



BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Meeting – Thursday 26th September 2019 (Meeting #8)

Commencing 11:00 AEST

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

GoToMeeting: <https://global.gotomeeting.com/join/746755149>

Meeting ID: 746-755-149

Phone No: +61 2 8355 1038

GoogleDrive Documents:

https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1jQ6E2NiAWSFM_oeLwGt3YpMLorJ0Mbc2?usp=sharing

Distribution list: Don Driscoll (President), Bek Christensen (VP – Public Liaison & Policy; President-elect), Amy Hahs (VP – Research), Jodi Price (VP – Student Affairs), Kate Umbers (VP – Membership & Communications), Chloe Sato (Secretary), Jeremy Huntley (Treasurer), Nigel Andrew (Austral Ecology – Chair), Pep Turner (EMR – Chair, Editorial Board), Gerry Turpin (Ordinary Director – Indigenous Engagement), Leanda Mason (Ordinary Director – Early Career Research), Gail Spina (Executive Officer), Jacky Tierney (Finance & Membership Officer), Toni Stevens (Online Media Manager).

1.0 WELCOME AND APOLOGIES

- 1.1 Chairperson's Welcome and Introduction
- 1.2 Apoloiges: Gerry Turpin, Pep Turner; Absent: Kate Umbers
- 1.3 Minutes of Previous Board Meeting – for ratification*

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

Moved: Nigel Andrew

Seconded: Bek Christensen

All in favour: motion carried.

2.0 ACTION ITEMS FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS

2.1 Matters Arising from Previous Board Meetings*

AGENDA ITEM #			ACTION ARISING	PERSON
Board	Aug (#7) 19	5.6.1	Explore opportunities for engaging Director of Fundraising/Sponsorship with Perpetual.	Gail
Done. Meeting with Perpetual and will distribute position description throughout their networks. Will also try advertising again in January 2020.				
Board	Aug (#7) 19	3.4.2	Incorporate comments on Governance Structure into document and circulate new version to Board.	Don
Done. See Item 5.1.				
Board	Aug (#7) 19	5.4.1	Circulate original mission/vision/values statements, Rick's version of these statements, and upload new statements for Board comment.	Don
Done. See Item 5.2.				
Board	Aug (#7) 19	5.11.1	Communicate sentiments of Board regarding Rotorua to NZES Board.	Gail
Done. Email sent outlining position but have not had a response yet.				

3.0 REPORTS

3.1 Treasurer's Report – Jeremy Huntley*

Financial statements tabled. Profit of 25K due to lower audit fee and change in Wiley accounting which is largely in line with expectations. No major issues were identified by auditors but awaiting final letter from auditors to confirm any further actions.

Financial statements for the 18-19 period have been presented as same way as last year, with figures largely in line with last year's figures.

Motion: That the Board approve the 18-19 Financial Statements and delegate to Jeremy to sign off.

Moved: Jeremy Huntley

Seconded: Nigel Andrew

All in favour: motion carried.

Currently ESA are tracking actuals of budget, there are no variances to report. ESA FGWG have sought alternative provide quotes for audit providers next year, given that the standard of service in terms of timeliness and efficiency was not the best this year. The quotes received have come in cheaper, and ESA FGWG will go back to Boyce to ask them to revise their costs.

3.2 Correspondence Report – Chloe Sato

No correspondence reported.

3.3 Working Group Report – All

Working Group Portfolio Chairs should submit a written dot point report for their Working Groups allowing for discussion of questions and issues only, rather than taking time for verbal updates. Directors with WG oversight to collate and forward dot point reports to Secretary prior to Board meetings.

Oversight	Working Group	Chair	Update as at 26 September 19
President	JOURNALS	Don Driscoll	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • EMR Issue 20:3 is about to be published. • EMR 20th Anniversary commemorative virtual issue is progressing well - with about 15 'updates' now edited (ten of which have been published on the EMR project summaries web page). Another 8 are in the process of editing so we will have more than the 20 required; and will be able to decide on the selected 20 by early November. Wiley considers this plenty of time for publication of the virtual issue in time for the ESA conference. We hope to start Facebook and Twitter publicity later this week, highlighting some of the summaries published. This will build interest in the conference and EMR. • We are aiming to hold an EMR board meeting at the ESA conference.
	INDIGENOUS ENGAGEMENT	Gerry Turpin	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bush Heritage Right-way Science award launched. • Indigenous travel grants opened – we have funding from TNC, Wiley UK, Conservation

Oversight	Working Group	Chair	Update as at 26 September 19
			Management, Wiley Ecology & Evolution, and a private donor. • Research protocols re: working with Traditional Owners workshop at ESA19 confirmed.
	ACADEMIC FREEDOM	Don Driscoll	Don is currently analysing quantitative data. Georgia Garrard is working on the written responses, with analysis due for completion by 15th October.
VP Student Affairs	STUDENT ACTIVITIES & AWARDS	Jodi Price	No update. Finalising Wiley Fundamental Award. Student Travel grants all finalized now.
	ECOLOGICAL EDUCATION	Dieter Hochuli	No update. Will follow up with Dieter once he is back from ESA US.
VP Research	EARLY CAREER ECOLOGISTS	Stephanie Courtney Jones	No update. Meeting at conference to discuss actions in 2020.
	RESEARCH CHAPTERS	Eleonora Egidi	No update.
	RESEARCH AWARDS	Amy Hahs	AERA Award finalised. Next Gen Award finalized and accepted.
VP Member Communications	EQUITY	Vacant	Queer mixer coming up at conference. Conde of conduct in place. Identified people who, if you have an issue, you can contact them at conference. In process of securing chair for WG.
	CONFERENCES	Jodi Price	• NT Government funding confirmed for ESA2021 in Darwin - \$100/delegate. • Proposed online resource to improve conference abstracts in development. • 48 Student Travel Grants approved. • 6 Childcare grants approved.
	PRACTITIONER ENGAGEMENT	Sacha Jellinek	Inaugural practitioner award to be awarded at ESA19. First joint workshop between EIANZ and ESA on Oct 30 in Brisbane (on EPBC Act and its implications).
	BULLETIN	Marie Dade	Next Bulletin will be sent out this week. Theme is urban ecology and science communication.
	MEMBERSHIP	Kate Umbers	• Meeting with web developers held to progress redevelopment. Options and quotes to be provided for upgraded membership database to align with new website. Current database to be maintained in the interim. • Monthly free membership prize continues. Seems to be working in encouraging members to provide details.

