

Seasons Greetings and best wishes to ATCA Members, Friends and Families



As 2023 draws to a close I extend to you on behalf of the ATCA Board and Secretariat, our thanks to you all for your continued support of ATCA and your commitment to the therapeutic community model.

This year has seen us be able to come together for TC training events and for our Conference, these are vital events on our Association's calendar. I also recognise the contributions of those people and organisations that helped make these events the excellent outcomes that they were.

I also recognise and acknowledge your commitment, and that of your excellent staff, to the people you serve and to the services you provide, which have delivered many positive outcomes to people across Australia and New Zealand, to their family members and to the communities in which they live.

For many of us 2024 is shaping up to be a busy year, possibly busier than 2023 has been. So, on behalf of the Board and Secretariat, I wish you all a wonderful, restful, safe and refreshing festive season. Thank you once again for your support.

Gerard Byrne
ATCA, Board Chair

Introducing new staff



Michelle Ridley started in the role of ATCA's Executive Officer in November this year. Michelle has worked across health and community service sectors for over 22 years - primarily in the alcohol and other drug (AOD) sector in peer, frontline, leadership, training, and project management positions.

Michelle is excited about the opportunity to work with the ATCA and its members and is looking forward to building strong relationships with all members. If you have any questions or would like to contact Michelle, email atca@atca.com.au.

Thank you Lynne Magor-Blatch

The ATCA would like to say a huge thank you to Lynne Magor-Blatch for her tireless work for the ATCA. Lynne stepped back into the Executive Officer role this year and did an amazing job leading the organisation of the conference and managing the Association. This isn't farewell to Lynne as she is an integral part of the TC family, so we will just say see you later and enjoy some well deserved time off.



World Federation of Therapeutic Communities (WFTC)

The WFTC has released its 2023 World Social Report - with lots of information from TCs across the world. To see the report visit the ATCA website and click on links in the resource page - or click on the link www.atca.com.au/resources.

ATCA Board 2023 elections and appointments

ATCA's Annual General Meeting was held during the conference this year. Board members who were eligible to stand again were Gerard Byrne, Bernice Smith, and Mark Ferry - all of whom were returned to the Board. Gerard was then elected to the position of Chair, Carol Dawes to Deputy Chair, and Mark Ferry to the Treasurer's position.

Through an expression of interest process, we are very pleased to announce that Anne Cox has been appointed to the ATCA Board and we warmly welcome her.



Anne has held the position of Executive Manager Residential Services at Odyssey House Victoria since July 2022 and has developed a sound knowledge and strong passion for the Therapeutic Community. Anne has over 30 years experience across community and health sectors.

Congratulations Anne and to all the Board and thank you for your continued commitment to the ATCA. For more details of all Board members click on the link www.atca.com.au/about.

The Board will have its first meeting in March to map out and develop the year's activities. The Board looks forward to working with you all in 2024 and invites members to provide feedback on the most vital and concerning issues in the sector. All feedback can be provided to atca@atca.com.au.

Meeting update

The ATCA recently met with the Department of Health and Aging (DoHA). It was a productive meeting in which we discussed recent and future ATCA activities, the TC model, and the work of our members. DoHA was very interested and keen to learn more about the TC model. ATCA will be providing DoHA with research and other articles about TCs and if members have research, outcome data, or other information that you'd like to share with the ATCA to provide to DoHA please email atca@atca.com. If you have any questions please contact Michelle.

Thank you

We would lastly but very importantly, like to thank all the people who use our services and wish them a safe and happy holiday season.

Once again - thank you to all our members and we look forward to working with you in 2024.

