

Malacological Society of Australasia Ltd

AGM Meeting Minutes

Date: 03/12/14

Time: 10.04 am (EDT)

Location: By teleconference

In attendance: Don Colgan, Carmel McDougall, Dennis McCann, Matthew Nimbs, Caitlin Woods, Mandy Reid (until 9.17), Winston Ponder, Kathleen Hayes, Simon Hills, Rachel Przeslawski, Platon Vafiadis

- 1. Welcome.**
- 2. Approval of last AGM Minutes.** Nominated: Rachel Przeslawski, Seconded: Winston Ponder.
- 3. Apologies.** Kirsten Benkendorff.
- 4. President's Report.** Please see attached report. Rachel highlighted the considerable achievements over the past year including improvements to Molluscan Research including the new ECR prize and online submission, excellent communication with the Victorian Branch and with the former Queensland Branch that has now transitioned to 'Brisbane Shell Club', that the newsletter is now running like a well-oiled machine, strong membership and activity on the Facebook page, the award of two research grants (however application numbers were low), and a very generous anonymous donation allowing extra funding for the grant round. Rachel also mentioned that Shane (website administrator) resigned during the course of the year but that the website was migrated before he did so. Rachel is currently able to update the website and expressed that anyone with wordpress skills would be able to do this also. She stated that the primary issues are IT related, particularly the membership database and access to back issues of Molluscan Research. Rachel thanked all those on council for their efforts this year, and forecasted that the next year will be dominated by conference planning. Rachel also officially thanked Kathleen for her efforts this year as Membership Secretary, this was seconded by Don.
- 5. Treasurer's Report.** Please see attached report. Don received the audited accounts yesterday and has circulated the updated report to the council. The new report differs from that previously circulated by \$429.00 – the auditor's fee, however the reported profit mirrors the true position of the society. Since 2012/13 our finances have recovered to a reasonable base level, with total assets at \$28,455. The society broke even last year, which is a good outcome for a non-conference year. Don mentioned that there is a concerning reduction in revenue from subscriptions, and emphasised that our positive outlook is due to the Molluscan Research editor's honorarium, which Winston generously donates to the society. The council formally thanked Winston for his contribution.
- 6. Membership Report.** Please see attached report. Kathleen reported that we have 92 currently subscribed members, 17 are honorary. There are concerns over whether PayPal is sending reminders to members when their subscription is expiring, Kathleen has been

sending email reminders manually. **Action: Kathleen** to contact Matt for hand-over of the Membership Secretary role.

- 7. Molluscs 2015.** Steve Smith sent a short update about the current status of the conference planning (see attached report). **Action: Rachel** to contact Steve about setting up a formal conference committee, so that email forwarders can be organised. **Action: All committee members** to think about potential conference sponsors and send ideas to Steve.
- 8. MSA Branch Status.** Rachel has nothing further to add following the President's report. Carmel tabled the Certificate of Incorporation of the Brisbane Shell Club Inc, formalising the transition of the former Queensland Branch to their own entity.
- 9. Honorary Members.** Rachel reported that Des Beechey has been nominated as an honorary member this year.
- 10. Election of Officers.** Nominations for positions are as follows:

President: Rachel Przeslawski

Vice President: Kirsten Benkendorff

Treasurer: Don Colgan

Secretary: Carmel McDougall

Journal Editor: Winston Ponder

Website Administrator: to be covered by Rachel Przeslawski

Membership Secretary: Matt Nimbs

Public Relations Officer: Caitlin Woods

Newsletter Editor: Mandy Reid

Councillor (WA): Lisa Kirkendale

Councillor (Victoria): Platon Vafiadis

Councillor (NZ): Simon Hills

The council agreed to elect all officers as nominated. All positions were accepted (except for Lisa, who was not in attendance but had indicated that she would accept). **Action: Rachel** to email Lisa about the outcome and update the email lists and website, **Winston and Mandy** to update council details in the journal and newsletter, respectively.

- 11. Other business.** Mandy mentioned concerns over the cost of the newsletter and suggested dropping the number to three per year. Don suggested that keeping four editions, but limiting the page numbers to 8, would be the best way to minimise cost (to keep the newsletter in the cheaper postage weight category). Don mentioned that there had been good take-up of electronic newsletter copies from members. Kathleen stated that the majority of the cost is from institution subscriptions from overseas, and that these institutions had been contacted but have requested continued hard copies. Mandy mentioned that she costed printers when she began the position (prior to the last AGM). **Action: Mandy** to draft email to the council about concerns and possible action to reduce newsletter costs.

- 12. Close of meeting.** Meeting closed at 10.30 am.