



BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Meeting – Thursday 31st October 2019 (Meeting #9)

Commencing 11:00 AEST

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

GoToMeeting: <https://global.gotomeeting.com/join/223009709>

Meeting ID: 223-009-709

Phone No: +61 2 9087 3604

GoogleDrive Documents:

<https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1PIO1GVzZuRrQbc3ghAAuh1eHqzqg88g1?usp=sharing>

Distribution list: Don Driscoll (President), Bek Christensen (VP – Public Liaison & Policy; President-elect), Ayesha Tulloch (VP – Public Liaison & Policy-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 **Apologies:** Jeremy Huntley, Chloe Sato, Pep leaving early

1.3 **Minutes of Previous Board Meeting – for ratification***

Amend Item 5.4 in the minutes to read “Greening Australia will direct donations to the Island Ark project and Landcare Tasmania will direct funds to the northern rivers projects”

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

Moved: Don Driscoll

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	Jun (#5) 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)
Done.				
Board	Aug (#7) 19	5.1.1	Toni and Amy to ask advice from external contacts on wording of Director Fundraising/Sponsorship position, and best way to approach recruitment process	Toni/Amy
Done.				
Board	Aug (#7) 19	5.9.1	Develop draft sustainability policy.	Gail
To be circulated for comment prior to Planning Day. Conference Working Group to develop a conference specific sustainability policy April Board 20,				

3.0 REPORTS

3.1 Treasurer’s Report – Jeremy Huntley/Jacky Tierney*

Financial statements tabled. On target for year to date forecasts with only some minor variance. Expenditure is higher due to conference costs coming in earlier than anticipated and income is slightly higher than forecast due increase in membership renewals and conference registrations.

3.2 Correspondence Report – Chloe Sato*

Correspondence noted.

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. Directors with WG oversight to collate and forward dot point reports to Secretary prior to Board meetings.

Oversight	Working Group	Chair	Update as at 31 October 19
President	JOURNALS	Don Driscoll	<p><u>Austral Ecology</u> Mike Bull Special Issue nearly finalised - late coming manuscripts means that it will be published in early 2020</p> <p>Symposium organisers at ESA2019 will be contacted to discuss options for AEC Special Issue.</p> <p><u>EMR</u> EMR's annual report to the AGM has been provided for sending out to members.</p> <p>A total of 27 updates of classic EMR features (i.e. those shortlisted for the EMR's commemorative 20th Anniversary virtual issue) have been posted online at www.emrprojectsummaries.org Wiley will shortly be instructed to prepare the virtual issue, with links to each of these summaries embedded in the virtual issue's Table of Contents. The virtual issue will be formally released in a session on Thursday morning of the ESA conference.</p> <p>Almost-daily posts on EMR's facebook page (echoed on Twitter) are progressively promoting this upcoming virtual issue, summary by summary. This has also been promoted in the ESA e-news.</p> <p>The first issue of Volume 21 is on track for sending to Wiley's Production team by the end of November.</p>

Oversight	Working Group	Chair	Update as at 31 October 19
	HOLSWORTH FUND	Don Driscoll	No action recently.
VP Science & Applications	INDIGENOUS ENGAGEMENT	Gerry Turpin	Indigenous Travel Grants offered. Right-way Science promotional materials prepared. Perpetual IMPACT grant application being considered.
	RESEARCH CHAPTERS	Eleonora Egidi	No update.
	RESEARCH AWARDS	Amy Hahs	No update.
	PRACTITIONER ENGAGEMENT	Sacha Jellinek	No update.
	EARLY CAREER ECOLOGISTS	Stephanie Courtney Jones	No update.
VP Next Generation	STUDENT ACTIVITIES & AWARDS	Jodi Price	All awards now finalised with the exception of the Mike Bull award and the Student Research Grants which are still open for application. Suggested that the Mike Bull Award would be more effectively managed under the Austral Ecology portfolio perhaps through an Associate Editor. Jodi to discuss with Nigel Andrew.
	ECOLOGICAL EDUCATION	Dieter Hochuli	No update.
VP Public Outreach & Policy	BULLETIN	Marie Dade	No update.
	HOT TOPICS	Dale Nimmo	Problems with the website are slowing review and publication of HTs. Dale and Toni working to rectify this ASAP. Seeking new editors to broaden expertise/discipline base of HT board, improve equity, and get better national coverage. Next meeting scheduled during the ESA conference.
	MEDIA	Euan Ritchie	Focus on conference media, identifying media-worthy stories and possible media spokespeople. Direct approach to speakers asking them to come forward if they have something newsworthy has worked well and flushed out some good stories that weren't apparent from the abstracts. Next meeting scheduled 11 November.
	POLICY	Bek Christensen	Preparing for announcement of EPBC Act review (by end of October). Planning for new