Oversight	Working Group	Chair	Update as at 26 September 19
VP Public Outreach & Policy	MEDIA	Euan Ritchie	Involved in some of planning for the conference communications (looking for newsworthy stories).
	POLICY	Bek Christensen	Continued some parliamentary engagement. Also working on feedback of members on EPBC Act.
	HOT TOPICS	Dale Nimmo	Continues to tick along; suffering a bit of delay due to IT issues.
Treasurer	FINANCIAL GOVERNANCE	Jeremy Huntley	Nothing beyond Treasurer's Report.
	FUNDRAISING & SPONSORSHIP	Vacant	Group not active.

3.4 Online Media Report – Toni Stevens*

Online media report tabled. All social media up and running. Currently sending e-news to members only (% wise much higher engagement rate). Also working on revised layout for new website. Jack, Gail and Toni met Orion in Sydney; wireframe locked in now and developers are developing back end.

New home page will house new mission statement, and links to Journals, Awards, Conference, and Hot Topics. Board can still provide feedback on website to Toni.

Also asked web developers for a quote and options on developing the membership database. Will provide options at next Board or Planning Day.

AGENDA ITEM #	ACTION ARISING	PERSON	DUE BY
Board_Sept_19_3.4.1	Options for developing membership database to be provided to Board for consideration.	Toni	Planning Day 19

3.5 Membership Report – Jacky Tierney*

Membership report tabled. 1100 members and slight decrease in retired/low income stream. Looking to get expired members back through email contact – proforma email showing benefits but worthwhile emphasizing benefits of having active professional society to support ecologists (not just academic researchers).

3.6 Conference Report – Gail Spina*

Conference report tabled. Doing well in Launceston: 545 registrations (break even was 420). Some field trips already full. Almost 300 people registered for dinner. Contracts signed off for support from Business Tasmania. Video workshop has been confirmed post-conference. Has been advertised via website and e-news.

Approval from NT to give \$100 per delegate support in Darwin for 2021. Media Comms for conference: additional support will be provided in lead up and during conference. Additional staff member will be able to write up some stories, on ground leg work during week of the conference (e.g. take on more of the social media role). Business Tasmania has agreed that ESA can use established distribution network to get media out for conference.

4.0 SUBMISSIONS

No submissions tabled. Preparations for EPBC Act underway. Victorian Government has put many issues on public consultation pages with some larger submissions e.g. Parks Victoria Principles.

5.0 GENERAL BUSINESS (Discussion and/or Voting)

5.1 ESA Structure – Don Driscoll*

At the last meeting the board provided feedback on the draft ESA structure that was developed at the strategic planning workshop. The updated version has been circulated for consideration and endorsement by the Board.

VPs will need to check the WG that are now in the different portfolios so that each meeting correct follow up is provided.

Motion: That the Board endorses the proposed structure (subject to any final adjustments at the meeting).

Moved: Don Driscoll

Seconded: Jeremy Huntley

All in favour: motion carried.

5.2 Mission, Vision, Values – Don Driscoll*

The draft mission, vision and values were discussed at the last meeting and the draft was open for editing by board members between meetings. A new improved version has been circulated to the Board for possible minor editing. Please bring suggested improvements to the meeting, e.g. for Vision-knowledge sharing, after which Board endorsement will be sought.

Motion: That the Board adopts the Mission and Vision as written in the circulated document of the Ecological Society of Australia.

Moved: Don Driscoll

Seconded: Bek Christensen

All in favour: motion carried.

5.3 Draft strategic plan progress – Don Driscoll*

The strategic plan document is gradually taking shape based on the outcomes of the strategic planning workshop. Components of this document were tabled. Full draft ready for circulation for the next meeting; Don will incorporate any further feedback from Board (can send direct via email).

5.4 ESA2019: Carbon offset options – Gail Spina

Update on outcome of carbon offset options discussed at August Board. Greening Australia and Landcare Tasmania both expressed interest. Greening Australia will direct donations to the Island Ark project and Landcare Tasmania will direct funds to either the northern rivers projects or, if donations are small, to the 15 trees fund (based on 15 trees for one car for one year @\$4.50/tree). We are offering both options to delegates. We are also planning to record plenaries for website access. Working towards recording multiple sessions live to offer a 'remote' registration access for members who are unable to attend or concerned about travel emissions.

6.0 OTHER ITEMS (Noting and/or Information)

6.1 AGM Director Reports – Chloe Sato

Director reports for this year's AGM are due October 15 – this is your September reminder! Please start sending them through to the Secretary to collate.

7.0 LATE ITEMS

No late items raised.

8.0 NEXT MEETING: 31 October 2019.

Meeting close: 12:24pm.