



Malacological Society of Australasia Ltd  
*Annual General Meeting 2021*

Date: Thursday December 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2021

Time: 12:40pm AEST (1:40pm AEDT, 3:40pm NZST)

Venue: Zoom.

**Meeting ID:** 976 8545 5858

### **Meeting Minutes**

1. Welcome (Carmel)

Carmel welcomed all MSA members to the AGM. The minimum quorum was reached (15 members), with Felicity and Rachel represented by proxy. Simon and Lisa joined the meeting. The following members were present: Carmel McDougall, Don Colgan, Simon Hills, Kerry Walton, Kirsten Benkendorff, Lisa Kirkendale, Matt Nimbs, Felicity Masters (with a proxy), Rachel Przeslawski (with a proxy), Matthew Kosnik, Platon Vafiadis, Priscila Salloum, Richard Willan, Nathan Kenny and Steve Smith.

2. Apologies (Priscila) – Felicity, Rachel

3. Approval of last AGM Minutes (Carmel)

Seconded by: Simon and Lisa

4. President's Report (Carmel)

Carmel presented the president's report, recognizing that this year has been another challenge for all, resulting in decisions such as the postponement of the conference to 2022. However, MSA has also identified where it can act given the new circumstances, such as with the mini symposia. Carmel thanked all the council members for their dedication to the society in 2021. The full report is circulated with the minutes.

5. Treasurer's Report / Financial Statement (Matt)

Matt presented the treasurer's report, showing the excellent financial position of the society. The full report and account audit are circulated with the minutes.

6. Membership Report (Felicity)

The membership report will be minuted for this AGM.



#### 7. Grants and Awards (Carmel)

Carmel presented a brief report of the grants and awards that were handed out during the year. Next year will be a conference year, thus travel grants will be distributed.

Winners of the Research Grant Award: Kate Summer, Kate Seinor, and Laura Otter.

Winner of the Molluscan Research Achievement Award: Pholyotha et al (2020).

Taxonomic revision of the land snail genera *Macrochlamys* Gray, 1847 and *Sarika* Godwin-Austen, 1907 (Eupulmonata: Ariophantidae) from south-eastern Myanmar, with descriptions of three new species. 40(2): 183–204.

#### 8. Media (Carmel, Priscila, Lisa, Kerry, Simon, Felicity)

Carmel updated the members about MSA activities on social media. Twitter and Facebook are proving useful for getting news and stories out, and most followers are non-MSA members. The website might go through a remake at some point in the future, but currently there has been some updates with MSA events and news, and old content was removed. The mini symposia marked a good presence for our society and there is potential to integrate with other societies that have shown interest in MSA during these online events (the presidents of the Malacological Society of Indonesia, Ayu Nurinsiyah, and of the Malacological Society of Brazil, Lenita de Freitas Tallarico, were in the second mini symposium). There is the potential to hold these symposia in collaboration with these other societies, and also with MSA sister society in Japan.

MSA members ideas for future symposia themes:

- molluscs in engagement and outreach as a mini symposium
- molluscan taxonomy - the good, the bad and the ugly
- Representing the underrepresented - all non-gastropod/non-bivalve

Carmel highlighted that finding keynote speakers to specific themes can be challenging, so an idea is to hold a call for the symposium theme and speaker a few months before the symposium day (in 2022, there is only one symposium planned take place around June, as it is a conference year).

#### 9. Journal Report (Don)



Don presented the journal report, which is also circulated with the minutes. Don also reported that there may be a vacancy for editor with expertise on freshwater molluscs to be opened in 2022.

Open access (Carmel and Don): funding agencies/universities are joining the trend to have only open-access publications from their affiliated researchers. There are trade agreements between institutions and publishers that aim to make it easier for researchers to publish under an open access policy. MSA will check with Taylor & Francis what is their strategy moving forward. Don advocated in favour of a hybrid journal, as some researchers may not have the resources that large labs/institutions provide for funding open-access publication. Richard reminded that open access can also mean a time-constraint for the authors, as grant funding often needs to be spent by grant end dates, and publication can be much later.

#### 10. Molluscs 2021 (Carmel)

Update of decisions and changes imposed by Covid-19.

Conference postponed to 2022, the same week. The response to our survey showed that members prefer conference in person, but borders were closed. Thus, the 2021 conference was postponed to 2022 in the Gold Coast, to be followed by 2024 in Perth (consider not changing the year (keep 2024), to avoid clashing with other conferences). Financial liability to the venue was avoided by making the decision to postpone in August 2021.

