



FESTIVE WISHES



The year has certainly flown by, and the Board has been particularly busy with the 2018 Outreach Program, and with our Training & Auditing Projects, that aim to create and support consistency across the National Mediator Accreditation System (NMAS).

As we thank our retiring board directors for their contributions and welcome our new directors, we would also like to extend our warmest wishes to you all for the festive season.

AGM RESULTS

The Board held its Annual General Meeting on Monday 29th October in Sydney. We thank the NSW Bar Association for hosting this meeting.

Our retiring honorary treasurer, Philip Argy, delivered his seventh and final treasurer's report at the AGM, highlighting an achievement that we should all be proud of - We have built an accreditation system that is self-funded, and we are in a position that enables us to better resource projects and services for our members.

The Board would like to take this opportunity to acknowledge Philip's long and dedicated service. His cautious approach to building resources and his strong understanding of MSB history and governance have been invaluable. Philip has also been instrumental in the registration of the NMAS certification trademark for our member organisations and their accredited mediators.

The Board would also like to thank Jill Howieson for her dedication and insights during her time on the Board. Jill's passion for building a new generation of mediators and supporting their experiential journey has generated important discussions for the Board. Jill has encouraged the Board to tackle the tough questions and to focus on our strategic planning. This contribution is one that will continue to evolve over the coming year.

The AGM was also an opportunity to welcome a new Board composition. 3 positions were available, and 8 nominations were received. The nominees were of an exceptional calibre.

The Board thanks everyone who expressed their interest in being part of the work that we do. The Board is also pleased to welcome the following 3 elected directors – Christopher Boyle (WA), Peter Condliffe (VIC), and Bianca Keys (NSW, re-elected).

The MSB directors are listed at the end of this newsletter.

STRATEGIC PLANNING & CORE VALUES

Over the past 2 months the MSB has engaged an independent facilitator to assist us in identifying our core values and to formulate our strategic plan. We are in the process of refining this for the coming year.

Inevitably, a process like this one creates the necessary space to reflect on core objectives and values, and to ensure that projects align with these.

What is particularly clear to this Board is the importance of developing the quality mediator. NMAS is about the person – the mediator.

The skills, knowledge, and ethical principles outlined in the Standards are intended to build this core individual, who can then use his or her training as a basis to specialise across a number of other dispute resolution processes. The NMAS is the essential entry point for individuals who may then choose to specialise and diversify their practice.

As a Board we remain committed to ensuring quality, consistency and support of this goal.

MEDIATION AS A PROFESSION – WHAT OUR

MEMBERS ARE SAYING

In 2018 the MSB has facilitated conversations on this topic across Australia. Our purpose is to remain connected with our members, and get a sense of their views and aspirations. These conversations also allow the Board to identify the appropriate type and level of support that it might provide.



We have been fortunate to encounter some wonderful hosts along the way, and we thank the College of Law (NSW), the Dispute Settlement Centre (VIC), and the Dispute Resolution Branch (QLD). We look forward to being hosted by DDCS Lawyers (ACT) and the Law Society of Western Australia before the end of the year.

So far, feedback from the vast majority of our members supports the notion that mediation is an emerging profession.

Our members, via our 2018 Outreach program, have assisted us in identifying some of the important steps for the MSB in supporting this emergence.

The common ground, whether in favour of the word “profession” or not, is that the consumer assumes professionalism. As a Board overseeing a national standard for mediators it is important that we protect and enable this professionalism.

CERTIFICATION TRADEMARK



The Board has recently engaged with member organisations to introduce the NMAS certification trademark. There is a version of this trademark available for our member RMAB and training organisations, and another version that mediators will be licensed to use during their accreditation period.

This is an exciting development that works towards greater awareness of the NMAS across the marketplace.

It is important that this trademark inspires confidence. In order to achieve this the MSB is licensing the trademark to our member organisations as they complete an auditing process with us. This helps us to ensure the integrity and worth of the certification trademark. It demonstrates that our members achieve and maintain the criteria for MSB membership.

The audit process (which involves a questionnaire) has produced an 84% response rate to date. If you have not yet completed this and would like some assistance, please contact the MSB Secretariat.

HAVE YOU GOT A QUESTION?

Have you or one of your members got a question for us?

You may well find the answer in the FAQ section of our website. We continue to develop this so that it is a helpful resource for all.

Be sure to take a look, and feel free to share this link with your members:
<https://msb.org.au/resources/faqs>

If you can't find what you need, please don't hesitate to contact our Secretariat, Jenny Watson at coordinator@msb.org.au or start a conversation with any of our directors:

Mark Hebblewhite (MSB Chair) - VIC
Bianca Keys (MSB Deputy Chair) - NSW
Linda Kochanski (MSB Hon Secretary) - QLD
Doug Murphy QC (MSB Hon Treasurer) - QLD
Andrew Bickerdike – VIC
Peter Condliffe - VIC
Greg Rooney – SA
Christopher Boyle - WA



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