

BRAIN TUMOUR ALLIANCE AUSTRALIA (BTAA) ANNUAL GENERAL COMMITTEE MEETING VIA ZOOM 6 OCTOBER 2021 6PM

Attendance

Catherine Hindson (Chair), Janet Micallef, Dianne Dunne, Di Pooley, Pat Wynn, Craig Cardinal, Alice Parsons, Philip Steel, Bell Ross, Denis Strangman, Marie Joly, William Williams (Secretary)

Apologies

Cate Baldwin, Amanda Griffin, Pam Hubner, Peter Ramstadius,

Minutes of AGM of 14 October 2020

The minutes of the meeting of 14 October were adopted with unanimous agreement

Chair's report

Catherine provided a summary of her annual report of BTAA activities, noting the significant impact of Covid 19 on events and outreach. At the committee's annual planning day in November 2020, Craig Cardinal presented a paper on the need for a National Brain Tumour Collaborative. The committee strongly endorsed the concept and established a small working group to take the proposal forward. This work has now progressed to the point of in-principle agreement from all the major brain tumour stakeholder organisations in Australia.

Catherine also reported on the continuing value of the 1800 Helpline service, patient and education forums, distributing packages of supporting material, a monthly e-news and a biannual hard copy magazine, our website and social media engagement as being crucial aspects of a range of services to support, inform, connect and present to our members and subscribers.

Treasurer's Report

The Treasurer reported that BTAA remains financially sound despite the wider impacts of the Covid 19 on the community. Expenditure for the year was \$45,575.05 which was exceeded by donations of \$51,949.40.

Election of office bearers and committee members for 2021-22

With all positions declared vacant, former Chair and co-founder of BTAA, Denis Strangman AO, took over responsibility for the filling of a new committee.

Nominations were received for the following positions: 5 members of the Executive * and up to a further eight ordinary committee members

Chair: Catherine Hindson *

Vice Chair: Craig Cardinal *

Secretary: Dianne Dunne *

Assistant Secretary: Alice Parsons *

Treasurer: Pat Wynn*

Di Pooley, Philip Steel, Janet Micallef, Bell Ross, Pam Hubner, Amanda Griffin, William Williams

All members were unanimously elected to their respective roles.

In resuming the Chair, Catherine acknowledged the dedicated and valuable support given by retiring member, Cate Baldwin. The committee was very thankful for Cate's commitment to BTAA. It was agreed that we would write to Cate to express our gratitude and wish her well for the future.

The Chair also commended other valuable roles performed by members outside the formal committee:

Editor of e-news and the biannual magazine; Philip Steel

Website Coordinator: Peter Ramstadius

The meeting was closed at 6.25 pm.

Addendum

The unelected honorary position of Public Officer had been inadvertently omitted from AGM meeting. In subsequent discussions by the Chair, William Williams has agreed to take on this role for BTAA.

Chair's Report on 2020-21 BTAA activities

- Chair – Catherine Hindson
- Vice Chair – Janet Micallef
- Secretary – Eliza Moloney
- Assistant Secretary – Billy Williams
- Treasurer – Pat Wyn
- Ordinary Committee Members – Philip Steel, Diane Dunn, Pam Hubner, Alice Parsons, Amanda Griffin, Craig Cardinal, Di Pooley, Catherine Baldwin

Un-elected honorary positions

- Public Officer – Eliza Moloney
- Newsletter/e-news editor – Philip Steel
- Website & Technology Coordinator – Peter Ramstadius
- WA State Coordinator – Diana Andrew
- Advisers – Denis Strangman AM, Susan Pitt & Matthew Pitt

Principal activities in 2020-21, Support, Inform, Connect & Represent.

In November 2020, BTAA committee held its annual planning day in Canberra. Some of the committee participated via Zoom.

Craig Cardinal presented a paper on the need for a National Brain Tumour Collaborative. The committee endorsed this narrative. A working group was established to engage with various brain tumour organisations to seek their support in coming together to identify national issues to improve supportive care for brain tumour patients and their families.

The BTAA committee met monthly via Zoom. I would like to thank everyone for their continued commitment in providing support and care to brain tumour patients and their families.

SUPPORT

- Provision of an 1800 Free call number for brain tumour patients and caregivers to call and receive peer-to-peer advice and support. The Free call service is provided by trained support volunteers, led by Billy Williams, Peter Ramstadius, Janet Micallef and Catherine Hindson. There were 181 calls to the 1800 847 221 number in the past 12 months, with an average of 15 calls per month. The service cost for call hosting was \$1231.57. I would like to thank the volunteers who provide hours of their own time to enable this service.
- BTAA posted 151 packages of support materials to patients, carers, and families. Patients can request these resources at no cost through the BTAA website. Membership subscriptions for assistance in funding these packages each year.

- BTAA holds monthly Zoom or in-person support meetings in Sydney and Canberra and directs inquiries for support in other states.

INFORM

- BTAA 's magazine was mailed out to 1,500 subscribers in September 2020, as part of International Brain Tumour Awareness Week. We also distributed magazines in May 2021 during Brain Cancer Action Month.
- A monthly e-News is emailed to more than 1900 subscribers. Special thanks to Philip Steel who is the editor of both the e-News and magazine.
- Monitoring of social media and google news –Huge thank you to Amanda Griffin who manages BTAA social media.
- I would also like to thank Peter Ramstadius for maintaining our informative website.

CONNECT

- BTAA and NSW Neuro-Oncology Group co-hosted Sydney Patient Education& Support Forum in May 2021 at the Wesley Conference Centre. Video available on the BTAA website.
- BTAA attended the Mark Hughes Foundation patient forum in Newcastle held in May 2021.
- BTAA and The Brain Cancer Group, Care2Cure co-hosted a virtual Meningioma Patient Education Day. Video available on the BTAA web

PRESENT

- BTAA is part of the International Brain Tumour Alliance.
- BTAA is represented on the Asia Pacific Brain Tumour Alliance

BTAA remains financially sound. Our expenditure for the year 2021 was \$45,575.05, which is fully covered by donations received. \$51,949.40