

2022 ANZELA PRESIDENTS REPORT

ANZELA AGM SYDNEY 28 SEPTEMBER

KATHARINE O'DONNELL

It is my great pleasure to welcome you all to our AGM this year held face to face for the first time in two years at our first conference in two years.

The last two years have seen ANZELA largely go into a bit of a hiatus nationally in terms of public facing activities. Something which I know many of you have also experienced especially those of you Victoria having suffered such long lockdowns during Covid.

However, while we may not appear to have been very active, there has been a lot of work being done behind the scenes.

We are in the process of populating a new web presence and very soon you will see our old web page transition across to a more modern and functional one – very much like the new anzela events page which hosted this year's conference registrations. The page will include an online payment method for annual fees as well as online annual membership renewal. There will also be capacity for chapters to have their own page which they can be responsible for and keep updated with their own activities and information.

While we would love to have been able to launch the page at the conference, our priority was being able to make this event happen for you all first and it wont be far away now.

We have also worked really hard over the last two years to get ANZELA into a financially secure place and to ensure that we have total ownership and control over our membership information and our Secretariat. I would like to extend a huge thanks to Jo Spencer who has done an amazing job in the Secretariat and development of the updated web pages and in being the engine behind the conference organisation.

The Board is seeing some turn over this year and I extend my sincere thanks and gratitude to Andrew Knott, Virginia Goldblatt and Carol Howard who are standing down from the Board. I congratulate those who have nominated to fill their places this year.

In particular, Andrew has been instrumental in resolving a number of really difficult outstanding financial issues for both the national body and the Chapters, and bravely dealing with both the tax office and ASIC. Andrew's determination to have these matters all resolved in ANZELA's favour has been amazing and I am very grateful to him.

I also thank my other Board members who have nominated to continue in their roles, Jason Newman, Kevin Moloney, Alan Knowsley, John O'Brien and John Orr.

For the first time in a very long time, we have had nominations for the Board from every State. This is such a positive sign for ANZELA and I hope will lead to future growth. In another really strong sign this conference has attracted 87 delegates which while on the smaller side for ANZELA is pretty good for a conference only announced in May/June this year. Half of this year's attendees are attending their first ever ANZELA conference! I just love this. This is the clearest sign yet that ANZELA can and will continue to grow. I welcome all new attendees and I encourage you to make the most of this special family that is ANZELA.

Thank you for the privilege of being the national President of ANZELA. I look forward to continuing to serve the organisation in whatever capacity I may find myself in over the coming year.