



# 2023 ASIA PACIFIC ORTHOPAEDIC ASSOCIATION (AUSTRALIA) NEWSLETTER



## Members of Management Committee

**Chief Delegate Australia**  
A/Prof Sue Liew

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Dr Annette Holian (Chair of Disaster)  
Dr Mark Blackney (M-A-L)  
Dr Anup Puri (President F&A)

### Executives & Councillors Australia

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Prof Ton Tran (Federation)  
A/Prof Marinis Pirpiris (Aus Chapter)  
A/Prof Sue Liew (Aus Chapter)  
Dr Sunil Reddy (Aus Chapter)

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A/Prof John North  
Prof Bogdan Solomon  
Dr Andreas Loeffler  
Dr Sam Adie  
Dr Nick Russell  
Dr Tanya Burgess  
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## HISTORY OF THE APOA AUSTRALIA

2022 is a milestone year for APOA Australian Chapter as it is the 40th anniversary of the historic 1982 7th Western Pacific Orthopaedic Association (WPOA) Congress in Perth when Ellis Griffith became the first Australian WPOA President. Luminaries who helped raise the Australian profile at that meeting included Ron Huckstep, Bob Bauze, Ian Dickenson, Bill Cumming, and others.

This meeting was 18 years after Australia first became a Chapter of the WPOA in 1962 due to the tireless work of George Bedbrook.

Fast forward to 2000 and under the incredible foresight of Bob Bauze, in April 2000, Asia Pacific Orthopaedic Association (APOA) was born and replaced WPOA. Bob had watched the increasing expansions of Orthopaedic Societies in the Asian region along with the increasing specialisation of Orthopaedic practices occurring in Australia and realised the opportunity to expand fellowship and knowledge sharing.

In that year Bob oversaw the admission of five new country chapters - China, India, Pakistan, Bangladesh and Turkey; hence the need to change the name from Western Pacific to Asia Pacific Orthopaedic Association.

Hence 2022 is a double milestone as it marks the 21st anniversary of the historic 1st APOA congress in Adelaide (2000) which was organised by Bob Bauze, Jegan Krishnan, David Davison, Stephen Graves and Ted Mah.

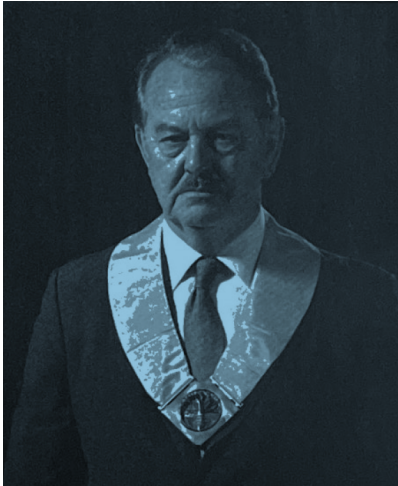
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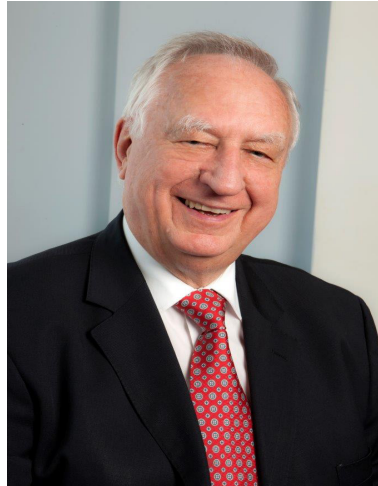
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# HISTORY OF THE APOA AUSTRALIA



**1st Australian WPOA President  
Ellis Griffith**



**2nd Australian APOA President  
Robert (Bob) Bauze**



**3rd Australian APOA President  
Edward (Ted) Mah**



*Professor Ronald L. Huckstep, Honorary Fellow of the WPOA, welcoming delegates to the 7th Congress. With him on stage is Sir George M. Bedbrook, the Chairman of the organizing committee and master of ceremony.*

At that meeting the seed was sown by Ted Mah for the APOA Young Ambassadors Program and subsequently formalised under APOA Presidents Bob Bauze and KS Sivanathan. This has been a crucial and critical strategy that has supported the recruitment of “young blood”, encouraging many member countries to send/sponsor one or more young ambassadors to every APOA congress. It continues to thrive today.

In 2003-4 the APOA Australian Chapter came of age under the stewardship of chief delegate David McNichol who oversaw the implementation of the Australian Chapter constitution and its incorporation. Ted Mah successfully obtained tax exempt status for APOA(Aus Chapter) shortly after, an official confirmation of the educational and charitable status for the association.

