

<p style="text-align: center;">Australasian Association of Bioethics and Health Law Annual General Meeting 19 November 2022, Hobart</p>
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In attendance (in person)

Jaklin Elliott, Bernadette Richards, Rachel Ankeny, Tamra Lysaght, Bek McWhirter, Michael Ashby, Mal Parker, Kandy White, Tina Cockburn, Owen Schaefer, Chris Rudge, Mel Drinkwater, Megan Pricor, Anne Priesz, Wendy Lipworth, Nathan Emmerich, Linda Sheahan, Ben Gray, Dominique Moritz.

In attendance (zoom)

Lindley Anderson, Taryn Knox, Neil Pickering

Apologies

Mark Taylor, Michaela Okninski, Jackie Leach-Scully.

- 1. Meeting commenced at 1.20 pm AEDT**
- 2. Opening and Welcome**

Bernadette Richards welcomed all and gave an acknowledgement of country.

- 3. Minutes of previous AGM (virtual):**

The Minutes of the previous AGM were accepted as a correct record, and were moved by Bek McWhirter, and seconded by Megan Pricor.

- 4. President's report**

Bernadette provided a report of the Board meeting and informed the membership that as her term concludes next year, after 3 terms as President she will be stepping down in 2024.

She also reported that as an interdisciplinary organisation, the Board has agreed that we will alternate disciplinary foci in the President (between law and other disciplines); although this is informal, we will attempt to alternate in the future. Neil Pickering who is coming on to the Board as the Vice President, indicated that he will not be seeking to take on the role of President.

Bernadette also noted that Tamra Lysaght had stepped down as Secretary due to legislative requirements for residence in Australia and that Jaklin had assumed this role through this meeting.

5. Secretary's report

Jaklin noted that we had four meetings of the committee during the year. The need to continue to operate the streams and encourage more participation was also noted.

6. Treasurer's report

Jaklin indicated that the budget had been circulated to members, and noted in particular that the income from the JBI was healthy, allowing AABHL to sponsor bursaries and similar for this conference. She will be lodging the audit of our books with the committee for discussion and noting at their next meeting.

7. Membership report

Jaklin noted that there had been an increase in membership particularly through the conference and institutional subscriptions. There definitely has been a significant increase as compared to three years ago.

8. 2023 Conference plans

Tina Cockburn was introduced as representing the local group hosting at QUT in Brisbane, and thanked AABHL for accepting their site bid. It is likely to be held on this same weekend (mid-November) in 2023 and our AGM will be held at the same time, on or around 18 November in Brisbane at Queensland University of Technology, Gardens Point Campus.

Bernadette noted that there were some concerns about the rapid-fire format particularly with people who did not subsequently attend and some negative emails to the conference organisers. She asked that if people have concerns, they should discuss with the program committee in a respectful manner, in alignment with our Constitutional requirements.

There was a discussion about the rapid-fire format with several people commenting positively on this. It also was noted that as funding typically requires presentation at the conference, this format could be important depending on proposal submissions and room capacities, etc.

Lindy Anderson (on zoom) noted that it was problematic that only one stream was available for those tuning in remotely. Tina indicated that they would do their best but that of course they would be limited by institutional constraints. It also was noted that if having online and onsite (hybrid), having two chairs would be helpful in order to monitor the online questions and facilitate the Q&A within the in-person session.

The 2024 AABHL Conference will be held at Sydney Law School with Cameron Stewart Chairing.

9. Journal of Bioethical Inquiry

Michael Ashby reported on behalf of the editorial board. Springer which currently is the publisher for the journal provides detailed metrics: he highlighted that there some issues with reviews and time to publication is somewhat slow compared to other journals. The associate editor team is always open to more collaborators. The impact factor is 2.072 (taking out self-references) which is a slight improvement seemingly because of a special issue on COVID-19. Although the journal aspires to be global, Australia far and away is the greatest contributor. Ranking is 19/56 in world bioethics, 10/16 in medical ethics journals, 32/75 in ethics, and 13/21 in medical ethics [these need to be checked against the written stats]. Getting the editorial board together has been difficult. Bronwyn Morrell was thanked for her efforts, and has just returned from maternity leave. Edwina Light has joined to look after the website/online presence. Ryan Essex (Essex, UK) Michael Chapman (ACT), and Michelle King (QUT) also were called out for their efforts and support.

Rachel Ankeny asked about what the discussions have been about how to handle the transformative status of the journal, for instance after the end of the three-year CAUL open-access agreement. Michael indicated that there were not yet any particular plans on this issue. He again stressed that most submissions come from Australia, and that 60% of submissions are rejected. Rachel mentioned that this might be a good time to push in other locales with similar open access agreements with Springer (e.g., Netherlands, Germany, University of California system); Michael indicated that he was unclear on how this might occur. Michael also noted that often manuscripts are not of high quality in terms of English language expression, and that *JBI* tends to attract more marginal and narrow scholarship from developing countries; it would be good if we can improve this in some way. These issues with *JBI* should continue to be discussed and perhaps in engagement with the AABHL committee and membership.

Tina mentioned that Ginny Barbour (who is an advocate of open access via her current role at Open Access Australia) is the incoming editor of the *Medical Journal of Australia*, and her recent editorial is worth consulting to get across some of these key issues. Bernadette noted that the NHMRC has now mandated open access as a component of the awarding of Grant funding so this will remain an issue, and the board will need to keep discussing this with the *JBI* editorial board. Bernadette and Lynly (online) for the NZ

Bioethics Centre (as the two shareholders) both thanked Michael and the *JBI* staff and board for their services.

10. AABHL streams, activities and membership

Bernadette noted that there have been challenges to the streams, but that the ECR stream has been very active, with its panels at the conference being extremely strong.

11. Appointment/Election of Office Bearers

Bernadette registered thanks to Jaklin as Secretariat and Treasurer, and particularly her efforts with the website and formalising a range of processes. Rachel was thanked for her long services on the committee in various roles, most recently as Vice President, and her efforts overseeing the revision of the constitution. Bernadette acknowledged Shannon Lovell-Green who has faced personal challenges and they have stepped down from the committee. Courtney Hempton's position on the committee also is vacant due to her unfortunate death as previously noted.

Michaela Okninski was appointed based on her expression of interest into the paid secretariat role and as Secretary of AABHL.

The vacancies will be filled as follows (these were ratified at the committee meeting on Thursday):

<u>Name</u>	<u>Position</u>	<u>Nominated by</u>
Neil Pickering	Vice President	Bernadette Richards Tamra Lysaght
Cythnia Forlini	Treasurer	Bernadette Richards Tamra Lysaght
Rebekah McWhirter	Committee member	Dominique Martin Emma Tumilty
Samuel Roach	Committee member	Tina Cockburn Belinda Bennet
Taryn Knox	Committee member	Neil Pickering Lynley Anderson

12. Any other business

The possibility of a clinical ethics committee membership level was raised; the committee will continue to discuss this and Nathan has tabled a proposal.

The meeting was closed at 2.02 pm.