



ATESOL ACT Annual General Meeting

28 February 2023

Ginninderra Labour Club

MINUTES

Chair: Helen Moore

Minute Secretary: Sarah Warren

Attendance

Present:

ATESOL ACT Members: Adriana Chowaniok, Bron Singh, Dongbo Wang, Helen Moore, Humera Khan, Janica Morella, Larisa Antonova, Mandy Scott, Peta-Gai Faulkner, Sandra Kelly, Susan Plaistowe, Lesley Cioccarelli, Yanni Xiao, Heather White, Sarah Warren.

Non-members: Joanna Bragg, Marty Le, Maya Gunawardena, Sue McMurtrie, Zia Qureshi, Will Fan.

Apologies: Patrick Kelly, Siyang Tang, Bee Bee Pannuan.

Welcome

Acknowledgement of Country: given earlier by Heather White during PL event preceding AGM.

President Helen Moore gave a personal acknowledgement on opening the AGM and thanks to the ongoing commitment of First Nations and the importance of the original custodians of the Ngunnawal land.

Approval of the agenda:

Moved: Janica Morella *Seconded:* Bronwyn Singh

Vote: Carried

Minutes of the 2022 AGM held on 25 March 2022:

Motion to approve the minutes.

Moved: Lesley Cioccarelli *Seconded:* Bron Singh

Vote: Carried

President's Report

Helen gave a summary of the ATESOL ACT year and the ongoing efforts of the committee under difficult circumstances. She acknowledged the work of current 2022 members and those who had discontinued Committee membership, particularly Mei French who has served for several years as ATESOL ACT Secretary and Vice-President Christina Braun who had put forward numerous initiatives to improve communication.

The report noted events and professional learning opportunities delivered with collaborations between ATESOL ACT and the National Museum Showcase and Companion House. Other events included presentations by those supported to attend the ACTA conference (Lesley, Mali and Ugyen), and an introduction to the new on-line portal for adult learners funded by the Department of Home Affairs. Also noted was the re-development of the ATESOL ACT website. The devoted and long-standing voluntary work of Lesley Cioccarelli in maintaining the earlier version was acknowledged. Paul Taylor will take on the technical side of this role, together with other communication tasks, and will be remunerated on an hourly basis for his services.

Helen noted the continuing decline in our membership (also in most other jurisdictions), reflecting the decimation of EAL/D programs in schools, the huge effects of the COVID pandemic on teacher workloads, and the Government's current employment policies that show no interest in supporting principals to hire qualified EAL/D teachers. 2023 Early Bird membership has increased from 38 in 2022 to 51 but below 2021 figures (77). She previewed a motion to reduce membership payments for early career educators. She then listed important advocacy work done through our national peak body, the Australian Council of TESOL Associations (ACTA) and invited members to consider joining an ACTA Consultancy Group.

She concluded by warmly encouraging those present to consider joining the 2023 Committee so as to lighten the load of continuing Committee members and to enjoy the contact with fellow EAL/D professionals in the ACT.

A full copy of the report can be read [here \[link\]](#)

Motion to accept the report:

Moved: Mandy Scott *Seconded:* Lesley Cioccarelli

Vote: Carried

Treasurer's Report

Treasurer Janica Morella reported on the current financial status of ATESOL ACT. Our income is based on membership and professional learning events. Due to the generosity of PL presenters and low cost on-line PLs during COVID, our balance sheet is healthy. To give back to members, we supported three people to present papers at the ACTA conference.

Janica tabled the Auditor's Report, which had just been received, and read a Statement from the Auditor. She explained that the audit had been delayed due to the auditor's illness and hospitalisation. Hardcopies of these were available to view.

Janica concluded by noting again that our financial health depends entirely on income from professional learning events and membership.

Motion to approve the report.

Moved: Helen Moore *Seconded:* Mandy Scott

Vote: Carried.

Election of 2023 Office Bearers

All positions declared vacant.

Interim Chair: Mandy Scott.

Nominations were received and uncontested for Executive and Committee positions. The following Office Bearers were declared elected:

President: Helen Moore

Vice President: Patrick Kelly

Secretary -no nominations received. Note - **post AGM:** Siyang Tang (elected to the Committee) stepped forward and was gratefully co-opted by the Committee to this position.

Treasurer: Janica Morella

Committee Members: Bronwyn Singh, Heather White, Yanni Xiao, Humera Khan, Siyang Tang, Sarah Warren. Bee Bee (subsequently confirmed)

AOB

None.

Meeting closed at: 7.33pm

MOTION. The following motion was circulated to member prior to the AGM but was accidentally overlooked when the meeting close. It was then re-circulated to all attendees via email for voting.

That a reduced membership fee of \$15 will be offered to all those previously holding free student membership and others for the first calendar year after graduating from a teacher education program, conditional on providing proof of graduation.

Moved: Helen Moore

Seconded: Janica Morella

Vote: Carried unanimously.