In 2007, with John Barlett as the Aus Chapter Chief Delegate, ties were strengthened with the Australian Orthopaedic Association. Ian Torode and John Bartlett became instrumental in the formation of the Asia Pacific Committee as a recognised sub-committee of the AOA. Darryl Teague, Graham Mercer and Ted Mah were instrumental in expanding the AOA involvement in Fellowship exchange with Indian OA, ASEAN OA and Turkish OA. In 2010,



Council members at 7th WPOS Congress 1982



WPOA/APOA Management Committee (1998-2001)



Australian delegates with Australian young ambassadors at 2005 APOA Congress KL

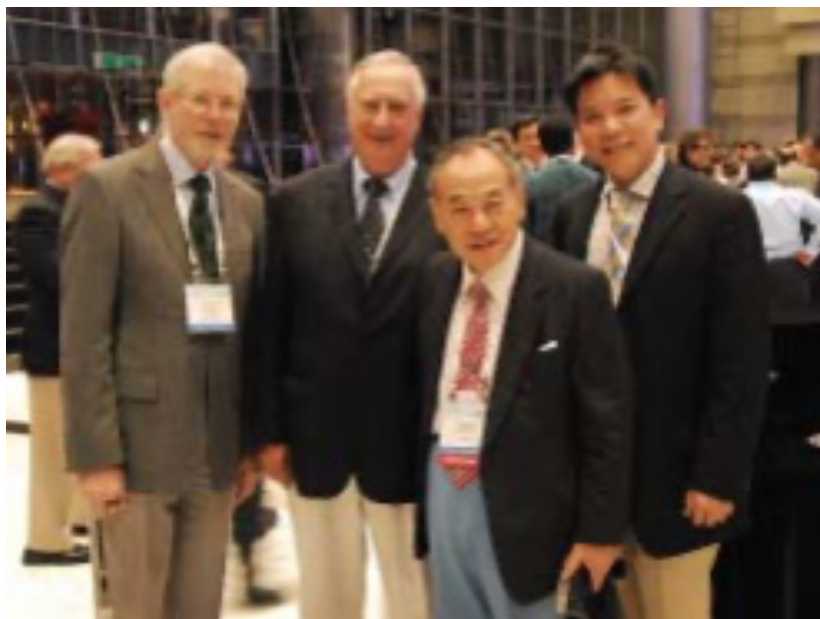




Aus delegates singing Waltzing Matilda at 2007 Korean Congress



Australian delegation at 2007 APOA Congress in Korea



John North, Robert (Bob) Bauze, Tomihisa Koshino and Edward (Ted) Mah at Korean Congress



**ASEAN & AOA Travelling Fellows 2011 where Sue Liew and Prue Keith represented Australia**



**Young ambassadors receiving certificates at Golden Jubilee Congress, India 2012**



**2014 Thailand Congress partners' program**



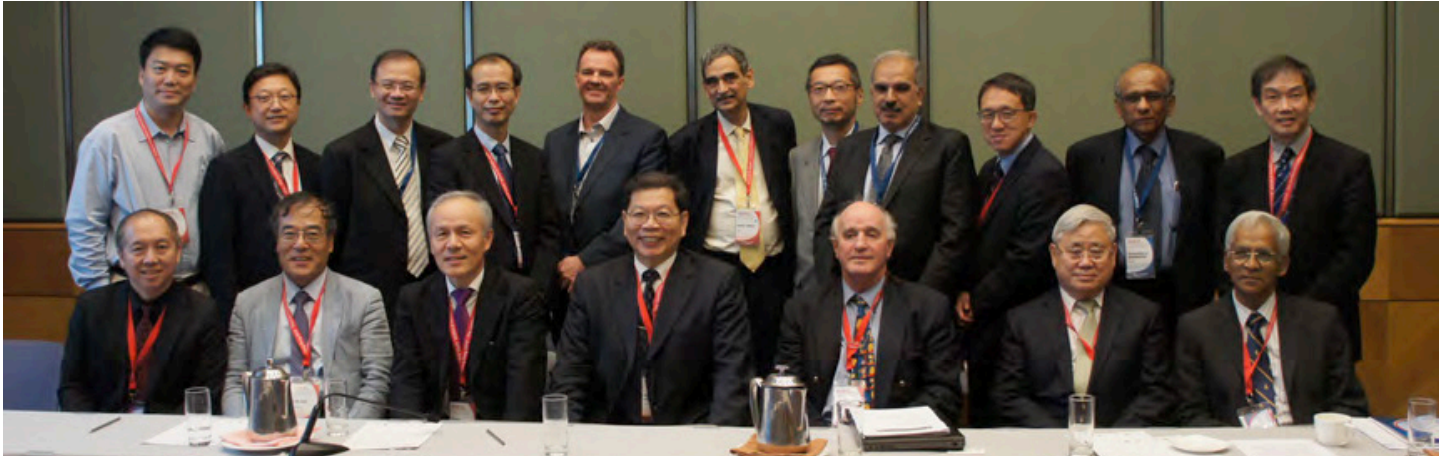
**2014 APOA Young Ambassadors**



David McNichol became the 2nd VP of the APOA, and Eugene Sherry became the Chair of the MSK infection section of the APOA.

From 2010 to 2020, Ted Mah followed his term as Aus Chapter Chief Delegate to become the APOA President in 2014-6, the third Australian President in the history of W/APOA.

