



BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Meeting – Thursday 25th February 2016 (Meeting #1)

Commencing 11:00 AEDST

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

Distribution list: Nigel Andrew (President), Don Driscoll (President-elect; Director – Hot Topics), Raghu Sathyamurthy (VP - Research), Dieter Hochuli (VP - Student Affairs), Jodie Lia (Secretary), Jason Cummings (Treasurer), Dustin Welbourne (Bulletin Editor), Michael Bull (Austral Ecology – Chair, Editorial Board), Gary Luck (EMR – Chair, Editorial Board), Ben Gooden (Ordinary Director), Romina Rader (Director - Early Career Research), Euan Ritchie (Ordinary Director), Kerry Bridle (Director - Tasmania), Jodi Price (Director - ESA16), Nikki Zanardo (Ordinary Director), Bek Christensen (Ordinary Director), Amy Hahs (Ordinary Director), Sacha Jellinek (Ordinary Director), Gail Spina (Executive Officer), Lyn McCormick (Finance Officer).

1.0 WELCOME AND APOLOGIES

1.1 Chairperson's Welcome and Introduction

Don filled in as chair for the meeting as Nigel was an apology.

1.2 Present and Apologies

Present: Don Driscoll (President-elect; Chair), Raghu Sathyamurthy (VP – Research), Dieter Hochuli (VP – Student Affairs), Jodie Lia (Secretary), Dustin Welbourne (Bulletin Editor), Gary Luck (EMR – Chair, Editorial Board), Ben Gooden (Ordinary Director), Romina Rader (Director – Early Career Research), Euan Ritchie (Ordinary Director), Jodi Price (Director - ESA16), Nikki Zanardo (Ordinary Director), Bek Christensen (Ordinary Director), Amy Hahs (Ordinary Director), Sacha Jellinek (Ordinary Director), Gail Spina (Executive Officer), Lyn McCormick (Finance Officer).

Apologies: Nigel Andrew (President), Jason Cummings (Treasurer), Michael Bull (Austral Ecology – Chair, Editorial Board), Kerry Bridle (Director - Tasmania).

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

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

Moved: Raghu Sathyamurthy

Seconded: Romina Rader

All in favour: motion carried

1.4 Minutes of Previous Extraordinary Meeting (January 2016) – for noting*

Noted.

2.0 ACTION ITEMS FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS

2.1 Matters Arising from Previous Board & Executive Meetings

Post-meeting action item table attached to minutes.

AGENDA ITEM #	ACTION ARISING	PERSON	DUE BY
Board_Feb_16_2.1.1	Provide full list of outstanding actions with minutes.	Jodie	ASAP, and all minutes
Board_Feb_16_2.1.2	Present new financial structure to Board.	Jason/FGWG	April Board
Board_Feb_16_2.1.3	Email Board with the details for the IMPACT Philanthropy Program.	Gail	ASAP
Board_Feb_16_2.1.4	Present shortlist of applications to Board for consideration.	Gail	March Exec & April Board

3.0 REPORTS

3.1 Treasurer's Report – Jason Cummings*

Balance Sheet, Income Statement, Project Budget Variance and written Treasurers Report circulated. Corrected Balance Sheet attached to minutes. Lyn explained that member fees are down this year from previous years due to a change in process. 2015 was the first year we didn't send out paper membership forms with AGM papers instead providing them electronically. An email reminder in January picked up numbers quite well so this year we should consider reminding members with, but also separately from, the AGM. Conference income and expenses still forthcoming – February financials will reflect this but it expected that we will have a \$75K profit from ESA15. This was due to the sponsorship contingency plan being enacted, followed by late confirmation of sponsorship which exceeded targets; after activities had already been scaled back. There were also a much higher number of day memberships than previous conferences.

Meltwater media contract issue was discussed. Gail still pursuing a negotiation to get out of the contract due to their unfair (and soon to be illegal) contract auto-renewal process. If Meltwater will not negotiate ESA out of the contract, there may be remit for legal action.

3.2 Correspondence Report – Jodie Lia*

Updated version attached to minutes.

3.3 Working Group Report

Working Group Report held over until the February Board Meeting.

AGENDA ITEM #	ACTION ARISING	PERSON	DUE BY
Board_Feb_16_3.3.1	Discuss working groups and terms of reference with regard to assisting conferences, i.e. involvement of Media WG with conference promotion	Executive Committee	March Exec

3.4 Web Officer Report – Gail Spina

Gail provided a brief overview of current web activities. Activities are generally quiet at this time of year except for usual maintenance; update of Director Information; AERA prize and online shop launch; membership management via website still being worked on with first meeting of the year with Interlated scheduled.

