



## **COUNCIL MINUTES**

**Meeting – Friday 15<sup>th</sup> February 2013 (Meeting #1)**

**Teleconference: commencing 11:00 AEDST**

[NSW, VIC, ACT, TAS – 11:00; SA – 10:30, QLD – 10:00; NT – 9:30; WA – 8:00]

**Phone no: 1800 333 803 (622507#)**

Distribution list: Kris French (President), Nigel Andrew (President-elect, Treasurer), Brad Murray (Treasurer-elect), Liz Tasker (VP-Public Liaison), Glenda Wardle (VP-Research), Angela Moles (VP-Student Affairs), Michael Bull (Austral Ecology – Chair, Editorial Board), Gary Luck (EMR – Chair, Editorial Board), Ben Gooden (Bulletin Editor), Don Driscoll (ACT Councillor), Luke Collins (NSW Councillor), Christine Schlesinger (NT Councillor), Andrew Hayes (QLD Councillor), Nerissa Haby (SA Councillor), Anita Wild (TAS Councillor), Peter Vesk (VIC Councillor), Blair Parsons (WA Councillor), Jodie Lia (Secretary), Lyn McCormick (Finance Officer), Gail Spina (Executive Officer).

### **1.0 WELCOME AND APOLOGIES**

- 1.1 Chairperson's Welcome and Introduction
- 1.2 Present and Apologies

Present: Kris French (President), Nigel Andrew (President-elect, Treasurer), Brad Murray (Treasurer-Elect), Liz Tasker (VP-Public Liaison), Glenda Wardle (VP-Research), Angela Moles (VP-Student Affairs), , Gary Luck (EMR – Chair, Editorial Board), Ben Gooden (Bulletin Editor), , Luke Collins (NSW Councillor), Christine Schlesinger (NT Councillor), , Nerissa Haby (SA Councillor), , Peter Vesk (VIC Councillor), Blair Parsons (WA Councillor), Jodie Lia (Secretary), Lyn McCormick (Finance Officer).

Apologies: Anita Wild (TAS Councillor), Michael Bull (Austral Ecology – Chair, Editorial Board), Don Driscoll (ACT Councillor), Andrew Hayes (QLD Councillor), Gail Spina (Executive Officer).

- 1.3 Minutes of Previous Council Meeting (December 2012) – will be distributed when they become available and submitted for ratification at the April Council meeting.

### **2.0 ACTION ITEMS FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS**

- 2.1 Action items following the December 2012 Council meeting will be distributed to Council when they become available.

### **3.0 REPORTS**

- 3.1 Treasurer's/Finance Report - Nigel Andrew/Lyn McCormick\*

The balance sheet, cash movement and income statement were presented to Council. The balance sheet presented was only for the month of November. The December and January balance sheets will be presented at the April Council meeting. Lyn will describe the Inter-company transfer account income as identified on the cash movement report.

Glenda and Peter enquired as to the status of the Conference finances and when the account was expected to close – Lyn to confirm. Nigel explained that Austral Ecology profits drive ESA profits with income expected in March/April to balance out the net loss identified on the income statement, which is normal for this time of year.

Nigel, Lyn and Brad will work together on a new way of presenting the finance report for council meetings. This is to ensure that the finance reports are easier to understand, including the provision of access to past finance reports for comparison.

Peter will follow up with Trisha from (Conlog?) to obtain the final report for the Melbourne ESA conference. Peter will present a final report from the LOC and Conlog for the April Council meeting.

Coun_Feb_13_3.1.1	New presentation of finance report	Nigel, Lyn, Brad	July Council
Coun_Feb_13_3.1.2	Final Conference Report from LOC and Conlog	Peter	April Council

### 3.2 NZES/ESA Joint Meeting Communications – Kerry Bridle

It was noted that there are no notified dates for the NZES/ESA joint conference including deadlines for abstracts and symposia. Ben would like to get as many dates/deadlines as possible advertised in the next ESA Bulletin to give ESA members time to consider the topics and submit abstracts. Christine raised the question about how the indigenous symposium could be incorporated into the NZES conference.

It was suggested that Gail and Kerry should work together on identifying dates with Bruce and the NZES as soon as possible, including the discussion of advertising the conference on both the ESA and NZES websites. It was also suggested that key questions or concerns, such as the aforementioned, are to be submitted to Kerry for discussions with Bruce rather than individuals seeking answers separately from the NZES.

Coun_Feb_13_3.2.1	Contact Bruce at the NZES to get some dates for the NZES/ESA conference	Kerry & Gail	ASAP
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## 4.0 GENERAL BUSINESS (Discussion and/or Voting)

### 4.1 Start of the year organisation – Kris French

Kris outlined the need to share tasks until Gail has caught up and is back on board after being absent from the ESA for January and part of February. The following tasks and responsibilities were assigned:

Coun_Feb_13_4.1.1	Contact list sent around to all participants	Gail	ASAP
Coun_Feb_13_4.1.2	Dates for 2013 meetings	Gail	ASAP
Coun_Feb_13_4.1.3	VP assigned to executive meetings	Council	Complete - Angela accepted as 2013 VP Rep.
Coun_Feb_13_4.1.4	Webpages – contact with Interlated and update	Liz & Gail	March 1 <sup>st</sup> 2013
Coun_Feb_13_4.1.4	Minutes of December meeting circulated	Gail & Jodie	ASAP
Coun_Feb_13_4.1.5	Regional councillor roster assigned to executive meetings	Jodie	ASAP
Coun_Feb_13_4.1.6	Working group compositions circulated and edited ready for approval	Gail	April Council

#### 4.2 Student Prizes and Travel Grant Policies – Angela Moles\*

New ESA policy statements on student prizes and travel grants, including a draft schedule were presented to council. Amendments were made to the travel policy and accepted by Council (as attached).

