



**Shiatsu Therapy Association of Australia Inc.**  
ANNUAL REPORT 2016





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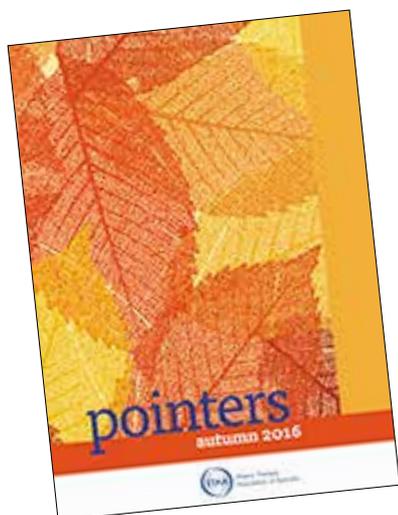
## NATIONAL COUNCIL 2016–17

### Shiatsu Therapy Association of Australia Inc.

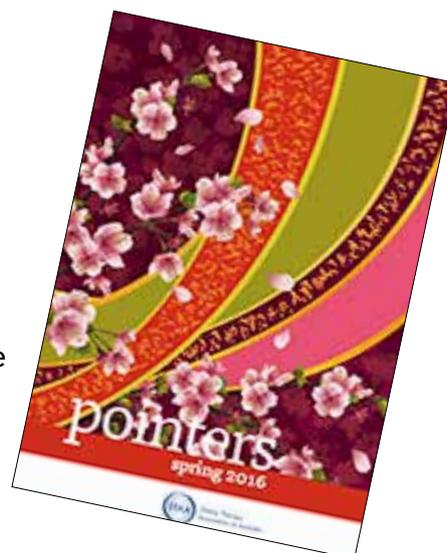
STAA is so fortunate to have a great group of skilled and experienced volunteers on National Council to steer, manage and energise the association. We thank them for their active engagement, involvement and shiatsu spirit. The National Council members are:

President	Linda Rago
Vice president/secretary	Emma Strapps
Treasurer	Andrew Scott
Membership secretary	Vivien Watmough
Queensland representative	Linsey Evans
Tasmania representative	Liz Atkins
Ordinary member	Alex Caldwell
Ordinary member	Anne McDermott
Ordinary member	Dorothy Douglas

Thank you to all the amazing contributors to *Pointers* magazine in 2016:



Clifford Andrews  
Leisa Bellmore  
Suzie Coulston  
Dharma Daws  
Halyna Denysenko  
Gavin Downs  
Tom Ebejer  
Michael Ellis  
Jeng Erzenjak  
Christine Gruettke  
Karin Kalbantner-Wernicke  
John Kirkwood  
Michael Licenblat  
Annica Makoto  
Pasquale Nicolazzo  
Emma Strapps  
Sophia Van Ruth  
Warren Wilson





## PRESIDENT'S REPORT

**Linda Rago**

It has been a challenging and wonderful third year to be President of STAA!

Thank you to all who have served on National Council for your skill, time and effort. Thank you to our Administration Officer Sandra Dexter for your consistent highly skilled professional approach and steady hand.

In summary, the STAA National Council (NC) has worked to create, complete or review the following projects:

- ★ Our new logo.
- ★ The STAA research project is in Stage 2 after a successful workforce survey and publication of articles reviewing statistics which summarise the shiatsu profession in Australia. Vice President/Secretary Emma Strapps is leading us towards the next phase which involves ethics approval and a clinical trial (see Emma's report on page 4).
- ★ 2016 Conference held on the Mornington Peninsula (see the report on page 9).
- ★ The three-year Strategic Plan of 2013–16 has been reviewed and refocused for 2017–20. It is published in this annual report (page 18) and viewable on our website.
- ★ Our Code of Practice document has been completed and is also available on the website. This document describes the way shiatsu is practised in Australia. It is important documentation so consistency can be maintained in the way insurance companies, government departments, registered training organisations and health funds view the work of shiatsu practitioners.
- ★ The National Code of Conduct now informs and supports STAA's Code of Standards and Ethics in most states in Australia.
- ★ Active lobbying of the Australian Regional Health Fund Group continues in an effort to re-open dialogue for shiatsu to be listed for health rebates by many funds which affect regional areas. Audits by Bupa and Medibank have resulted in praise of our recordkeeping and CPE standards.
- ★ STAA NC reviewed and rewrote the CPE requirements in accordance with updated industry standards. All members were informed of changes via email so that STAA can maintain compliance with quality assurance.

