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ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING – ISANA VIC/TAS

Thursday 17 November 2022

AGM Chair: Paula Durance

Attendees: Del Gavin-Cox, Helen Nicholls-Stary, Sharon Cook, Francois Bertoliatti, Anil Shrestha, Alan Clarke, Sue Oulton, Saranya Tosomran, Amy Dyriakopoulos, Nick Lo, Martina Casolini, Hiroko Suzuki, Xuan Liu, Ting Zheng, Zita Tattersall, Danielle Hartridge, Vanessa Prasad, Valeriya Ignateva, Margaret Dawson, Coby Liew, Nicole Barnes, Paula Durance, Karen Taylor, Gary, Lee, Melanie Duncan, Wendy Blastock, William Wong (Siong Chen), Jen Walsh, Celia Yeo

Apologies: Molly Bonnefin

The meeting commenced at 3.02 pm and was held online, via Zoom. Helen Nicholls-Stary welcomed everyone and advised she has asked Paula Durance to Chair. Paula welcomed everyone to the AGM and advised that she would like to add Business Arising as point 7 to the Agenda.

1. **Acceptance of Minutes of previous AGM held on 23/11/2021**

Proposed: Danielle Hartridge

Seconded: Helen Nicholls-Stary

2. **President's Report – Helen Nicholls-Stary**

2022 has been a busy and productive year. Our third year of COVID, it has been a transitional year in many ways as we have moved to living with COVID in the community and as international students returned to study in Australia.

With the borders opening at the commencement of the year, it soon became apparent that the Chinese students were not immediately returning to study in Australia with 80% remaining offshore. Later in the year this figure changed to 50% Chinese students continuing to study online and it is predicted that Chinese students may not return to Australia in substantial numbers for face-to-face teaching until early 2023. The return of Indian and Nepalese students rose significantly however the visa processing times have caused long delays.

Many educational providers benefited from the Australian Government's 50 million International Education Resilience Program.

ISANA Vic/Tas along with the sector continued to pivot and adapt as changes were introduced with work limits removed for international students and welcomed visa extensions for graduates were announced.

During the year Vic/Tas Committee sought the views of members and provided input and representation in a variety of ways:

- Fire Rescue Victoria – Focus Group
- OHS Deed Review Submission
- Safe Streets in the CBD – Research
- ESOS Review
- Victorian Government International Student Recovery Plan Feedback Submission
- Victorian International Student Awards Judging Panel

The 'Industry Check Ins' and networking events – enabled the Committee to identify the challenges being experienced by our members, and plan relevant

professional development sessions to keep our members informed and up to date and foster best practice.

A range of professional development and networking opportunities were provided to meet the needs of our members. These sessions were mainly online, ensuring our Tasmanian and regional members could access the sessions. Face to face sessions were also provided along with networking opportunities which members and non-members attended and connected with the sector.

Topics included:

Update on Victoria's New Child Safe Standards, by Skye Rose, Moores & Jen Walsh ISANA Vice President Planning and Development.

Academic Integrity, by Dr Helen Gneil, Director Higher Education Integrity Unit, TEQSA

Session 1 Cross Cultural Communication – Intercultural Impacts of Communication with International Students, by Professor Shanton Chang

Session 2 Cross Cultural Communication - Cultural Diversity and the Digital Experiences of International Students, by Professor Shanton Chang

Update on Changes to the OSHC, by Mary Barry, Product Manager, BUPA

During the year we have continued to work with key stakeholders such as Study Melbourne, City of Melbourne, Mental Health Victoria, Moores Legal, VicWISE, SCAPE and IGLU student accommodation to improve the experience of international students.

During May, International Student Week was held in Melbourne and working with the City of Melbourne, Vic/Tas Committee members along with invited international students attended a variety of events, such as the Flower Show and LUME. Committee members experienced in the sector were able to share these experiences with the international students and in an informal setting provide information and guidance on how to enter the sector.

2023 will be another exciting year as we are already planning for the State Conference in September. The Vic/Tas Committee will continue to provide a calendar of relevant PD sessions and networking opportunities for members throughout the year.

