



## BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Meeting – Friday 14<sup>th</sup> June 2019 (Meeting #5)  
Commencing 18:30 AEST  
Aitken Hill Events Centre, Melbourne, Victoria

GoogleDrive Documents:

<https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1wtpsslocyMCjIQgOHGzmOy46h0f8fgst?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), Dieter Hochuli (Ecological Education WG Chair), Euan Ritchie (Media WG Chair), Stephanie Courtney-Jones (Early Career WG Chair), Sacha Jellinek (Practitioner WG Chair), Eleonora Eigidi (Research Chapters WG Chair), Marie Dade (Bulletin Editor), Dale Nimmo (Hot Topics WG Chair), 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 **Apologies:** Jeremy Huntley, Euan Ritchie, Sacha Jellinek, Pep Turner, Kate Umbers, Marie Dade

#### 1.3 Minutes of Previous Board Meeting (May Board 2019) – for ratification\*

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

Moved: Don Driscoll

Seconded: Nigel Andrew

All in favour: motion carried.

### 2.0 ACTION ITEMS FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS

#### 2.1 Matters Arising from Previous Board Meetings (update only)

AGENDA ITEM #			ACTION ARISING	PERSON
Board	Aug (#7) 18	5.6.1	Membership WG to develop list of potential Honorary Fellowship recipients.	Membership WG
Ongoing.				
PD	Nov (#1) 18	3.4.2	Meet with Media WG to discuss modes of ESA communication.	Toni
Ongoing. Carry over to July Board. See Agenda Item 5.1.				

### 3.0 REPORTS

#### 3.1 Treasurer's Report – Jeremy Huntley/Jacky Tierney\*

Financial statements tabled. At the end of May, YTD performance doing well. Expenditure down a bit (project expenses behind). Predicted to be sitting at 2-6K deficit at end of year.

#### 3.2 Online Media Report – Gail Spina/Toni Stevens

Report to be circulated at the end of June.

New online media initiative is *LinkedIn* to connect with Practitioner members. Still negotiating with a new web supplier to support delivery of website. However, need as much data as possible from the current website, so that Orion can rebuild site before the Interlated contract ends (at end of June).

### **3.3 Conference Report – Gail Spina\***

Conference report tabled. Abstracts open, registrations open, code of conduct implemented, and compulsory to indicate acknowledgement of traditional owners (can just be on slide and not necessarily verbal) if research has been undertaken on traditional owner lands. Looking to make this compulsory for next year's conference in abstracts. This initiative came out of Indigenous WG.

## **4.0 SUBMISSIONS**

No submissions tabled.

## **5.0 GENERAL BUSINESS (Discussion and/or Voting)**

### **5.1 Communications/Media Strategy - Toni Stevens/Gail Spina**

Scientell employed as media contractors for last three years. In reviewing outcomes in media environment, feel like money could be better directed to alternative media option (or something else entirely) as Media WG group have necessary contacts to approach media with ESA stories.

To cancel contract, 3 months' notice is required. In that time, ESA will need to come up with an option for a different model. Media releases may not be best track; it may be better to put resources into types of strategies that are pursued by the Policy WG. However, need to think about the objective of the communication: if looking for change in cultural/environmental thinking, it is better if we approach through direct contact.

Another consideration is that media around, and media training at, the ESA conference is important; An external provider would be advisable for the conference media. Could also send out targeted invites to journalists and policy officers to conference or particular conference themes to increase ESA exposure. Another option is to have a mini 'Science-meets-Parliament' at the conference. May be possible to use some of the Scientell contract savings to part-fund some of the policy officers' attendance.

Delay any vote on the movement to a new model until options have been more fully considered.

### **5.2 PWG NESP response – Bek Christensen\***

Policy WG are currently working on a submission to the Department of the Environment's consultation around the National Environmental Science Program: <https://environment.au.citizenspace.com/knowledge-and-technology/future-environmental-science-program/>. Statement will be framed around the fact that this funding framework needs to continue as it is one of the few initiatives in the environment space. Want to provide feedback that allows the department to consider the inclusiveness of the next iteration of NESP, but that isn't too disparaging as ongoing funding is critical at a time when the appetite for environmental research is limited

They are seeking feedback on the circulated questions (online survey until the 30<sup>th</sup> June; directed towards individuals – survey sent out in e-news). We welcome any input/feedback from the Board and WG members around this via email to Bek/Sarah before COB Friday 21 June.