- ★ Upgrade and maintain the professional IT systems instigated in 2015. We knew it would take time to transition and tailor all aspects of the new systems to STAA's needs. Some aspects require tweaking to stay current but we can report it is working smoothly in most areas.
- ★ STAA NC Conference Committee reviewed the work of 2016 Conference Organiser Suzie Coulston and re-appointed her for a second year to help organise the 2017 annual retreat on the Gold Coast. The Conference Committee was also asked to review the date of our annual conference and we voted to reschedule to September with our AGM being held in May online.
- ★ The Industry Reference Council (IRC) continued to oversee the standard of diploma education for shiatsu in Australia and the IRC has set a new four year plan (see page 12).

Good communication and positive morale at National Council level are vital when we consider the challenges we are facing. We have an 'ageing profession' with fewer graduates successfully transitioning to economically viable clinics or solo practices. Recognised training

organisations are finding it difficult to attract strong numbers to shiatsu courses in the face of online courses and lack of publicity.

We must publicise the word SHIATSU and educate the public to its benefits. If this is done in a strategically sound, step-by-step way we can gain traction in the public eye as well as in the healthcare system. Hence, National Council is now ready to push outward as our background work has been completed. I feel confident in stating STAA's condition is 'healthy' with all systems functioning well as we move toward 2017–18. Now it is time to address a three-pronged promotional strategy with three different tracks: a research/health industry/government arm, an attention seeking/public awareness arm and an educative arm. All members will benefit and all members can participate.

Lastly, thank you for your trust and patience. By involving myself in the viability and growth of STAA, I have created and strengthened both professional and personal relationships. I have valued the experience of representing my profession and hope to continue as an active contributor in varying roles to build endurance and resilience.



## VICE-PRESIDENT/ SECRETARY'S REPORT

### Emma Strapps



The field of complementary medicine, in which shiatsu is situated, has been experiencing rapid change in many ways. It has sometimes been challenging to keep up. In this light, it has been great to see another year fly by on National Council. It has been a year of stimulated learning and great conversations with our wonderful and highly experienced Council. With Linda Rago at the helm, we have charged through some very significant steps this year including the dynamic new logo and branding, a new Strategic Plan for the next 3 years and finishing touches on the Code of Practice, a working document for some years.

As Vice president and secretary, I have completed and analysed the first workforce survey of shiatsu practitioners in Australia. See the Autumn 2017 edition of *Pointers* for the first article. I have also initiated a STAA NC research committee. This work has been a huge learning curve for me made possible with the support of National Council and long-time member, practitioner and academic, Dr Jennifer Hunter. I will continue my commitment to developing research as we head towards an Australian shiatsu research project in the next year. There is much to be done, especially in funding such a project.

Linda has been an inspired leader and contributed so much over her term as the STAA National Council President. I wish to congratulate her and hope to continue the dialogue. Thank you Linda.

I look forward to continuing on National Council to support our small but mighty profession. I would urge all practitioners to consider becoming involved in STAA activities or National Council at least once in their career. It is an incredibly affirming experience where your passion really can make a difference as you contribute to the vast amount of behind the scenes work that STAA must undertake to maintain itself. I look forward to more great conversations with our shiatsu community at the STAA conference in September.

Membership has remained static during the membership year at approximately 300 though we expect this to decline in the coming membership year by about 20. Currently there is only one college in Australia delivering the Diploma of Shiatsu and Oriental Therapies HLT52215 and that is the Australian Shiatsu College in Melbourne. Whilst there are a number of colleges offering the course numbers are not there to deliver the training. Shiatsu is a very powerful therapy and I am sure one of the focuses of STAA in the coming years will be to educate the general public to the benefits of the modality and generate more interest and potential shiatsu practitioners.

One of the major activities this year has been the overhaul of the continuing professional education (CPE) guidelines. It has been a long process with suggestions back and forth from National Council and a major input from Sandra Dexter our Administration Officer. As all CPE documentation is checked and approved by myself and or Sandra and it can be a long process, we aimed to streamline the documentation, ensure transparency and make it easier to assess work done by practitioners.

