



WAMGLTA Annual Report 2018

It's hard to believe that another full year of the existence of the West Australian Modern Greek Language Teachers' Association Incorporated (WAMGLTA) has passed. Incorporated by the Department of Mines, Industry Regulation and Safety on 24 August 2016, WAMGLTA is now over two year's old!

Whilst 2017 was a year of establishment for WAMGLTA, 2018 can be said to have been the year of consolidation, particularly of some of the objectives of the WAMGLTA Rules (constitution). Objective (c); namely, the undertaking of activities designed to extend the knowledge of members on all aspects of the Modern Greek language and teaching methodology, was fulfilled when WAMGLTA held its inaugural Professional Learning (PL) session on Saturday 25 August. An enjoyable and successful first PL for the Association, with enthusiastic presenters and equally as enthusiastic participants, WAMGLTA can now confidently aim to hold more such PLs in the future, knowing that there will be engagement and support from its members and from the local Greek education community.

The year began with the Annual General Meeting (AGM), held on Saturday 10 March at St. Andrew's Grammar. With existing members and some new members, a quorum was well and truly reached, and the meeting started on time. The AGM began with a welcome and official opening by the Chairperson, Dr Angela Evangelinou-Yiannakis, followed by the apologies received. Within these, special thanks were extended to Mr Peter Vlachou for his endorsement of the proposed changes to the WAMGLTA Rules and for his acknowledgement of Angela in helping to establish WAMGLTA and for managing its affairs thereafter as Chairperson. Thanks were also extended to Mr Pavlos Iosifidis for his email, offering best wishes for a productive year ahead. Angela commented that the departure of Mr Iosifidis and Ms Evidiki Politi would be felt by the Committee. The Minutes of the inaugural AGM, held on 31 January 2017, were confirmed as being an accurate and true record of proceedings. The WAMGLTA Annual Report for 2017 was read by the Chairperson, and was well received. The financial report for 2017 was presented by the Treasurer, Nick Gile, and was accepted by all those present. The Office Holders and Committee Members elected for 2018 were as follows:

- Chairperson: Dr Angela Evangelinou-Yiannakis
- Deputy Chairperson: Ms Fotini (Fay) Giannaris
- Secretary: Whilst a number of nominations were made, the position was declined by each nominee and remained vacant till later in the year when Ms Catherine Papanastasiou took up the role.
- Treasurer: Mr Nick Gile
- Committee Members: Mr Peter Vlachou and Ms Betty Parissis

Other business dealt with at the AGM included the proposed changes to the existing WAMGLTA Rules. Dr John Yiannakis spoke to the proposed changes document, which had been presented at the meeting of 9 December 2017. A motion was then put to the members present to accept the constitutional changes for WAMGLTA. The motion was carried unanimously.

General business also included an update by Dr Evangelinou-Yiannakis of registrations for the Centre for the Greek Language (CGL) examinations. Discussion was held on how to improve the promotion of the CGL examinations in 2018 and beyond. Discussion was also held on the Speak Greek in March (SGM) campaign, WAMGLTA initiatives for 2018, and the pending WAMGLTA Logo.

In addition to the AGM, there were five WAMGLTA meetings held during 2018. By 31 March, all membership registrations had been paid; there were 21 members. This held the Association in good stead to proceed with business. We had also renewed our membership with the Professional Teaching Council of Western Australia (PTCWA), allowing us once again to nominate a member for the PTCWA Outstanding Professional Service Award at the end of the year.

Highlights of WAMGLTA achievements in 2018 include the development and final endorsement of our very own WAMGLTA Logo; a wise owl perched on three books with the acronym WAMGLTA inscribed on one, and next to two books, one with the Western Australian Flag on its spine, and one with the Greek Flag. The Logo, after undergoing a number of draft versions, and with input from the Committee, was developed and finalised by Ms Susan Starr. It was used officially on the Agenda and Minutes of the August meeting and thereafter on all WAMGLTA correspondence. Ms Starr is thanked again for her excellent work in bringing WAMGLTA's conceived ideas and rough sketches of a Logo to life.

Undoubtedly the biggest highlight of the year was the Inaugural WAMGLTA Professional Learning Session, held on Saturday 25 August at The Evangelismos Greek Language School, from 12.30 pm to 3.15 pm. Titled *'Best Practice' in the Greek Language Classroom*, there were 15 participants, four of whom were presenters, offering their expertise on 'best practice'. The PL began with a light lunch, blessed by the Reverend Father Emmanuel Stamatiou, followed by an official welcome by the Chairperson, Dr Angela Evangelinou-Yiannakis. The presenters, Ms Fay Giannaris, Mrs Christina Panovrakou, Mr George Anastassiadis, and Ms Catherine Papanastasiou held the audience captive and engaged for the entire PL. The wonderful atmosphere was further enhanced by the hands-on, activity-based approach employed by each of the presenters, enjoyed by all participants. A Certificate of Participation, inclusive of WAMGLTA's new Logo, was sent to all participants via email on the same day.

A personal highlight for me was my nomination by the Committee for the PTCWA Outstanding Professional Service Award for the second consecutive year. I received the Award on Wednesday 24 October, supported by fellow Executive Committee members, Ms Fay Giannaris and Mr Peter Vlachou, who attended the event. Once again, as in 2017, WAMGLTA (and now its new Logo) were in full view of all those present at the event, further embedding its existence among fellow education associations and other professional organisations. Apart from this visible promotion of WAMGLTA, I was deeply honoured to

be receiving the Award again and am grateful to my fellow Committee members for nominating me.

At the last meeting of 2018, it was agreed that the WAMGLTA AGM 2019 would be held on Saturday 9 March at 1.30 pm, tentatively at St. Andrew's Grammar. Updated membership forms were distributed electronically to all members to help promote membership of this important association to all who are interested in the learning and teaching of Modern Greek in WA. The nominal fee of \$20 per annum remains intact for 2019 and membership has been renewed by many thus far.

I would like to extend my sincere thanks to the following Committee and general WAMGLTA members:

- The Executive Committee (Ms Fay Giannaris, Mr Nick Gile, Ms Catherine Papanastasiou, Mr Peter Vlachou, and Ms Betty Parissis) for their work and valued contributions to the meetings throughout the year, and also for their support of me in the role of Chairperson;
- Dr John Yiannakis and Mr Peter Vlachou who refined the WAMGLTA Rules further and who achieved the ratification of these from the Department of Mines, Industry Regulation and Safety on 9 April 2018;
- Ms Irene Starr for securing the talented services of Ms Susan Starr in the development of our very own Logo, and for Irene's enthusiastic and financial support of the Inaugural WAMGLTA PL, held at The Evangelismos Greek Language School;
- Presenters at the Inaugural WAMGLTA PL, Ms Fay Giannaris, Mrs Christina Panovrakou, Mr George Anastassiadis and Ms Catherine Papanastasiou for their polished and very interesting 'best practice' presentations that were enjoyed by all;
- Mr George Anastassiadis for his regular attendance at WAMGLTA meetings; and
- All members of WAMGLTA.

I remain confident in WAMGLTA's continued growth in membership in 2019, and success in all its endeavours to help promote and improve the learning and teaching of Modern Greek in WA. As I have said before, WAMGLTA is an association for *all* Greek Language Teachers from *all* Greek Education Providers in WA, and for *all* persons interested in the learning and teaching of Modern Greek in this State. Together, we can achieve more than we even dare to dream!

Dr Angela Evangelinou-Yiannakis

WAMGLTA Chairperson

29 December 2018