### **5.3 Education WG scope and direction – Dieter Hochuli\***

Education WG draft ToR tabled.

Need to engage with members involved in education across different spheres: tertiary and schools. Looking for feedback on ToR regarding whether we need to cast net widely about education primary/secondary/ tertiary, and how we can engage better with schools (playing a role in developing curriculum will be important that captures creativity and complexity of ecology as a profession). One initiative will be to provide a space on the ESA website to share some distinctly Australian opportunities, a second initiative will be to increase education theme at conference – could engage

better with local schools to bring students and teachers to conferences. It will also be important to establish and maintain linkages between Indigenous WG and Education WG.

AGENDA ITEM #	ACTION ARISING	PERSON	DUE BY
Board_Jun_19_5.3.1	Send Gail list of teaching institutions to contact regarding educational materials/PD opportunities.	Chloe	July Board 2019

#### 5.4 Constitution - Change to objects? – Don Driscoll

Goals of the society are around 60 years old. Do these need to be revisited? Is this our core business, does it still fit, is there anything we need to tweak? These will be reworded or streamlined over the Planning Weekend by attendees.

### 6.0 ANY OTHER BUSINESS (For Noting or Information Only)

#### 6.1 Director - Development, Fundraising & Sponsorship update – Gail Spina

At this point, applicants are not suitable. Need someone that is generous with their time and has done this before. Work in progress. Will be important to identify examples of what could be funded for a prospectus that could be sent to larger funders targeting end-of-year underspends.

AGENDA ITEM #	ACTION ARISING	PERSON	DUE BY
Board_Jun_19_6.1.1	Board to approach sponsorship/fundraising staff at their universities to see whether there are additional avenues to pursue RE engaging fundraising director.	All Board (within universities).	July Board 2019

AGENDA ITEM #	ACTION ARISING	PERSON	DUE BY
Board_Jun_19_6.1.2	Contact previous Perpetual contact (David Peck) to discuss avenues for sponsorship/fundraising and/or engaging Director in this space.	Gail.	July Board 2019

#### 6.2 ESA Community Fund (Giving Circle) – Gail Spina

ESA Community Fund needs to be promoted more and/or contributed to via tweets and social networks before end of June. At end of June, call for applications to fund advertised, then those who have donated can vote on short list of two applicants. Applicants are expected to be ESA members, but donors do not need to be members.

### 7.0 LATE ITEMS

#### 7.1 Correspondence for June – Chloe Sato\*

Two interesting correspondence items came through regarding collaborations with Ecological Society of Sri Lanka and a new journal with BES. These items can be held over to the July Board meeting for further discussion but papers associated with the correspondence will be circulated after this meeting; can any comments be sent to Nigel (Ecological Society of Sri Lanka) and Don (new BES journal).

#### 7.2 Gail – AGM

Emissions of everyone travelling to ESA conference raised at last years' AGM. Need to consider member concerns and develop a response. It may be possible to live stream plenaries (with day registration required to access recorded talks). However, presents some difficulties around conference logistics. Also limits opportunities for networking.

Other options are to provide information about localised offsets (done for previous conferences, but it didn't resonate with members), provide a document to indicate the carbon footprint of the society vs other societies vs average household vs conference only, conduct a survey of

membership as an option to increase information around perceptions regarding value of conference and impact on environment/carbon footprint (and publish results on ESA website).

AGENDA ITEM #	ACTION ARISING	PERSON	DUE BY
Board_Jun_19_7.2.1	Explore options for on-ground localised offsetting option that all members need to/can contribute to for ESA 2019.	Conference WG/Gail	July Board 2019

## 8.0 NEXT MEETING

**July Board** – 25 July 2019.

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Meeting closed 09:22 pm