The importance of CPE is to enhance our skills over time. The major change is that all STAA members are required to study 10 hours enhancing skills stipulated in the current health training package. This does not prohibit studying other modalities however our major focus must be shiatsu. Finally the health funds come to our office and do random checks on our documentation. To date we have 100% success rate in these assessments. All natural medicine modalities are increasingly under the spotlight by the funds and practitioners want the benefit of rebates. It is important that our documentation is up to date and the inspectors can see the quality of our study efforts.

## MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY'S REPORT

**Vivien Watmough**



The development of STAA-sponsored workshops enables practitioners with many years experience to pass on their knowledge and we plan that these workshops will be available in all states where there are practitioners. It will help to compensate for the lack of training opportunities offered by RTOs and will augment self-study activities.

This year the STAA conference is in September at Burleigh Heads in Queensland with Japanese Master, Mikito Nagai and we hope that we will see many of our members at the event. It will enable members to deepen their knowledge of shiatsu, sustain our practice and network with other members. This is the first time our conference will be separate from the AGM.

I hope the year ahead will be positive and productive for all STAA members

# TREASURER'S REPORT

## Andrew Scott



Please see the Profit & Loss Report as well as the Balance Sheet Report for full details of the STAA financials for the 2016 calendar year

Main takeaways on a year-to-year comparison basis:

1. STAA was able to increase its asset position by \$500 for the year.
2. STAA made a profit of \$728 dollars for the year (compared to a \$5.7k loss the previous year).

Other notable points:

- STAA's revenue was greatly increased due to the conference held in 2016 (but not in 2015). However the conference effectively covered itself thus not affecting profitability.
- Membership, merchandise, fundraising and workshop income all increased this year.
- Advertising revenue was the only income source that was down for the year.
- With the move to new accounting software some of the cost centres (categories) of expenditure have changed slightly making year-on-year comparisons slightly unreliable as they are not always like for like.

STAA has made the transition to using Xero accounting software and engaging HTA Advisory to perform accounting review and compliance. This was done to enable improved continuity, ease of upkeep and reporting in the face of a revolving National Council. Most importantly though it ensures that STAA and the National Council continue to meet

their financial compliance obligations and responsibilities required under government legislation.

The short answer to the question of "Where does the money get spent?" is:

- Maintaining the organisation itself (major source of spending, facilitating the below points).
- Dealing with the private health funds to enable rebates.
- Publishing *Pointers* and *Tsubo* (a distant third).
- Facilitating an annual shiatsu conference (negligible financial impact as it usually covers itself).

The more important issue underlying this though is that the vast majority of STAA's beneficial works are the result of volunteer hours invested by its members. The financials are really all consumed in establishing and maintaining organisational infrastructure and legal compliance. All of the good stuff, political campaigning, community communication and outreach, research and education is all done voluntarily by members.

The organisational structure of STAA can and will change in accordance with its members' requirements and its operating environment. As a STAA member you should spend some time reflecting on what you want from STAA, how you think it should direct its resources and what you are prepared to do to support that.

# Balance Sheet

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## Shiatsu Therapy Association of Australia Inc. As at 31 December 2016

	31 Dec 2016	31 Dec 201
<b>Assets</b>		
<b>Bank</b>		
Community Solutions Cheque Acc	596	4,03
Mastercard Account	855	
Westpac Business Cash Reserve	20,759	17,64
<b>Total Bank</b>	<b>22,210</b>	<b>21,68</b>
<b>Fixed Assets</b>		
Office equipment	198	
<b>Total Fixed Assets</b>	<b>198</b>	
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>22,408</b>	<b>21,68</b>
<b>Net Assets</b>	<b>22,408</b>	<b>21,68</b>
<b>Equity</b>		
Current Year Earnings	(23,897)	(25,62
Retained profits	46,305	47,30
<b>Total Equity</b>	<b>22,408</b>	<b>21,68</b>