#### 11. Newsletter Report (Platon)

Platon presented the Newsletter report, which is also circulated with the minutes. Platon gave an update on the Victoria Branch, and reminded that MSA members can receive the Victorian Branch Bulletin two-monthly (if you are interested and not receiving it, just contact Michael Lyons).

#### 12. Victoria Branch Report

Carmel presented the Victoria Branch report on behalf of Michael Lyons. The full report is also circulated with the minutes.

#### 13. Election of Officers.

Nominations for positions:

**President: Carmel McDougall** (Nominated by Priscila, Seconded by Matt Nimbs)



**Vice President: Simon Hills** (Nominated by Carmel, Seconded by Matt Nimbs)

**Treasurer: Matt Nimbs** (Nominated by Carmel, Seconded by Matt Nimbs)

**Secretary: Priscila Salloum** (Nominated by Carmel, Seconded by Matt Nimbs)

**Journal Editor: Don Colgan** (Nominated by Carmel, Seconded by Matt Nimbs)

**Membership Secretary:** This position is open. Matt Kosnik and Matt Nimbs will work on this role temporarily, with the aim to slowly incorporate Matt Kosnik as Membership Secretary.

**Newsletter Editor: Platon Vafiadis** (Nominated by Carmel, Seconded by Matt Nimbs)

**Web Admin:** This position is open. Nathan and Priscila will work on this role temporarily, with the aim to slowly incorporate Nathan as Web Admin.

**Councillor (WA): Lisa Kirkendale** (Nominated by Carmel, Seconded by Matt Nimbs)

**Councillor (NZ): Kerry Walton** (Nominated by Carmel, Seconded by Matt Nimbs)

**Councilor (NZ): Nathan Kenny** (Nominated by Carmel, Seconded by Matt Nimbs)

**Councillor (NSW): Steve Smith** (Nominated by Carmel, Seconded by Matt Nimbs)

**Councilor (NSW): Wayne O'Connor** (Nominated by Carmel, Seconded by Matt Nimbs). Nomination declined.

**Councilor (NSW): Kirsten Benkendorff** (Nominated by Carmel, Seconded by Matt Nimbs)

**Councilor (NSW): Matt Kosnik** (Nominated by Carmel, Seconded by Matt Nimbs)

**Councillor (TAS): Simon Grove** (Nominated by Carmel, Seconded by Matt Nimbs)

**All nominees were elected (except Wayne O'Connor).**

#### 14. Other business

- Change of MSA directors (Carmel):

Carmel contacted the directors of MSA, and Winston Ponder and Rachel Przeslawski are happy for someone more active in the society to take their roles. Des Beechey is still to answer, but earlier in the year him and Carmel corresponded, and he was surprised that he was still an MSA director.

- Matt Nimbs nominated Carmel for director of MSA.
- Carmel nominated Simon Hills (if possible to have a director outside Australia) and Richard Willan to be directors of MSA.
- Kerry, Steve Smith, and Priscila seconded, and nobody opposed. Carmel, Simon (if possible) and Richard will replace Winston, Rachel and Des as MSA directors.



- Outreach – Better presence of MSA on iNaturalist (Steve Smith)

Steve explained that iNaturalist is a vehicle for finding information about distribution of species, combining technology and citizen science, and help fill gaps in knowledge. Anybody can register on iNaturalist and submit a photo, and the ID of the organism is crowd sourced.

iNaturalist would be an opportunity of outreach to MSA. As a society, MSA could join the iNaturalist network, a group of organisations that contribute in a more formal way. Another idea is to have an MSA hosted group in iNaturalist that contains a library of curated images, and MSA members would contribute towards developing and maintaining this library with reliable IDs.

It was noted that iNaturalist can be a vehicle to promote MSA to people already interested in molluscs, but not yet members of the society.

**ACTION: Steve Smith to investigate what a membership as an ‘iNaturalist network organisation’ entails. If MSA decides to go ahead, Steve is happy to provide an article to the newsletter. This topic will be re-addressed in the next council meeting (Feb 2022).**

#### 15. Close of meeting (Carmel)

Carmel thanked the MSA members for their presence in the AGM and welcomed all new and returning council members for next year.

Members present at the AGM thanked Carmel for the leadership in the challenging year of 2021.