



A Happy New Year and Best Wishes to all ATCA Members, Friends and Families



On behalf of the ATCA Board, I would like to extend our warmest of greetings to all our members, friends and families for a joyous and rewarding New Year and success in 2020.

The ATCA email system was (as our webmaster says) 'compromised' in the last days before Christmas – and so, while too late for Christmas, we wish you greetings for the New Year.

Across Australia we have had the most disastrous fires in our history – and many of our communities are under threat or have suffered losses. As of today, about five million hectares of Australia has burnt out and a number of people have died since September in an “unprecedented” start to the summer fire season. Some of our services in rural locations are particularly at risk, as are homes and communities in the Blue Mountains, along the eastern coast of Australia, South Australia, Western Australia, Queensland, the NSW/Vic border and Gippsland in Victoria. The fires are devastatingly widespread.

There will be added voices to the climate change concerns in coming weeks – but for now, please stay safe over the coming days, weeks and months – who knows how long this will last – and to the heroes – the firefighters who are out there on the frontline, our prayers, love and thanks for all that you are doing. Please let us know what is happening in your community and how we can help.

Adelaide Conference Wrap-up

It seems a long time ago now – but feedback from the Adelaide Conference in October is described by many as “the best ever”. Of course, that is hard to quantify – we have had so many great conferences, but the range of speakers – and especially our wonderful guests, Naya Arbiter and Rod Mullen from the US, contributed to a fabulous conference.



Respondents also noted appreciation for the Wednesday's speakers – Rick Sarre and Leigh Garrett getting special mention - and for a number of the presenters who represented a range of views and ideas from ATCA members.

Survey responses showed 28.57% rated the conference as “Excellent”, 60.00% said it was “Very good” and 11.43% said it was “Good”. None of the respondents rated it below this.

The key things most people liked about the conference were the range of keynote presentations (although there was a comment that there could have been longer question time in some presentations), the variety of speakers, relevant topics and looking at the “bigger picture”, which was seen as “very insightful”. One person noted, “Liked the broad lens used to explore what rehabs could offer ie not just AOD focus but also bringing in concepts such as we are all interconnected not just with other diverse people but also with nature and all living things.”

There were some useful criticisms also, which the next conference organising committee will be able to take on board. The special focus day was appreciated by some who are working in the justice system, but not by others. There was a suggestion that the site visits could be run on the second day – and this could be considered. We have traditionally scheduled them for the first day as that has given

people a choice of arrival day as not everyone will elect to go on a tour. Always there is a balance to find between packing too much in and making the offerings too light. While we had fewer breakout sessions this year, the days' program was as full as usual – but with sessions more concentrated in one room, empty seats were more obvious.

However, only 17.4% of respondents thought the conference was “too long”, while 82.86% thought it was “About right”.



There was a comment that “clinical skills building” could have had more concentration – and those who attended the workshop by Gery

Karantzas were warm in their praise for this aspect of the conference.

In terms of organisation, 34.29% rated the conference as “Extremely organised”, 62.86% thought it was “Very organised” and 2.86% though it was “Not so organised”.

In terms of the changes or additions people would you like to see at the next conference, there were a number of suggestions, such as:

- More resources to take away
- More interactive sessions
- More topic speakers on treatment methods, e.g., Trauma-informed care, PTSD, ACT, CBT
- More innovative models of residential treatment
- A session on Governance, Media and residential program costings per bed
- Debate or discussion on the key issues facing the sector
- More upskilling and showing others' techniques and program changes – not just the ones that succeed but also the ones that fail
- Longer presentations – 45 minutes rather than 25 minutes
- More on gambling harm

As we will have a one-day Symposium in 2020, all survey results will be made available to the 2021 Conference organisers. This conference will be held in:



Remember: the number, variety and quality of breakout sessions depends on YOU! If we don't have the abstracts, then we can't offer the sessions. We will always have some who loved something, while for others, it didn't hit the mark. Providing us with your ideas, and then following through with papers, posters, presentations and workshops will help to provide a successful conference.

Thank you to those who attended – and to those who provided feedback. We hope to see you at the 2020 Symposium and in strong numbers at the 2021 Conference in Canberra!

ATCA Board - 2020

ATCA's Annual General Meeting was held during the 2019 Conference in Adelaide, with six nominations for the four vacant Board positions.

Thank you to everyone who nominated, and congratulations to all newly elected Directors.



Garth Pople, Gerard Byrne and Mark Ferry were returned to the Board, and Anne-Maree Kaser, CEO of Windana Drug and Alcohol Recovery in Victoria, was elected as the newest Director to the ATCA Board.



Anne-Maree nominated to join the ATCA Board to contribute to governance, share experience and support further advocacy for investment in residential rehabilitation. She started work in the AOD sector as a very green newly registered nurse in 1988 and has worked in and around the AOD and community services sector since that time.

Since she joined Windana, the organisation has expanded significantly, growing from 35 to 78 beds at Maryknoll and opening a new 20 bed TC at Ballarat in the Grampians region in November 2018. They

were also successful in a submission to establish a new 30 bed TC in Corio in the Barwon region which will commence construction in 2020.