# Profit and Loss

## Shiatsu Therapy Association of Australia Inc. For the 12 months ended 31 December 2016 Cash Basis

	JAN-DEC 2016	JAN-DEC 2015
<b>Trading Income</b>		
Advertising Income	2,060.60	2,495.00
Conference Income	14,082.62	595.00
Fundraising Income	1,940.00	-
Membership Income	57,852.75	52,482.00
Membership refunds	(318.00)	-
Merchandise Income	869.21	50.00
Workshop Revenue	879.70	-
<b>Total Trading Income</b>	<b>77,366.88</b>	<b>55,622.00</b>
<b>Gross Profit</b>	<b>77,366.88</b>	<b>55,622.00</b>
<b>Other Income</b>		
Interest received	372.01	364.25
Miscellaneous	-	186.14
<b>Total Other Income</b>	<b>372.01</b>	<b>550.39</b>
<b>Operating Expenses</b>		
Accountancy	1,530.00	500.00
Administration fees	36,634.85	31,956.51
Advertising and promotion	585.00	6,426.18
AGM/Annual report	300.00	-
Bank Fees And Charges	427.19	441.59
Conference/seminar costs	15,630.86	5,032.87
Electricity	583.00	-
General expenses	336.00	2,061.10
Insurance	-	2,278.49
Interest	(0.09)	-
Internet	2,160.02	3,413.58
Journal editing & lay-out	2,190.40	-
Journal printing	1,962.40	-
Legal fees	294.40	-
Membership	-	65.00
Postage	965.30	1,491.03
Printing & stationery	3,250.20	673.71
Registration & insurance	865.25	-
Rent - Office	4,372.50	-
Rent on land & buildings	-	5,434.05
Rent-Storage	1,166.00	-
Research & development	952.00	-
Sundry expenses	466.35	-
Telephone	2,338.56	2,164.54
<b>Total Operating Expenses</b>	<b>77,010.19</b>	<b>61,938.65</b>
<b>Net Profit</b>	<b>728.70</b>	<b>(5,766.26)</b>

# 2016 CONFERENCE REPORT

## Sandra Dexter

The 2016 STAA conference — Integrating Shiatsu into the Australian Healthcare System — opened on a soggy afternoon on the Mornington Peninsula with 35 delegates converging at the Iluka Eco Retreat. Delegates came from Tasmania, NSW, Queensland and all over Victoria, and presenter Leisa Bellmore and her partner JD flew in from Canada.

With the fire lit and friendships forming, the conference got off to a great start with a presentation by Canadian Leisa Bellmore on *The Potential of Shiatsu in Neurological Conditions*, the first of several first-rate presentations from Leisa during the conference, which included lots of hands-on practice.

With lower than normal attendees, we changed the venue arrangements from two lodges to one. This decision had a positive effect with everyone living, learning and sharing in the same lodge. It also made it possible for everyone to contribute their ideas and experience. There were lots of opportunities to meet other practitioners and plenty of space to roam in the natural beauty at Iluka.

Splendid presentations were delivered by Nick Russell (assisted by Gavin Downs), Michael Ellis and Suzie Coulston. Suzie also did a fantastic job as our multi-skilled conference organiser.

The Ayurvedic/Chinese style meals provided by Abi Pope and Yong Kuo were nourishing and delicious. We felt so well cared for that meal times were bliss.

Feedback forms were handed out on the final day and we received 15 completed forms (43% of attendees). The majority of feedback from delegates rated the conference as excellent. Delegates were asked to rate from 1-5, 1 being poor and 5 excellent. In summary:

- Overall experience – 80% excellent, 13% very good, 7% good
- Value for money – 60% excellent, 33% very good, 7% good
- Conference venue – 47% excellent, 26% very good, 13% good, 13% average
- Meals – 93% excellent (or beyond excellent!), 7% very good

- Time scheduling – 60% excellent, 40% very good
- Booking online – 73% excellent, 20% very good, 7% good

The presenters were rated for relevance, information content, practical content and presentation. Overall the feedback was:

- Leisa Bellmore – 73% excellent, 27% very good
- Nick Russell - 45% excellent, 31% very good, 7% good, 9% average, 7% poor
- Suzie Coulston – 76% excellent, 20% very good, 4% good
- Michael Ellis – 54% excellent, 28% very good, 6% good, 6% average, 6% poor

### Suggestions for improvement

A few people suggested:

- More accessible location
- More swap time
- More practical, business management and marketing tips
- Rest period afternoon, prefer an extended rest after lunch
- Better accommodation
- Shorter conference

