session for the MMSA that would be facilitated by Sarah Hardy after the AGM would help to identify ideas of ways in which the MMSA could help to fully realise this vision.

24.7.4 Facebook

Dariel De Sousa noted that a former MMSA President, Marie Estcourt, established a Facebook page for the MMSA. However, it had remained largely inactive since its establishment. Marie Estcourt had indicated that she would be willing to re-activate the website and include the current MMSA President and Secretary as administrators.

Liisa Laakso noted that the Facebook page could potentially help to enhance interaction between scholars but would also be the public face of the MMSA. Anne-Marie Hill suggested that other avenues may be preferable for professional interactions like Research Gate or LinkedIn.

Dariel De Sousa suggested that the issue of the use and function of a Facebook page by the MMSA could be considered in the context of the strategic review.

24.7.5 Sir Ninian Stephen Menzies Scholarship in International Law

Dariel De Sousa noted that, thanks to concerted efforts by members of the Board and Secretariat (particularly Brian Doyle and Professor Mathews), the Foundation had managed to launch another scholarship in law to complement the existing Sir Robert Menzies Memorial Scholarship in Law. The Commonwealth Government and other benefactors have contributed to the Sir Ninian Stephen Menzies Scholarship in International Law, which will help to endow it in perpetuity.

24.7.6 Retirement of Liisa Laakso

Dariel De Sousa expressed thanks and commended Liisa Laakso for her 4 years of service to the MMSA – 2 years as Secretary and 2 years as President. Liisa's commitment and dedication is particularly commendable given the long distances she was required to travel to attend Board meetings and MMSA events.

24.8 Election of Office Bearers

Dariel De Sousa was voted as President for 2014 - 2015.

Moved: Liisa Laakso / Seconded: Fiona Dobson

Adrian McCallum was voted as Secretary for 2014 - 2015

Moved: Dariel De Sousa / Seconded: Anne-Marie Hill

The meeting closed at 1:00 pm.

The AGM was followed by a strategic planning session facilitated by Sarah Hardy, with Sandra Mackenzie in attendance.

In the afternoon, the MMSA had the benefit of hearing excellent presentations from:

Dr Sheree Nix (AHS 2010)

Brittany Coff (Engineering 2012) and

Dr Susanna Park (NHMRC/Menzies Fellow 2010)

Thanks to all the speakers who provided some insights into their areas of research and expertise. Scholars were joined by Board members to hear the presentations.

Appendix 1 - Apologies

Arkwright, Peter
 Barbaro, Josephine
 Barrett, Jaci
 Beshar, Sarah
 Bigos, Oren
 Bowly, David
 Brauer, Sandy
 Canning, Colleen
 Chien, Andy
 Dawson, Anna
 Dawson, Sarah-Jane
 Dennis, Carina
 Ernst, Christine
 Estcourt, Marie
 Fleming, Jennifer
 Gainsbury, Sally
 Gibson, Belinda
 Golder, Ben

Hannaford, Simon
 Hardcastle, Rohan
 Hartford-Davis, Sebastian
 Hassett, Leanne
 Heath, William
 Heaton, David
 Hogan-Doran, Dominique
 Hogan-Doran, Justin
 Huntington, Nick
 Jenkins, Misty
 Kenny, Susan
 Knott (Joshua), Nicole
 Ludlow, Marie
 Mackenzie, Anne
 Maddocks, Simon
 Martin, Sarah
 McCarthy, Leisa
 O'Hehir, Robyn

O'Neill, John
 Pacey, Verity
 Palmer, Andrew
 Rawlinson, Bill
 Rich, Anina
 Rubenstein, Kim
 Savulescu, Julian
 Smith, Julia
 Souvlis, Tina
 Spagnolo, Benjamin
 Staker, Chris
 Sutanto, David
 Tayal, Dev
 Thiagarajan, Premala
 Van Zwieten, Kristin
 West, Alexandra