Anne-Maree has more than 12 years' experience working with boards, she is a member of the Australian Institute of Company Directors, a successful administrator in a range of settings but most importantly a passionate believer in TCs, the community as method model and the tremendous outcomes that people can and do achieve.

Congratulations to Anne-Maree and other newly elected Directors.

It is wonderful to see competition for Board positions – but without a retirement heralding a vacancy, we inevitably see a person who will come to an end of their elected term. This year it is Carole Taylor who steps down after four years on the Board. Carole has provided valuable input to the Board, bringing valuable Governance experience and skills and representing the voice of rural and remote communities in the NT.



In her statement, Carole noted, “TCs that work with and for our Indigenous residents have so many other facets to their service delivery, and our residents have a right to all of what is expected in ‘main stream’ and more, as we must offer a comparable service and do so in a safe and understanding cultural environment.

Our differences and our sameness need to be understood by all those we deal with as well as peak organisations such as ATCA. Without understanding and knowledge, shared through representation, the pressures of working in different and remote locations may well be overlooked”.

Carole has provided an important and valued voice on the Board, and we extend our appreciation and thanks. We are also happy to add that Carole will continue working with the Cultural (Indigenous) Sub-Committee, which is chaired by Scott Wilson.

Thank you, Carole, for your valued and continuing support and input to the ATCA Board.



Following the AGM, the newly elected members met with continuing members, Carol

Daws, Eric Allan and Jenny Boyle to elect the Executive. Garth Pople was elected Chair, Carol Daws as Deputy Chair, Gerard Byrne again took up the position of Treasurer and Eric Allan as Secretary/Public Officer.



Bernice Smith and Scott Wilson were both appointed to the ATCA Board in February 2017 for a two-year term and are currently continuing in those positions.



The ATCA Board will have its first meeting for 2020 in February, when the year's activities will be mapped and developed. There are a number of challenges facing the Board – the continued fight for ERO funding, recognition of the true cost of residential rehabilitation beds, expansion and innovation of services, membership, workforce and the further development of the ATCA Standard, remain high priorities.

The Board has also set up a number of sub-committees and working groups, and these will be expanded to include members outside the Board.

We look forward to working with you in 2020 and invite all members to provide input and feedback on what are the most vital and concerning issues for you in the sector.

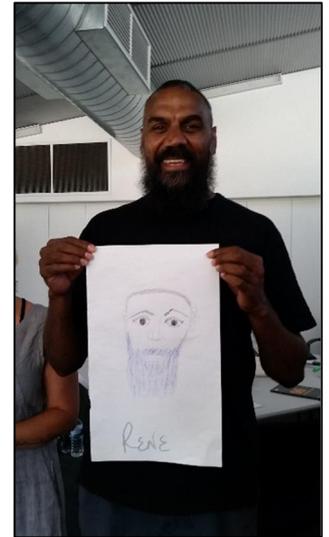
TC Training Courses a major focus in 2019

TC Training Courses continued to be the key focus of workforce development in 2019, and since commencing the Australian training project in February 2018, we have run 14 courses with over 300 participants. The last two courses were run in Perth,



and in 2020 there are more courses planned for Melbourne, Sydney, Perth and Brisbane.

Over the past year, we have had a number of graduation ceremonies, with 40 certificates presented at the ATCA Conference (or at local ceremonies, such as this one in Perth), following the conference. We have also enjoyed some wonderful and creative activities during the training. In Perth, we learnt a new technique in the creative development of portraits – a process that brought lots of laughter and fun to the day, and with some finished artwork capturing the person (and some not!)



In addition to skills development, the training is providing a fabulous opportunity for networking and the establishment of friendships and support across agencies.



If you are interested in undertaking training in 2020, or would like to arrange for training for your staff – please contact Lynne at atca@atca.com.au.

ATCA Video Project and Website Redevelopment

Towards the end of 2019, we embarked on two major activities – the redevelopment and upgrade of the website and an exciting video project – which will see the development of both training and promotional materials.

Both projects are well underway – but there are many members who have not yet provided the updated information or have provided some, but not in the correct format. The template which was sent out is the one which should be used, and for those who have sent their information and photos through – we will soon be going live with this material.

It does mean at this stage that a number of our members will not be included into the new website at this time – unless we can get the information through in time.

The reminders were sent out in December – but I will re-send next week to those who still need to provide information – and we hope that all members will be included at the launch of the website – which will now be by the end of January.

The video project is also progressing well – we have three initial promotional videos which the Board will

be reviewing shortly and will then release via a special YouTube site which we are establishing. They will then be available to use in your training and promotional activities.

We still need your help. Now more than ever, we need to get the message out that treatment works and needs to be supported. If you have not yet contributed, and would like to help, please complete and tear off the form below and return to me at atca@atca.com.au.

I have considered the request for **financial contribution to the TC Training and Promotional video productions.**

I would like to contribute to the development of video resources and to be able to utilise these in my own service.

My contribution to this project is:
This is provided through EFT to the following account (Ref: Video project +your organisation's name): Westpac Bank, ATCA Operational Account BSB 032 005, Acct 768242

Signed Position