### Outcomes

- Generation and sharing of ideas for members to take shiatsu to local communities
- Closed Facebook group initiated
- Light bulb moment with creation of STAA's marketing slogan 'We give a shiatsu'.
- Defining shiatsu simply and clearly to the public and other health practitioners generated much discussion.
- Research into event tie-in opportunities such as Asthma Week and the Australasian Rehabilitation Nurses' Association conference.
- A new National Council was elected with 4 new members.
- Life memberships awarded to Anne McDermott, Vivien Watmough and Dorothy Douglas, who between them have given 75 years of volunteer service and dedication to STAA and shiatsu in Australia.



## QUEENSLAND REPRESENTATIVE'S REPORT

### Linsey Evans

**B**ig hello to all Queensland members. I hope the gradually cooling Autumn weather finds you all well and deeply enjoying your shiatsu practice.

It has been an honour to work with STAA National Council over the last year. I fondly remember our wonderful conference at Mornington Peninsula in May 2016, the focus being *Integrating Shiatsu into the Healthcare System*, with many great facilitators including Leisa Bellmore, who taught some valuable work on assistive shiatsu.

This year's conference will be held in September at the Gold Coast, Queensland and I strongly encourage members to come along to network, share and learn practices, enjoy community and a laugh or two.

Our visiting presenter will be Mikito Nagai from Japan. I am looking forward to learning bone-warming and bone-vibrating techniques.

National Council has discussed, approved and achieved many great developments and projects over the last year. Some of these are:

#### ★ **STAA Shiatsu Workforce Survey**

NC facilitated support for Emma Strapps and Dr Jennifer Hunter to develop, deliver and collate information for the Survey. Part 1 of a related discussion paper appears in the Autumn 2017 *Pointers*.

#### ★ **Code of Practice**

A new Code of Practice document has been developed and was passed at the 28 March 2017 NC Meeting.

#### ★ **STAA Logo and Certificate of Membership**

A lovely new logo has been developed and now appears on STAA communications, also there will be available a new look Certificate of Membership. Thanks to all members for input and contributions.

#### ★ **CPE**

New policy has been written streamlining and updating protocols and processes for STAA membership renewals.

#### ★ **Technology**

Council has improved IT pathways, now employing Google Drive and also Skype for meetings.

#### ★ **Health Funds**

STAA has kept abreast of changes to health fund requirements, and have a great record with all funds.

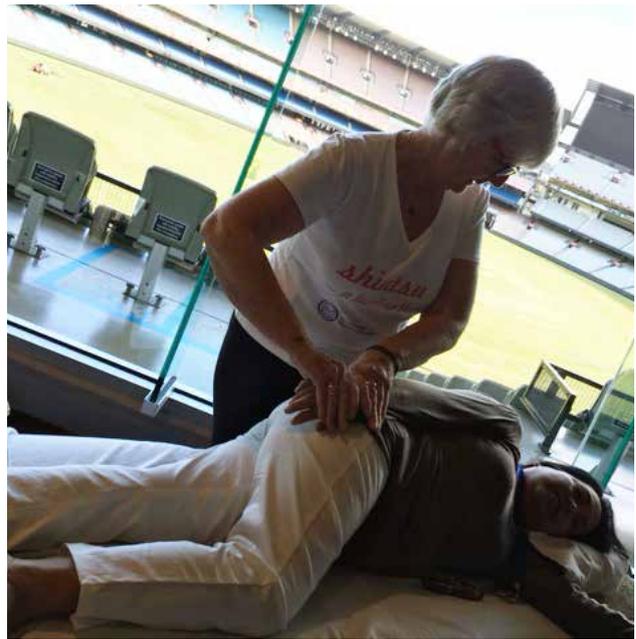
So, stay in touch and we are all looking forward to another great year for STAA.

On October 10-11 2016 STAA presented a shiatsu promotion at a conference for the Australasian Rehabilitation Nurses' Association. The conference was held at the MCG in Melbourne. Fabulous venue with plenty of room for treating willing delegates.