As we move towards the end of the year, we are delighted to hear that Australia has now moved to 2nd place as the preferred destination for international students, with the top location being Canada. Melbourne has climbed another position to rank 5th in the world following the release of the [QS best student city rankings 2023](#) . This makes Melbourne Australia's number 1 student city for international students for the 8th year in a row.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the wonderful Vic/Tas Committee members who have worked together through the year to provide the PD and Networking session and have taken the lead in the submission to provide the voice of the members.

I would also like to thank ISANA National for their support and thank the members, for your continued support.

Received: Gary Lee

Seconded: Wendy Blastock

3. Treasurer's Report: Danielle Hartridge

Opening Balance	\$31,296.32
Income from	\$ 3,129.68
- sponsorship and PD sessions	
Less expenses	\$ 313.65
Current balance	\$34,112.35

Received: Margaret Dawson

Seconded: Sharon Cook

Sharon Cook: Provided an update on the NSW Project – LIVE International Student Mental Health Took Kit and suggested that for approx. \$1,000 Vic/Tas could have a project where these recourses are adapted for Vic/Tas members showing local resources.

4. Election of Office Bearers

Confirmed, uncontested nominations:

Communications Coordinator	:	Nick Ko
PD Coordinator	:	Gary Lee
PD Coordinator	:	Coby Liew
Regional Representative	:	Zita Tattersall
Schools Representative	:	Alan Clark
Committee Member & Conference Support	:	Paula Durance
Tasmanian Representative/VET Representative	:	Khim Guatam

5. Business Arising

Continuing the discussion from the 2021 ISANA Vic/Tas AGM where it was raised there were challenges for ISANA moving forward.

Margaret Dawson:

- The Committee positions are not relevant and people are not putting their hands up to come on the Committees.
- We need a membership drive
- With the review of the website we need to ask members their views
- With so many PD's offered online we need to ask members what should be provided by National and what provided by the State Branch.

Sharon Cook:

- Helen raised the issues identified at the 2021 AGM with National and these points were discussed over the one and a half day planning sessions. In relation to the changes to the Constitution, the changes really relate to the changing of the Governance Manual and it was decided that this was not a priority for the first year and would be considered for the second year.
- I have made many notes and will be raising these points at our next National Planning session.
- A survey of the members could be undertaken at the Vic/Tas level from your budget.

Danielle Hartridge:

- Provided an update on the International Student Best Practice Engagement Project that she is involved with and how there has been a call for resources which already exists with ISANA such as the Rainbow Guide.

Paula Durance:

- Confirmed that communication of resources available to ISANA members could be improved.

Melanie Duncan:

- We have a change in the workforce with many experienced in the sector leaving. We now have new workforce where training in international student support is required and ISANA can provide the Professional Development.
- There are existing resources which are still relevant and would require only minor updates for currency. Examples are the 'Rainbow Guide'; 'Desma's student animations'; the 'Education Agents Manual'; the Pre-departure Guide for Parents/Primary Carers of International Students in Australia; & the Pre-departure Guide for Postgraduate Research Students and Students with families.
- Melanie mentioned a recent webinar she facilitated for her workplace on Student Wellbeing and Safety where many of the attendee pre-questions were focused on supporting international students. There is an opportunity for ISANA to facilitate a similar-type webinar.

Margaret Dawson:

- What do members view as the difference between the State and National conference
- Networking for members is always viewed as important for the state
- We need to change the conversation and think differently
- The same people are putting their hands up, we need succession planning.

Sharon Cook:

- COVID has pulled people away from volunteering
- Lots of organisations are feeling the pinch
- Phoebe sees how time poor Helen and Annette when PD's are being organised
- We need to make the most of peoples' time.

Jen Walsh:



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- Recently Jen spoke to the convenor of the Mental Health Resilience Program for Mental Health Victoria, and he advised that for Victoria they are still providing this online. For all other states this is provided Face to Face. He questioned whether this was as a result of the long lockdown experienced in Victoria.

The meeting was declared closed at 3.47pm