

# ***Malacological Society of Australasia Ltd***

## **AGM Meeting Minutes**

**Date:** 02/12/15

**Time:** 1.00 pm (EDT)

**Location:** National Marine Science Centre, 2 Bay Drive, Coffs Harbour, NSW.

**In attendance:** Rachel Przeslawski, Carmel McDougall, Kirsten Benkendorff, Lisa Kirkendale, Steve Smith, Don Colgan, Winston Ponder, Matt Nimbs, Fred Wells, Nicole Phillips, Nat Moltschaniwskyj, Andy Davis, Bob Creese, Karina Hall, Amanda Beasley, Jennifer Marshall, Caitlin Woods, Platon Vafiadis, Simon Grove, Lynton Stephens, Bryce Peebles, Hamish Spencer, Richard Willan, Luisa Teasdale, Jonathan Parkyn, David Rudd, Michael Dove, Wayne O'Connor, Lynda Avery, Karen Cheney, Deb Aston, Kehani Manson, Rick Tate, Renee Zbaeren, Bruce Marshall, Simon Hills, J Halindale, Ting Hui Ng.

- 1. Welcome.**
- 2. Approval of last AGM Minutes.** Nominated: Rachel, Seconded: Kirsten.
- 3. Apologies.** Robert Burn
- 4. President's Report.** Please see attached report. Rachel gave an overview of major activities and events of the past year. She also announced that Winston Ponder would be awarded honorary membership this year, in thanks for his many years of service within the MSA (including roles on the council) and as the editor of Molluscan Research. Rachel thanked all council members for their service, especially those who are leaving the council next year after many years of service – Mandy Reid and Don Colgan.
- 5. Treasurer's Report.** Please see attached report. Don circulated his report, the Auditor's report and the statement of financial position to those in attendance. He reported that the society's net assets stand at \$30,190.38, this is an increase from last year of \$1734.97.
- 6. Membership Report.** Matt reported that we have 116 members, 7 are honorary. These members are from 19 countries, and 31 of our members are currently overseas. 15% of our members are students.
- 7. Victorian Branch Report.** Platon thanked the council for their efforts on the behalf of the Victorian Branch. He reported that the Branch's activities this year have consisted primarily of monthly meetings, which discuss dive reports, sightings, travel and collections. He reported that Don Cram has digitised the back issues of the Branch's bulletin, and Rachel has added these to the MSA website. Branch members have contributed several articles to both the journal and society newsletter, and the branch is eagerly awaiting the publication of Bob Burn's nudibranch book in the near future. Platon reported that the Branch is having some issues with dwindling membership numbers, he mentioned that numbers have been decreasing since the meetings have been shifted away from the museum. He reported that Chris Bunyard, and active branch member, passed away this year and is sorely missed. A 'Buy-Swap-Sell' component has been added to the meetings to encourage membership and attendance. Platon also commented that the journal is becoming somewhat less interesting to non-professional branch members, the feeling is that the content is becoming too specialised.

- a. Carmel reported that she had received correspondence from Bob Burn regarding the earliest archives of the MSA, which are currently in his possession. Bob feels that these should be transferred elsewhere in order to keep them safe. There are apparently several large boxes of material. Platon mentioned that he also has newsletters, and Don mentioned that there is also material stored at the Australian Museum. After discussion, it was decided that all material should be transferred to the Australian Museum for consolidation. This material will have to be sorted through and relevant items digitised in the near future. **Action: Lisa** to add to the agenda for the next council meeting.

**8. Molluscan Research Editor-in-Chief.** Winston will put together statistics of the past year's journal activity and circulate a report to the society. He noted that in the last two years 88 papers have been submitted from 30 countries, and 22 of these published. Overall the journal is going well, and the first issue for next year is already full. Winston reported that we still need to work on increasing the impact factor of MR, and the editorial board will focus on strategies for this – one method may be to solicit reviews on key topics. Winston concluded by asking MSA members to consider submitting their research to MR.

**9. Succession plan for MSA council.** Rachel explained that the majority of current council members have been in their positions for a long time, usually more than six years. As such, many councillors have expressed their intention to leave their positions in the near future. Rachel reported that there had been an active push to recruit some new council members into general council positions, in the hope that they can take on more formal roles as the standing members retire.

**10. Election of Officers.** Don Colgan acted as returning officer, and declared all positions for 2015 vacant. Nominations for new positions are as follows:

President: Rachel Przeslawski

Vice President: Kirsten Benkendorff

Treasurer: Carmel McDougall

Secretary: Lisa Kirkendale

Journal Editor: Winston Ponder

Website Administrator: Rachel Przeslawski

Membership Secretary: Matt Nimbs

Newsletter Editor: Jonathan Parkyn

Councillor (Victoria): Platon Vafiadis

Councillor (NZ): Simon Hills

Councillor: Caitlin Woods

Councillor: Steve Smith

Councillor: Hugh MacIntosh

Councillor: Simon Grove

Councillor: Wayne O'Connor

Councillor: Bob Creese

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

#### **11. Other business.**

- a. Steve mentioned that the need for increased exposure of the society was brought up at the MR editorial meeting. The need for an increased social media presence was discussed, this may include a Twitter feed which would highlight key papers, etc. The general aim would be the promotion of molluscs, but this will hopefully result in increased society membership.
- b. Winston suggested that we give more publicity for the MR Achievement Awards, this in turn should make submitting to MR more attractive.
- c. Andy moved a vote of thanks for the Conference Committee for all of their work in organising the successful event. This was unanimously supported by those in attendance.
- d. Rachel announced that the location of Molluscs 2018 will be in Wellington, NZ!

**12. Close of meeting.** Meeting closed at 1.40 pm.