I have been a practising rehab nurse in a large general hospital for the past 20 years. After attending the Australian Shiatsu College in Melbourne for 2.5 years, I felt that the two could go hand in hand. The breathing and stretching which complements shiatsu is beneficial for patients following surgery, such as knee reconstructions or hip replacements. This enables their first steps to be confident and less painful. Clients with medical conditions benefit from increased oxygen in the blood aiding circulation, muscular activity and rehabilitation. Touch of varying degrees increases clients' confidence and positive outlook enabling them to participate in their rehabilitation with physiotherapists. Even slight increases in confidence and outlook mean a client's stay in rehab is more productive and their hospital stay is shorter.

There was a great deal of interest from the 300+ delegates in the complementary nature of shiatsu. Many *Pointers* magazines were given to rehab educators from Australian and NZ medical centres. Many thanks to Viv, Sonya, Con, Alex and Sandra for giving their time so freely to spread the shiatsu word to the medical community. As a result of this promotion, we have been asked to present at the 2017 Rehab Conference in Adelaide. Step by step our aim is to become an important cog in the rehab wheel.

I have been a roving shiatsu practitioner in this past year spreading the word via my mobile clinic at the Ulysses Club's AGM in Launceston and also in the Northern Territory.



## TASMANIA REPRESENTATIVE'S REPORT

**Liz Atkins**



## INDUSTRY REFERENCE COMMITTEE REPRESENTATIVE'S REPORT

**Anne McDermott**

STAA continues to represent shiatsu therapy and practice on the Skills IQ – Industry Reference Committee (IRC) and plays a significant role in ensuring that education and training for shiatsu practitioners is maintained at the highest possible standard and meets the changing needs and trends of the jobs market in Australia through the delivery of the Health Training Package qualification – HLT 52215.

STAA's recent workplace survey and current research project will inform future reviews and contribute to the shaping of future of Education and Training trends in Australia.

The following is the executive summary of Skills IQ's Complementary Health Industry Reference Committee's four year work plan that was released in September 2016:

### **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY OF THE FOUR YEAR WORK PLAN**

Complementary Health disciplines aim to improve an individual's health and wellbeing through a range of modalities and the application of their accompanying belief systems. Complementary Health disciplines are considered an effective means of contributing to the health care needs of Australians and are becoming an increasingly popular measure for improving quality of life and general wellbeing. Complementary Health professionals advocate that the integration of Complementary Health practices with conventional treatments is pertinent for promoting a holistic approach to treatment and supportive care. The sector is predominately made up of small businesses with the majority of the workforce specialising in one discipline. Job outlooks to 2020 project that employment of Complementary Health Therapists is expected to grow strongly, with 12,400 practitioners projected to be working in the industry by 2020.<sup>1</sup> The Complementary Health Industry Reference Committee (IRC) has responsibility for nine qualifications, packaged within the HLT Health Training Package, aligned to job roles within the following sectors:

- Ayurveda
- Aromatherapy
- Kinesiology
- Massage and Remedial Massage Therapy
- Shiatsu
- Reflexology

- Traditional Chinese Medicine Massage.

The work plan proposes a schedule for the ongoing review of relevant training package products to inform the development of the four-year rolling National Schedule. An industry analysis of both new and emerging workforce skills needs of the sector has informed this plan.

Sector analysis and industry consultation indicate that the sector is, and will continue to be, impacted by a number of challenges and opportunities, including:

- increasing demand for services as a result of population and demographic change;
- increased popularity, and validity, of complementary health disciplines in contributing to health and wellbeing;
- the role within rural and regional communities where access to traditional health care services is often reduced;
- regulation and registration; and
- rebates from private health insurance providers, reducing the cost of complementary health services and therefore increasing demand.

In addition to broad challenges and opportunities, the sector has identified the following factors as having direct impact on the composition and skills needs of the workforce:

- increasing demand for qualified practitioners to meet increasing demands for services; and
- employment status and earnings where practitioners are often working part-time or on a casual basis and are earning below the average national wage.

The workplan identifies a number of trends in workplace design that will impact on the skills needs of the sector.

This information, along with industry-identified skills priorities, will directly inform the coming review of relevant training package products.

Information contained within this workplan has been sourced from a variety of methods, including:

- desktop research, to develop an understanding of existing research and views on skill requirements in the sector;
- an industry workforce survey, which was

available to all stakeholders across all industries; and

- consultation with the IRC itself, in order to confirm that the information was both valid and reflected industry views appropriately.

