

Item 3.6 AAAPC 2020 AGM Presidents Report

I think the subcommittee reports that have been tabled speak for themselves and I will keep this brief.

The new structure of the Executive Committee that was voted on and instituted after last year's AGM is working well. The Executive Committee meetings are more streamlined and allow decisions to be made and enacted. One of the concerns expressed at last year's meeting was that it would be harder to engage broader membership. We have tried to mitigate this risk by giving all members the opportunity to express interest in joining one of the Executive subcommittees. I think this has generally worked and you can see that each of the subcommittees includes broader members and that involvement has helped the subcommittees achieve all that they have. We are a member based organisation and we constantly have to work on being inclusive and adding value for our members. The Strategic planning meeting at the beginning of this year was robust and the plan can be found on the website. Please make sure you spend some time browsing the website – it is a wealth of information.

This is my last meeting as President and for me the last 3 years have been challenging but rich. I am delighted to leave the organisation on a much sounder financial footing and with a larger member base. This is in large part due to the hard work of our Treasurers (Phyllis and now Chris) and due to the Membership committee ably led by Lauralie. One of the most significant decisions we took was to do without administrative support which has meant that all of the executive have taken on some of those tasks. I want to particularly thank my EA Brigid Cassells who has contributed enormously to AAAPC directly and also to my capacity to work on AAAPC matters. Thanks Brig – you are awesome and are always willing to take on those extra duties with a smile. We have recently decided to start contracting casual administrative support particularly around the conference. This will be initiated in the second half of this year and its financial impact will be closely monitored. The move to the Wild Apricot website and membership database has been very helpful and has streamlined a lot of the processes that needed to be done by hand previously but it does need some regular monitoring and maintenance. We have an updated and detailed procedure manual which ensure more effective continuity in processes and procedures.

I think the other critical decision we made during the last 3 years was to run our own conference. Last year's conference was a fabulous success and I am only sad I missed it due to a family funeral. It did deliver on a sense of community, encouraging and supporting our emerging researchers and also helped us to expand our membership. Last year we made a significant profit. This year's conference has of course been impacted by COVID but luckily we made the call early to move it online and Liz Sturgess's team is well prepared for mid-August. If you haven't already, please register now. Now more than ever it is important to

keep this community of like-minded, primary care orientated people socially connected and active.

This has been a great committee to work with and I thank everyone for their commitment, friendship and hard work. I want to make particular mention of Phyllis who was with me in the early days when we had to take the challenging financial decisions and to Liz who has absolutely driven the conference success. Importantly the whole committee partakes in rich discussion and debate and I have valued that enormously. It has been a great 3 years in which I have learnt a lot.

I remain strongly committed to trying to develop and support PBRNs in primary care throughout Australia and New Zealand. It will be good for our professions, good for the research and good for our health system and poliy. We have not made as much progress on this as I had hoped 3 years ago but we are still in there and fighting and I suspect CoVID may help rather than hinder our cause in the near future. It is great we have a group led by Lena who are taking this forward and I am keen to continue to contribute in this area as an active ordinary member.

There will no doubt be further challenges – we are going to be facing economic hardship which will add strains for all our members and Universities and the health system This will no doubt have roll on effects for a small organisation such as ours. However, now more than ever we will need to keep promoting and advocating for the importance of a high quality primary health care system founded on sound evidence.

We need to find the right balance of honouring our origins as an Australian GP focussed organisation but drive forward as a stronger more diverse Australian and New Zealand Primary care community. We need to constantly be mindful of being inclusive of all primary care disciplines and ensure we are relevant to and add value for our NZ and Australian members.

Thanks for the privilege of leading this organisation over the last three years and I look forward to continuing to see how it progresses in the future. I have seen the nominations and I know the executive is in good hands – it is very timely that our sole presidential nominee is not only excellent, and experienced in the organisation, but also, will be the first non GP to lead the organisation. Thanks and see you again soon.

Kind regards

Kirsty