At 19th APOA Congress in Melbourne under the stewardship of President Ted Mah, APOA became a Federation in 2016, a momentous event in the history of W/APOA. Aided and abetted by past Presidents of the AOA, David McNicol, John North and Graham Mercer (as VP for APOA), as well as past APOA Presidents Taqi Raza and Bob Bauze; the APOA federation model oversaw a massive increase in the



**Asia Pacific Paediatric Ortho Society (APPOS) council members with the late Ian Torode 2015**



**APOA Gallipoli Centenary visit, Istanbul 2015**



**Visiting Presidents to AOA ASM Brisbane 2015**

membership and relevance on the world stage. Within three years, APOA expanded the membership from 19 to 24 countries: and from humble beginnings of 3500 to over 20 000 members overnight. Current APOA members now include over 60,000 orthopaedic surgeons in 26 countries. APOA (Australia) consists of chapter members (Life fellows of APOA) and Federation members (AOA members). This is the second momentous shift in the core ideology of APOA where national Orthopaedic associations can be a federation member in addition to Chapter

membership. The first monumental change was from Western Pacific OA to Asia Pacific OA under the leadership of Bob Bauze. Hence, two Australian APOA Presidents have successfully changed the face, philosophy, and activities of APOA forever. They achieved that by quietly promoting the Australian spirits of Engagement, Collaboration, Inclusion, and Camaraderie.

President Ted Mah has also reached out to other international orthopaedic associations and formalised



APOA( Aus) Gallipoli Centenary visit 2015



2016 MOU between  
 APOA  
 &  
 SICOT  
 PAOA  
 EFORT  
 AO Alliance



MOU between APOA and other associations





Foundation members of AIOT



Partners are the REAL Foundation members supporting AIOT





Presidents of AOA (A Loeffler) ,  
APOA (T Mah) , NZOA (J C Theis)  
and APOA Congress Presidents  
(J Bartlett) at 19th APOA  
Congress 2016



D McNicol, J Zhang, T Mah, I & O  
Aydingoz at 2016 Congress



D McNicol and G Mercer been honoured for their services to APOA(Aus) 2017





APOA Young ambassadors' hospital visit at Antalya during Turkey Congress (2018)



APOA members in Oman desert post at SICOT Meeting 2019-a



APOA members in Oman desert post at SICOT Meeting 2019-b

collaboration with four other international orthopaedic organisation to form an international alliance – Alliance of International Organisations of Orthopaedic and Traumatology (AIOT). AIOT consists of APOA,

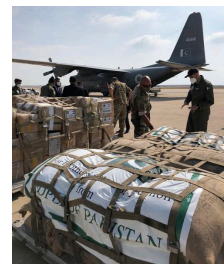
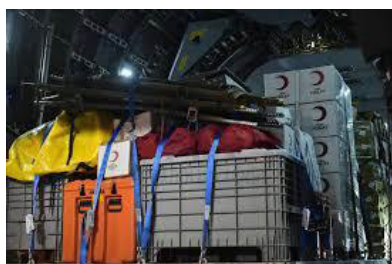
EFORT, PAOA and SICOT. The purpose of AIOT is to ensure collaborations on the global scale to deal with national and international matters related to orthopaedics that has a global impact.

## Global extension of APOA Engagement

### AIOT

#### Alliance of International Organisations of Orthopaedics & Traumatology

				
<b>APOA</b>	<b>EFORT</b>	<b>PAOA</b>	<b>SICOT</b>	<b>SLAOT</b>
Asia Pacific Orthopaedic Association	EUROPEAN FEDERATION OF NATIONAL ASSOCIATIONS OF ORTHOPAEDICS & TRAUMATOLOGY	PAN ARAB ORTHOPAE DIC ASSOCIATIO N	SOCIETE INTERNATIONAL DE CHIRURGIE ORTHOPEDIQUE ET DE TRAUMATOLOGIE	SOCIEDAD LATINOAMERICANA DE ORTOPEDIA Y TRAUMATOLOGIA



**APOA Disaster relief effort to Lebanon following Beirut explosion (2020) from Pakistan and Turkey APOA members**

In 2021, the Australian Chapter continued to provide advocacy for the betterment of the APOA and was instrumental in the formation of the Hand and Upper Limb and the WAVE Sections; with Ted Mah, and Tanya Burgess, being the respective inaugural Chairs.

To continue the theme, we also have Marinis Phipps as the immediate past Chair of the Trauma section who will be the Congress Chair for 2025 APOA Congress in Cairns; Annette Holian as the Chair of the APOA Disaster committee, and not to forget, Mark Blackney as the immediate past Chair of the Foot and Ankle section and current Member At Large.

APOA(Aus) has a very cohesive team of committed committee members who have worked hard to

continue to engage orthopaedic trainees and surgeons within Asia Pacific and beyond, as well as providing leadership support to APOA and Australian Orthopaedic Association.

In summary we are lucky to have such dedicated individuals in Australia contributing so much to the international orthopaedic community. No doubt – this is the Australian way!

*Sue Liew*  
Chief Delegate, APOA(Aus)

*Ted Mah*  
Hon Treasurer APOA(Aus)  
Inaugural President,  
APOA H&UL Society  
Past president, APOA