The training products contained within this work plan were last reviewed in 2015 and released on the national register, [www.training.gov.au](http://www.training.gov.au), in August 2015. The 2015 review process was extensive, with ongoing industry consultation informing a number of significant changes. Scheduling in this work plan has considered the need to allow for the proper implementation and testing of training products within the system, prior to any further review work. As a result, training product review has been scheduled based on the timing of the last review and proposed for year three.

- 1 Australian Government, Department of Employment Job Outlook, n.d., *Complementary health therapists ANZSCO: 2522*, viewed 25 July 2016, <http://joboutlook.gov.au/occupation.aspx?search=keyword&code=2522>.



## ORDINARY MEMBER'S REPORT

**Alex Caldwell**

### Reflections of a year on STAA National Council

This is my second time on STAA National Council...the first was in 2006, shortly after I graduated. During the following 10 years I focussed on developing my shiatsu, then felt ready to join NC again in 2016. Some of the committee members are the same people, some of the issues are similar, the technology used to communicate is different and there are new challenges to consider.

Council activities encompass weighty issues such as shiatsu education, developing the Strategic Plan and Code of Practice documents and dealing with external bodies such as government regulators and health funds. It is essential that these issues are dealt with proficiently to enable shiatsu to function as a profession. Equally, members' needs are considered in the practical... developing advertising materials, framing the STAA-sponsored workshops project, creating recording sheets with a focus on meeting current legal standards... and more. I contribute when I feel I have something to offer and find that my contributions are always treated with respect.

I am impressed by the time and expertise that is given voluntarily by the NC members, who all have commitments to family, work and their shiatsu practice. This is a flexible council which is able to accommodate members who have limited availability and which welcomes and nurtures new members. The atmosphere is both professional and pleasant. I recommend joining National Council to you all.

Thankyou Linda, Emma and all members of Council for your delightful and professional company and thankyou Sandra for all the support you provide.

**A**s an ordinary member of the National Council I have taken part in discussions and decision making for the STAA research project; I have actively participated in the workforce survey; I have contributed to discussion and decision making about the new STAA logo; and I have provided feedback and support to Linda Rago in her preparation for workshops. I have also provided research information to help our understanding of the legal and ethical considerations that relate to the client intake forms. These forms and the additional information will soon be included in the member section of the STAA website.

At the time of writing this report I am working on an optional CPE support document for members. It will provide guidelines for members who choose to include yoga practice in their CPE. The aim is to create a template that practitioners can use as guidelines for completing CPE requirements for this activity.

I appreciate the connection I have with colleagues and the shiatsu community generally through my participation on the National Council. This is important to me as the connection supports me in my practice.



## ORDINARY MEMBER'S REPORT

**Dorothy Douglas**

# AGM 2016 MINUTES

**Friday 20 May 2016, 7pm**

**Iluka Eco Retreat, 20 Shoreham Rd, Shoreham**

## 1. Welcome from the President

The AGM opened at 7.12pm with President Linda Rago's welcome address.

Linda introduced the current National Council members and recapped the past year.

This included:

- upgrade of database and website
- release of findings of Government Review
- successful completion of Medibank audit with all documents produced and passed for 20 randomly selected members. Sue Brownlee commented that she appreciate the diligence of STAA in maintaining records of CPE&D, first aid and insurance.
- new Bupa contract
- CPE&D review
- Scope of practice document
- Workforce survey
- Natural Medicine Register work by Anne McDermott and Vivien Watmough. Although NMR now folding, STAA will have some monies refunded and work done on complaints panel and lobbying will carry value forward for STAA.
- Publications: 2 editions of *Pointers* and 6 editions of *Tsubo*

## 2. Attendance

### a. Present:

Angrove, Emi

Atkins, Elizabeth

Bellmore, Leisa

Bisetto, Michele

Brownlee, Susan

Cobham, Susan

Coulston, Suzie

Dexter, Sandra

Douglas, Dorothy

Erzenjak, Jeng

Evans, Linsey

Gault, Andrea

Grossbard, Dorit

Jarvis, Marian

Kuo, Yong

Marshall, Natalie

McDermott, Anne

Mitchell, Emi

Pollard, Jane

Rago, Linda

Scott, Andrew

Sebbag, Armelle

Sienna, Penelope

Strapps, Emma

Watmough, Vivien

### b. Apologies

Lilian Rytt, Denis Conroy-Welby, Hillary Child, Viola Barnes, Noah Lee, Lisa Pearson, Marjorie Scott, Karen Hickey.

