



AGM Meeting Minutes

Date: 08/12/16

Time: 2:00 pm (AEST, Brisbane); 3:00 pm (NSW)

Location: Telespace (facilitated by Eureka Teleconferencing)

In attendance: Rachel Przeslawski, Carmel McDougall, Kirsten Benkendorff, Lisa Kirkendale, Steve Smith, Don Colgan, ~~Winston Ponder~~, Matt Nimbs, ~~Bob Creese~~, ~~Caitlin Woods~~, Platon Vafiadis, ~~Simon Grove~~, ~~Jonathan Parkyn~~, David Rudd, Wayne O'Connor, Simon Hills, Peter Hunt, Joan Hales (sp), Hugh MacIntosh, Kara Layton

1. Welcome.

2. Approval of last AGM Minutes. Nominated: Rachel, Seconded: Kirsten.

3. Apologies. None

4. President's Report. Please see attached report. Rachel gave an overview of major activities and events of the past year. She also announced the need to digitize the constitution as something to tackle while also recognizing our transition to Skype for council meetings. Rachel thanked all council members for their service, especially those who are leaving the council next year after many years of service – Kirsten Benkendorff, Hugh MacIntosh, Winston Ponder (stepping down as journal editor). *Action: The president's report will be made available on the society website as per previous years.*

5. Treasurer's Report. Please see attached report. Carmel circulated her report, the Auditor's report and the statement of financial position to council. She reported that the society's net assets stand at \$34,525.75, this is an increase from last year (as at June 2015) of \$4,355.37. *Action: The treasurer's report will be made available on the society website as per previous years.* Importantly, council agreed, with no objections, to move to a single signature requirement, as opposed to current 'two to sign' requirement, for all bank transactions from this point on for all accounts held at the NAB.

6. Membership Report. Matt reported that we have 97 full members, with five students, six concessions and no institutional memberships. Matt reported we are down 8 members compared with last year and Rachel mentioned that a drop in membership following conference years is a regular pattern.

7. Engagement with MSSA. Carmel reported on regular discussions with Peter Hunt past president of MSSA and move to a closer relationship between MSA and MSSA. Peter Hunt was then nominated as a councillor of MSA (South Australia) to formalize this relationship. Peter Hunt then briefly spoke about his experience with outreach and interest in the society.

8. Molluscs 2018. Simon Hills outlined the work done to date by himself, Hamish Spencer and Bruce Marshall in preparation for the triennial conference in two years. Thus far the NZ team have examined venues with consideration of Wellington as the host city. *Action: Rachel has agreed to send a timeline of events for Simon to follow.*

9. MSA Branches. Rachel reported that NSW and QLD are no longer active and have disbanded. Victoria is running smoothly, in large part due to the work of Platon, with bulletins, regular updates and overall an healthy association.

10. 2016 Honorary Member. Rachel noted that no one had been put forward for 2016 and that we would consider 2 for 2017. Lisa will develop proposal for nomination of Fred Wells.

11. Election of Officers. Hugh MacIntosh acted as returning officer, as with his imminent move to Canada he would not be nominating for 2017. Hugh declared all positions for 2017 vacant. Nominations for new positions are as follows:

President: Lisa Kirkendale
Vice President: Simon Hills
Treasurer: Carmel McDougall
Secretary: Kara Layton
Journal Editor: Don Colgan
Website Administrator: Rachel Przeslawski
Membership Secretary: Matt Nimbs
Newsletter Editor: Platon Vafiadis
Councillor (Vic): Platon Vafiadis
Councillor (NSW): Wayne O'Connor
Councillor (NSW): Steve Smith
Councillor (TAS): Simon Grove

The members agreed to elect all officers as nominated. All positions were accepted. *Action: Rachel to email the new council about the outcome, Rachel to update the email lists and website, Don and Platon to update council details in the journal and newsletter, respectively.*

Addendum: Caitlin Wood was removed from original agenda that was circulated as she earlier in 2016 stepped down from her position as community relations officer. After the meeting it was noted that a number of people were not re-nominated that were likely interested in staying on council. This included Councillor (NSW): Kirsten Benkendorff, Councillor (NSW): David Rudd and Councillor (NSW): Bob Creese. As well, Peter Hunt joined the meeting and confirmed his interest in joining council as a representative for SA and for MSSA. These four are to be voted in at the next council meeting but only following confirmation, as for all council members that all are current members of MSA with annual society fees paid in full.

12. Other business.

a. Steve brought up the sea slug census, a citizen science survey rolled out in NSW to great success. He mentioned a new federal grant (due Feb. 2017) to promote citizen science in Australia. He intends to apply for additional sea slug censi in other states. He asked MSA for a letter of support and volunteered to draft such a letter. Council agreed to this request, as the program would raise the profile of molluscs in Australasia, one of the main drivers of the society's newly formed outreach white paper and in general, reiterated by many over the years. Lisa noted that that rollout to NZ to coincide with 2018 MSA conference would be viable (as possible). Lisa noted that other such groups that asked for similar letters would be considered for support as well, on a case by case basis and Rachel noted that MSA could itself apply for an award.

b. Don mentioned the journal MR had entered into new agreement with Taylor and Francis. He also stated that he fully intends to transfer the editorial allowance to the MSA, as Winston did in the past. Rachel noted that Don was not obliged to donate funds to MSA. He mentioned some changes for the journal, such as the move to an editorial management system. *Action: Rachel mentioned the need for acknowledgment of Winston's contribution to MR, and that he indicated his interest in remaining as an editor.* Don proposed a new title of Editor Emeritus be considered as a tribute to Winston in his new role. *Action: We spoke of the dedication of a special issue of MR, with contributions from the mollusc community on topics of relevance to recognize Winston's long association with the journal.* Don mentioned that Dr. David Reid, Editor of the Journal of Molluscan Studies published by Oxford Press, spoke highly of the MR Achievement Award. Don said that 2018 would be the first time available for a special issue and he also offered to collate and preface.

c. Platon mentioned that he had been in communication with SSMD (Japan) following contact by Winston with the President of that Society (Professor Asami). The president on behalf of SSMD said that they were honoured to be a sister partner with MSA and he is happy to contribute to the newsletter and will circulate invitation and news about MSA during their upcoming AGM. Matt mentioned that recently two Japanese members joined the MSA since our last council meeting. Kirsten recognized Platon for his work as newsletter editor and Platon said thank you.

d. Kirsten mentioned shellfish research restoration, a nationally growing program with viable citizen science links to build oyster gardens via the 'billion oysters' project. The impetus for this initiative was the decimation of oyster reefs globally and their importance as ecosystem engineers, capacity for filtration and more. Kirsten suggested having a link to their website on MSA and perhaps need for article in upcoming newsletter. Peter Hunt mentioned close links he has via MSSA to this project and Wayne O' Connor mentioned his awareness of the program. Kirsten mentioned the difficulties in obtaining government permits to place oyster shell in the environment to stimulate the regeneration of such reefs.

e. Rachel identified some housekeeping priorities during transition to a new council including change of forwarders, update of council information, notification of current membership for all new council members and transitional assistance by exiting to entering executive member.

f. Rachel was formally nominated to council as website administrator and Don seconded the motion, motion was passed without objection.

13. Close of meeting. Meeting closed at 3:00 pm. Next council meeting will be towards the end of February, with notification coming out in the New Year. *Action: Everyone enjoy a Happy New Year!*