

**INAUGURAL ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**  
**INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY OF ARBORICULTURE - AUSTRALIA CHAPTER**

Held Sunday, 3 August 1997  
Mt Coolum Conference Centre. Hyatt Regency, Mt Coolum

PRESENT Belinda Tom, Adam Tom, Lyndal Plant, Peter Bishop, Mark Hartley, David Balsamo, David Gallichan, Cassian Humphreys, Joe Hance, Jenny Boyer, Jeff Jakeman, David Mason, Peter Harlock, Sean Macaskill-Hants, Patrick Barr, Jim Bradley, Rob Burke, Scott Gatenby, Tony Lydon, Ted Hoare, Bruce Macleod, Judy Fakes, Ben Leacey, Sue Foster, Melissa McManus, Phil Lidden, Warren E. Salkeld, Rodney M. Page, Bruce Bailey, John Atkins, Peter Castor, Jeremy Young, Mark Vinton, Zane Nichol, John Cobbett, Jason Lehman, Simon Finlay, Marcus Lodge, John Cheney, Thomas Greenwood, David Caldecott, Phil Kenyon, Leigh Stone, Robert Knott, Michael Rogers, Ivan Earl, Rob Galbraith, Mark Felgate, Peter Thyer.

APOLOGIES Garry Clubley, Rob Bodenstaff, Michael Hunt, Greg Moore.

The meeting opened at 7.20 p.m. Peter Bishop outlined the Agenda for the meeting.

Welcoming speech was made by Belinda Tom:

*"All of our hard work has paid off. Last night, our time, the ISA Board met in Utah and approved the Australia Chapter as being the 33<sup>rd</sup> Chapter of ISA. As of Friday last we had 72 members, and today another 23 joined our ranks. That gives us a total of 95 members."*

*"People are our greatest asset. Our country's tree care industry will move ahead quickly now that we have a National forum where we can be looked at seriously by Governments, education facilities and the media."*

*"If we can forget individuals for now and work on getting our industry in line then the rewards will be there for us all. If we work at it, the ISA will be able to work proactively in the business sphere setting safety standards and making technological advances and providing research relevant in our country."*

*"We can do it and we can be heard if we do it together, listen carefully and support each other and, most importantly, support those decisions that are made in the best interests of the industry as a whole. It will rest heavily on the Board and Committee members to ensure that the best possible decisions are made and that realistic goals are set and ways to reach them are set out."*

*"To allow every tree person, even in remote areas, to learn and contribute to what can be a truly Australian Chapter has got many benefits. We will need to be innovative with our communication techniques, utilising people and technology. I see all Australians in the tree industry working together to promote a greater understanding and education for tree workers and the public."*

Voting then commenced for all positions.

There were several requests from the floor that people who have nominated for the various positions identify themselves and outline their goals.

**PRESIDENT**

Two candidates for President:

Mark Hartley detailed his background and his goals should he become President.

Greg Moore was overseas but his background and goals were read out.

Belinda Tom notified the meeting that Mark Hartley indicated he would not stand for Vice-President should he not be elected President but would be prepared to sit on the Executive Committee.

Voting was finalised for the position of President and the meeting was informed that Greg Moore was the successful candidate.

The attendees were advised that they could vote for Mark Hartley to stand on the Executive if they so desired.

## **VICE-PRESIDENT**

While the voting for Vice-President continued several people requested that the nominees for the Executive Committee should identify themselves and outline their goals.

Candidates for the Vice-President position were:

Adam Tom  
David Balsamo

Voting was finalised for the position of Vice-President and the meeting was informed that Adam Tom was the successful candidate.

The unsuccessful candidate, David Balsamo, was invited to sit on the Executive Committee and he accepted that invitation. The attendees all agreed with this proposal.

## **TREASURER**

Scott Gatenby was elected and accepted the position of Treasurer.

## **SECRETARY**

Belinda Tom was elected and accepted the position of Secretary.

## **EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

Candidates for the Executive Committee (listed below) then gave a brief outline of their backgrounds and goals. Rob Bodenstaff's background was read out and his nomination endorsed by Phil Kenyon.

-Mark Hartley  
-Kym Knight  
-David Balsamo  
-Rob Bodenstaff  
-Peter Bishop  
-Michael Hunt  
-Bruno Wright  
-Denise Johnstone  
-Doug Sharp  
-Clive Sorrell

Voting was finalised and successful candidates for the Executive were:

- Rob Bodenstaff  
- Michael Hunt  
- Kym Knight  
- Peter Bishop  
- Bruno Wright  
- Mark Hartley  
plus David Balsamo. who was invited earlier to join the Executive.