### c. Proxies

None

## 3. Previous Minutes and Business Arising

Moved that the Minutes of the 2015 STAA AGM be accepted as a true and accurate record.

Moved – Anne McDermott

Seconded – Vivien Watmough

Carried

#### 4. 2015 Annual Report and 2015/15 Financial Reports

Tabled 2015 Annual Report and copies of 2015 calendar year financial report and 2014/15 taxation financial report. The 2015 annual report was emailed to all members and hard copies of the 2014/15 financial reports were available at the AGM.

2014/15 Financial Reports tabled and accepted as a true and accurate record.

Moved – Anne McDermott

Seconded – Vivien Watmough

Carried

2015 Annual Report tabled and accepted as true and accurate record.

Moved – Anne McDermott

Seconded – Vivien Watmough

Carried

#### 5. Election of Office Bearers

All members of the 2015/16 National Council stood down and all positions were declared vacant. Suzie Coulston was the returning officer. The following nominations were received for National Council 2016/2017

<b>Member</b>	<b>Position</b>	<b>Nominated by</b>	<b>Seconded by</b>
Linda Rago	President	Sue Brownlee	Jane Pollard
Emma Strapps	Vice President	Linda Rago	Sue Brownlee
Andrew Scott	Treasurer	Elizabeth Atkins	Jane Pollard
Vivien Watmough	Ordinary member	Anne McDermott	Linda Rago
Anne McDermott	Ordinary member	Vivien Watmough	Susan Brownlee
Alex Caldwell	Ordinary member	Emma Strapps	Linda Rago
Marian Jarvis*	Ordinary member	Vivien Watmough	Linda Rago
Dorothy Douglas*	Ordinary member	Vivien Watmough	Linda Rago
Linsey Evans	Queensland rep	Linda Rago	Susan Brownlee
Elizabeth Atkins	Tasmania rep	Emma Strapps	Andrew Scott

\* Nominations completed at meeting held 21 May.

All were accepted and carried. Roles of Secretary and Membership Secretary remain open and were explained further. (Later these positions were filled by Emma Strapps and Vivien Watmough.)

#### 6. New Business

##### Life Membership Nominations

Dorothy Douglas, Vivien Watmough and Anne McDermott were nominated for life membership in honorarium. When they finish practising and earning an income they remain members of STAA for their life in gratuity for the services and years of volunteer effort.

Moved: Linda Rago

Seconded: Emma Strapps

Carried

(The motion was formally done at National Council meeting held following night 21 May 2016.)

AGM closed at 7.45pm

# STRATEGIC PLAN 2017–2020

## Our Vision

Shiatsu is a recognised element of an integrated healthcare system.

## Our Mission

To sustain a professional network that promotes shiatsu within the Australian community.

## Our Values

To nurture, respect, collaborate and act with integrity.

GOAL	STRATEGY
1. Develop and sustain our membership	Seek member feedback regularly and proactively Lobby private health funds to provide rebates for shiatsu Deliver outstanding workshops and an annual conference Establish and facilitate a mentoring program Create peer supervision opportunities
2. Communicate proactively and effectively with members, registered training organisations and the public	Maintain an effective and interactive website Maintain a bank of media resources Publish a biannual journal – <i>Pointers</i> Circulate a regular e-newsletter – <i>Tsubo</i> Maintain a commitment to relevant annual forums for members and registered training organisations
3. Consolidate the discipline of shiatsu through education, research and development	Sustain a commitment to postgraduate research Manage continuous improvement through Continuing Professional Education (CPE) program Establish and maintain a Register of Teachers and of Mentors/Supervisors Contribute to policy development within the healthcare system
4. Partner with people, organisations and community	Seek opportunities to collaborate locally, nationally and internationally Source funding for research
5. Sustain an effective, sustainable and supportive organisation	Retain accountable, supported and satisfied staff Continually develop and maintain quality IT systems Respond to membership needs



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