3.5 Membership Report – Lyn McCormick*

Membership report circulated as a late item. Membership income was discussed at item 3.1. Updated member numbers are as follows:

- 33 new members welcomed in February
- 415 member renewals in February
- 802 currently financial members
- 216 - NSW has the largest number of members

3.6 Conference Report – Gail Spina/Jodi Price

Jodi provided a brief update on ESA16. Sponsorship is progressing with the WA Department of Parks and Wildlife sponsorship confirmed. The call for symposia has gone out and due to close by the end of February but this may be extended. Field trips are being planned for pre- and post- conference covering a trip north to Durian Bay area and a trip south west covering Albany, Augusta and Margaret River. The conference website will be updated soon with some extra information, including an outline of the invited plenaries. Conference dinner is close to being confirmed.

3.7 Ecosystem Science Council Report – Nigel Andrew/Bek Christensen

No written report received. Bek informs that the ESC has met this year but has no update regarding ESA matters. A report will be submitted to the April Board.

AGENDA ITEM #	ACTION ARISING	PERSON	DUE BY
Board_Feb_16_3.7.1	ESC Report to be submitted to ESA.	Glenda (Nigel/Bek)	April Board

4.0 GENERAL BUSINESS (Discussion and/or Voting)

4.1 Research Chapters Working Group – Amy Hahs*

Research Chapters WG Report tabled. Amy mentioned that the WG currently has four members and they were looking suggestions for a fifth member, preferably female ECR or practitioner to balance out the group strengths and experiences. Amy to follow up suggestions. Raghu indicated that the financial implications of the RCWG activities will be discussed at the March Executive Committee meeting.

AGENDA ITEM #	ACTION ARISING	PERSON	DUE BY
Board_Feb_16_4.1.1	Research Chapters WG Finances	Raghu	March Exec

4.2 Conference Working Group TOR – Nigel Andrew*

Draft Conference WG Terms of Reference distributed with agenda for review.

5.0 OTHER BUSINESS (For Noting or Information Only)

5.1 Minutes for Aust Biological and Environmental Societies – Nigel Andrew*

Minutes for the teleconference with the Australian Biological and Environmental Societies circulated with agenda. Key points discussed covered the societies working together more collaboratively and complementarily; use web-based solutions to share information with each other and about each other's

conferences; individual LOCs can discuss aligning conferences to the same city and week as each other. Jodie will recirculate the background information on this project.

AGENDA ITEM #	ACTION ARISING	PERSON	DUE BY
Board_Feb_16_5.1.1	Circulate background information on ESA working with other biological societies.	Jodie	ASAP

5.2 EMR Submission Rate – Gary Luck*

EMR submission data circulated with agenda. Gary outlined concern with decreasing submission rates of articles to EMR. In the short term, invitations to submit and greater promotion by EMR editorial is helping but ESA needs to increase its advertising of EMR to level of AE. Another option is to have EMR as choice alongside Austral Ecology rather than having to pay extra. Mikes comments (below) were discussed and will require some further decisions around any changes in process or contracts with Wiley.

- a) I can report that there has not been an equivalent consistent decline in the number of manuscript submissions to AE although numbers bounce around a lot (2012 277; 2013 203; 2014 271; 2015 253)
- b) I have been in touch with Tein, and we have developed a more positive process of me letting her know when I suggest to authors that they should consider EMR. Then she can chase up those authors.
- c) The proposal from Gary for a longer term consideration of allowing members to choose between EMR and Austral Ecology will require some renegotiations of the two publishing agreements. I suspect this will become easier for those members who elect to take electronic only copies, but again I can discuss when I meet the Wiley group in March.
- d) In the shorter term I would recommend seeking invited contributions or identifying a thematic group of related papers from a conference that might fit the EMR focus.

AGENDA ITEM #	ACTION ARISING	PERSON	DUE BY
Board_Feb_16_5.2.1	Exploring collaboration between EMR and AE to redirect items that may be submitted to AE but were more suitable for EMR.	Gary/Mike/Tein	April Board
Board_Feb_16_5.2.2	Discuss EMR submission rates issue and possible long term options	Exec Comm	March Exec

6.0 LATE AGENDA ITEMS

7.0 NEXT MEETING

Next Board Meeting – Thursday 28 April 2016.

Next Executive Meeting – Thursday 25 March 2016.

Meeting closed: 12:40PM AEDST