## FINANCIAL STATEMENT

The first financial statement for the 33d Chapter of the ISA was read by the newly elected Treasurer. Scott Gatenby.

Total Income	\$8,377-75
Total Expenditure	\$3,025-40
Total Funds	\$5@352-35

Copies of the financial statement can be obtained from either Scott Gatenby or Belinda Tom.

Scott outlined a range of ISA merchandise/material which is available for purchase and the cost of same. Also advised that some free publications have been distributed to most members but if anyone missed out please contact Scott and he will forward them on.

Scott then gave a brief outline of his background and his goals.

## CONSTITUTION

Mark Hartley advised that a Constitution had been approved by the International Board provided we make certain amendments. It will apply for our first 12 months of existence. Amendments to the Constitution shall be made before the next AGM.

## GENERAL

Peter Castor - Requested that the Society adapt a Certification Program to Australian conditions as soon as possible.

Also asked how does a Society like the NAAA based in Sydney fit in with materials etc that are available. Do they have to be members of the ISAA Chapter?

Belinda Tom - At this stage membership has been on a one person basis.

Ivan Earl - 10 years ago the ISA asked me to assemble this group, I am really happy this Committee brings us all together in fellowship.

I really want to relinquish the role I have been playing for the RAIPR and give it to the ISA to do so that we can all have a say in this. It has been quite an effort to subdue some methods that people have tried to apply in horticulture.

I would suggest that we look seriously towards having an International Conference here in Australia in the year 2000 to coincide with the 2000 Olympic Games. But it will take all 95 members working hard to achieve this.

Belinda Tom -The International Conference is decided on a traditional basis of a 5 year rotation, divided up between Chapters across the USA and Canada. In this five year rotation if a country outside the North American continent wishes to host the Conference it should happen within the Canadian rotation - therefore the earliest we could host the conference would be 2003, and then not until 2008. We need to act fast and have papers in by May next year if we wish to host the 2003 Conference.

Cassian Humphreys - Offered an Agenda item for the next meeting - "Proposed Definition of an Arboriculturalist" - this agenda item was read to members and will be discussed in detail at the next meeting.

Peter Thyer - Two items:

- Arbor Day: suggest we create something Australia-wide.

Need to make it an important, worthwhile, event in Australian society.

- Re the definition of an Arboriculturalist. Would like to see the Society recognise all of the categories of work carried out by arborists. These include planning for trees, planting trees, caring and formative shaping of trees and remedial work and removal of trees. The Executive need to look at the whole range of activities that the Society would be involved in.

A video of Greg Moore's acceptance speech for his election as President was then played.

Phil Kenyon - Would David Balsamo outline the intentions of the Arboricultural Association of Australia (AAA) and the AAA's approach to the ISAA Chapter?

David Balsamo - On 28 August we (the AAA) called a special meeting. The first issue is to change Clause 17 of the AAA Constitution which currently states that "If the Association is to be dissolved then funds be transferred to an organisation in Victoria." The new clause would state that these funds (approx. \$17,000) be transferred to the ISA Australia Chapter.

The second part is to dissolve the AAA. The main reason for dissolving the AAA is not enough support from members.

The presence of a strong national association such as the ISAA Chapter would see our members disappear to join that association and we felt that our association could not survive in the future.

Rob Galbraith (Past President AAA) - AAA may dissolve itself but I think the role could be filled by the ISA Australia Chapter. Everybody is interested to have a bit of State autonomy. I am not sentimental but the educational role played by the AAA will still be there.

\$11,000 has been earmarked for research (has been offered to Burnley College). \$8,000 left to put into ISA Australia Chapter perhaps.

David Balsamo - The AAA is putting on a major Expo on 24/25 October.

Robert Knott - The Jamboree we are organising is for 2 days - 24/25 October.

24 October - Trade day for exhibitors sponsoring the event.

25 October - Events.

Advertising in the "Australian Arbor Age" magazine - enquiries regarding the Jamboree can be made to the phone number advertised.

We are in the process of trying to organise packages for interstate visitors who may want to be involved in the Jamboree.

David Balsamo - Regarding dissolution of the AAA, especially to the QAA and NAAA members - do not see it as ISA Australia Chapter wanting to take over.

Warren Salkeld - The NAAA is basically based in NSW. Would like to ask the Board of ISA Australia Chapter - our organisation is fairly active - could we perhaps organise something between the two groups and give a bit of a direction as to what we might do?

Mark Hartley - Being an active member of both organisations is the ultimate solution to the dilemma.

Adam Tom - Even though we are the 33rd ISA Chapter, we could probably think of ourselves as an international group - we have a couple of USA members who have joined up - hope to see these two gentlemen out here soon.

**The meeting was declared closed at 8.42 p.m.**