The draft deadline for student prize and travel grant applications was presented to Council. It was decided that the application deadlines would be spaced so as to reflect the requirements of each award (as attached).

Glenda suggested that a table clearly and positively explaining the benefits of the policy changes and membership offers to students to be included on the membership section of the website.

**MOTION: That ESA adopt the proposed policy on student travel grants.**

Moved: Amanda Moles  
Seconded: Ben Gooden  
All in favour: motion carried

**MOTION: That ESA adopt the proposed policy on student prizes.**

Moved: Amanda Moles  
Seconded: Peter Vesk  
All in favour: motion carried.

Coun_Feb_13_4.2.1	Revised deadlines for student prize and grant applications added to website	Angela	ASAP
Coun_Feb_13_4.2.2	Table showing membership benefits to students on website	Angela	When new webpage is up and running

#### 4.3 ESA Treasurer stipend – Nigel Andrew

Nigel presented a proposal for a Treasurer stipend of \$2,000 to assist with the cost of providing teaching relief when required to travel/conduct admin for the Treasurer position.

**MOTION: That the ESA council endorse the payment of a 'Treasurers stipend' of \$2,000 (plus GST) annually. Stipend to be reviewed every two years (at the same time as the President stipend review).**

Moved: Nigel Andrew  
Seconded: Gary Luck  
All in favour: motion carried.

#### 4.4 Special Issue of EMR – Native Fish Strategy – Gary Luck\*

Gary presented the draft proposal of the special issue of EMR and requested and comments or ideas to be forwarded to him.

#### 4.5 Letter to NSW Government – Kris French

Kris presented the proposal to write a letter to the NSW government on behalf of the ESA opposing plans for the NSW Office of Environment and Heritage to make at least 25% its scientific researchers redundant as a result of a current restructure. Council agreed to support the letter.

It was suggested that the letter be made available for all ESA members to view via the website and for the current ESA policy on science communications to be reviewed in preparation for the potential of future letters from the ESA.

Coun_Feb_13_4.5.1	Circulate draft letter to NSW government for approval by Council	Kris	ASAP
Coun_Feb_13_4.5.2	Add a copy of the letter to the ESA webpage	Kris/Gail	ASAP
Coun_Feb_13_4.5.3	Review current policy on science communications and present any suggested changes	Kris	April Council

## 5.0 ANY OTHER BUSINESS (For Noting Only)

### 5.1 SA Regional Event Update – Nerissa Haby

Nerissa noted that she was preparing a letter for the invitation of editors to her planned workshops. Nerissa stated that she would have the letter ready for Executive approval in time for the March meeting.

Coun_Feb_13_5.1.1	Letter for SA Regional Event drafted for approval	Nerissa	March Exec
Coun_Feb_13_5.1.2	Update on SA Regional Event	Nerissa	April Council

## 6.0 LATE AGENDA ITEMS

### 6.1 Biodiversity Across the Borders Conference – Peter Vesk

Peter has had contact with organisers about using the allocated ESA VIC funds to support the forthcoming *Biodiversity Across the Borders Conference*. ESA have supported this conference in the past.

Coun_Feb_13_6.1.1	Provide proposal for ESA to financially support the conference, to be approved by Exec	Peter	March Exec
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### 6.2 Letter from QLD Government – Kris French

Gail has received a letter from the QLD Department of State Development, Infrastructure and Planning who are seeking two ESA members to sit on an Industry Advisory Group for planning and development in Queensland. Council generally supports this proposal. Kris to discuss this with Andrew Hayes in order to seek expression of interest from QLD ESA members.

Coun_Feb_13_6.2.1	Discuss with QLD Regional Councillor in order to seek expressions of interest from QLD ESA members to join the new QLD advisory board.	Kris	ASAP
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### 6.3 TERN Symposium – Kris French

Kris has been asked to present as a keynote speaker at the 2013 TERN Symposium, speaking on the value of TERN to ecologists.

#### 6.4 ESA Bulletin – Ben Gooden

Ben noted that the latest ESA Bulletin is complete but awaiting on Gail for confirmation of content. The Bulletin should be distributed next week. Ben is working with Megan, the former Bulletin Editor, on integrating the Bulletin into the website. The first three Bulletins of 2013 will be available in PDF format, with a view to getting future Bulletins interactive online.

#### 6.5 Change of date for Executive Meeting – Kris French

Kris has proposed a change of date for the March Executive meeting to the 22<sup>nd</sup> March so that she can attend.

### 7.0 NEXT MEETING

Next Executive Meeting – 22<sup>nd</sup> March 2013

Next Council Meeting –to be advised

**Meeting closed at 12:30**

\* Papers related to this agenda item are attached, or were circulated via email prior to the meeting. Copies can be obtained on request from the ESA Secretary.