



BOARD MINUTES

Thursday 27th August 2015 (Meeting #4)

Teleconference: commencing 11:00 AEST

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

Distribution list: Nigel Andrew (President), Liz Tasker (VP - Member Communications), Angela Moles (VP - Student Affairs), Raghu Sathyamurthy (VP - Research), Jodie Lia (Secretary), Jason Cummings (Treasurer), Andrew Hayes (Director – Early Career Researchers), Don Driscoll (Director – Hot Topics), Euan Ritchie (Director – Research Chapters), Romina Rader (Director - Membership), Jodi Price (Director - ESA16), Kerry Bridle (Ordinary Director), Nikki Zanardo (Ordinary Director), Matt McDowell (Ordinary Director), Ben Gooden (Bulletin Editor), Michael Bull (Austral Ecology – Chair, Editorial Board), Gary Luck (EMR – Chair, Editorial Board), Gail Spina (Executive Officer), Lyn McCormick (Finance Officer).

1.0 WELCOME AND APOLOGIES

1.1 Chairperson's Welcome and Introduction

1.2 Present and Apologies

Present: Nigel Andrew (President), Liz Tasker (VP - Member Communications), Angela Moles (VP - Student Affairs), Jodie Lia (Secretary), Jason Cummings (Treasurer), Andrew Hayes (Director – Early Career Researchers), Don Driscoll (Director – Hot Topics), Romina Rader (Director - Membership), Jodi Price (Director - ESA16), Kerry Bridle (Ordinary Director), Nikki Zanardo (Ordinary Director), Matt McDowell (Ordinary Director), Gary Luck (EMR – Chair, Editorial Board), Gail Spina (Executive Officer), Lyn McCormick (Finance Officer).

Apologies:, Raghu Sathyamurthy (VP - Research), Ben Gooden (Bulletin Editor), Michael Bull (Austral Ecology – Chair, Editorial Board).

Absent: Euan Ritchie (Director – Research Chapters)

1.3 Minutes of Previous Board Meeting (June 2015) – for ratification*

MOTION: That the minutes of the previous Board Meeting be accepted as a true and correct record.

Moved: Don Driscoll

Seconded: Angela Moles

All in favour: motion carried

1.4 Minutes of Previous Executive Committee Meeting (July 2015) – for noting*

Noted.

2.0 ACTION ITEMS FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS

2.1 Matters Arising from Previous Board & Executive Meetings

Action Item table attached (August post-meeting status).

3.0 REPORTS

3.1 Treasurers Report – Jason Cummings

Lyn presented on-screen the new format of reporting against the budget via projects, with a look at each project and how it's tracking against the budget. Jason explained that being so early in the financial year; some projects don't have anything significant to show. FGWG to investigate including a summary report can be included for on future updates to the Board along with a description/explanation page for commonly used financial terms.

AGENDA ITEM #	ACTION ARISING	PERSON	DUE BY
Board_Aug_15_3.1.1	Produce a summary alongside the Project reports for future meetings.	Lyn/Jason	Sept Exec
Board_Aug_15_3.1.2	Develop an explanation page for financial terms to be distributed to Directors alongside the financials each month.	FGWG	Oct Board

3.2 Correspondence Report – Nikki Zanardo*

Noted.

3.3 Working Group Report – Nikki Zanardo

Nikki reiterated that she was still waiting on the Terms of Reference from the working group leaders. They will be collated and discussed by the Executive in September and the Board at Planning Day.

3.4 Web Officer Report – Gail Spina

Gail explained that she and Brigitte are finalising the Service Level Agreement with Interlated. Brigitte is developing the online shop for the website where merchandise, including the calendar and conference t-shirts, can be sold. Brigitte is investigating a better membership directory for the society based on other large not-for-profit organisations.

3.5 Membership Report – Lyn McCormick

Lyn circulated at the meeting the latest statistics on membership with current numbers at 1147, up from 1088 in July.

3.6 Conference Report – Gail Spina

Gail explained that securing sponsorship is proving difficult for ESA15 and asked for support from any Board members who may have relevant contacts with potential sponsors. It is expected that will the current level of support the conference will break even with expected attendee numbers healthy. Importantly, the LOC has finalised the program and will distribute shortly.

3.7 Media Report – Don Driscoll

The Media Working Group has been assembled and primarily will be there to provide feedback to authors of media releases. The Barnacles/MH370 media release was a great success with fantastic coverage by the general media, relating ecology to a topical event. It was agreed that contributing working group members are to be publicly and formally recognised ESA for their hard work in this developing area for the society.

4.0 GENERAL BUSINESS (Discussion and/or Voting)

4.1 Advertising in ESA products - Nigel Andrew

FGWG have been liaising with Wiley to determine the approach for corporate membership and advertising with the ESA and Austral Ecology. FGWG will now investigate the approach for handling advertising generally with the society (bulletin/website/AE), job advertisements and corporate membership.

4.2 ESA Constitution Changes – Nigel Andrew*

The ESA constitution review continues with the latest draft circulated to the Board for consideration. Important proposed changes include a new nomination process for the Board and the addition of terms of service for Directors, which would allow for better succession planning and clearer expectations of individual roles. The proposed amendments will be taken to the AGM for a vote, which will precede the elections of new and existing Directors.

MOTION: That the amendments proposed are accepted by the Board and should be put to the membership at the 2015 AGM for ratification.

Moved: Jason Cummings

Seconded: Don Driscoll

All in favour: motion carried

5.0 OTHER BUSINESS (For Noting or Information Only)

5.1 Ecosystem Science Council Update* – Nigel Andrew

Nigel tabled a report from the Ecosystem Science Council updating the ESA on its progress. This report will be submitted to ESA monthly via Glenda Wardle.

5.2 Volunteer Opportunities within Ecological Science Institutions in Australia, ESA's Position – Ben Gooden/Nikki Zanardo

Ben (via Nikki) raised a discussion around the increasing number of volunteer advertisements that seem to take advantage of or disadvantage volunteers. It was determined by the Board that the ESA did not need to decide for potential applicants what was considered "fair" but rather would develop a standard format by which these opportunities can be advertised via ESA. Some standard inclusions/exclusions will openly inform potential volunteers with the facts so that the individual can decide whether or not to apply.

AGENDA ITEM #	ACTION ARISING	PERSON	DUE BY
Board_Aug_15_5.2.1	Develop a general format for volunteer opportunity advertisements on the ESA website.	Romina/Gail/Ben	Oct Board

5.3 Ecological Global Societies Forum: Baltimore motions* – Nigel Andrew

Mike Bull represented Nigel and the ESA at the recent Ecological Society of America conference. The conference adopted a set of motions to support a global strategy on climate change which Nigel added the ESA as a signatory.

5.4 National Library of Australia request for permission to archive Ecological Society of Australia (website) – Nigel Andrew

The National Library of Australia would like to archive the ESA website and continue to re-archive into the future indefinitely, providing long-term access to online Australian publications. The Board agreed that access should be granted pending the copyright obligations with Austral Ecology and Wiley.

6.0 LATE AGENDA ITEMS

7.0 NEXT MEETING

Next Board Meeting – 29th October 2015

Next Executive Meeting – 24th September 2015

Meeting closed: 12:50PM AEST