Oversight	Working Group	Chair	Update as at 31 October 19
			<p>ESA Ambassadors program to commence next year. 2 WG members attending Science Meets Parliament in November. Very positive meetings have continued to take place with MPs (latest meeting was with minister Dave Smith, Member for Bean ACT, ALP, who is interested in ongoing two-way communication with WG + ambassador program.</p> <p>Last meeting 17 October.</p>
	ACADEMIC FREEDOM	Don Driscoll	<p>Currently working with Media WG and Policy WG to prepare a conference statement on Academic Freedom. First draft of a paper reporting the academic freedom survey results will be circulated to the working group in October.</p>
	EQUITY & DIVERSITY	Adam Frew	<p>Adam Frew stepping into Chair role.</p> <p>Face to face meeting planned at ESA19.</p>
	CONFERENCES	Jodi Price	No update beyond conference report.
VP Membership Services	MEMBERSHIP	Kate Umbers	<p>Continues to work on new website development.</p> <p>Currently looking at options for database software and ongoing management.</p> <p>Looking at broader advertising of VP Membership role to capture targeted expertise.</p>
	EVENTS	Vacant	Group not active.
	POST-GRAD DAY	Adrienne Nicotra/Susanna Venn	No update.
	FINANCIAL GOVERNANCE	Jeremy Huntley	No update beyond Treasurer's report.
Treasurer	FUNDRAISING & SPONSORSHIP	Vacant	Group not active.

3.4 Online Media Report – Toni Stevens*

Online media report tabled. Website review progressing. Links to the current stage of development will be forwarded to the Board and discussed at Planning Day. More complex applications such as Hot Topics will need further development and consultation with portfolio managers. The Photo Competition received a record number of entries. Conference media is being coordinated by Toni and Media Working Group and is getting some interest from journalists.

AGENDA ITEM #	ACTION ARISING	PERSON	DUE BY
Board_Oct_19_3.4.1	Forward links to current stage of website development to the Board for discussion at Planning Day.	Toni	Planning Day 2019

3.5 Membership Report – Jacky Tierney*

Membership report tabled and noted.

3.6 Conference Report – Gail Spina*

Conference report tabled. Everything tracking well. Handbook is currently being prepared. It will include messages from ESA President and LOC Chair but can include promotion of other initiatives. For example, we will aim to include items on the new awards – Practitioner Research Collaboration Award and the Bush Heritage Rightway Science Award. If there is anything that Board members or Working Group chairs would like to include in the handbook, please let Gail know asap.

The budget dinner option has proved the most popular and currently a waiting list – it's a good model to consider for future conferences. Conference dinner entertainment will be acoustic music to allow for easy conversation. Dinner venue tourist facilities (boat ride & flying fox) will be open before dinner for delegate use. Concern that city restaurant and entertainment venues will be closed on the opening Sunday night and important for delegates to have somewhere to go after the welcome ceremony. LOC to contact local businesses and advise delegates of venues that will be open. Jodi to provide details of suggested venues to approach. LOC/PCO to follow up potential local business discounts with Business Events Tasmania.

AGENDA ITEM #	ACTION ARISING	PERSON	DUE BY
Board_Oct_19_5.6.1	Confirm venues that are open Sunday evening for conference delegates, and follow up potential local business discounts with Business Events Tasmania.	LOC/PCO/Jodi	ASAP

4.0 SUBMISSIONS

4.1 Victorian state-wide Land Management Strategy – Bek Christensen/Ayesha Tulloch*

Submission tabled and noted.

Parks Victoria is developing a state-wide Land Management Strategy (LMS) to guide future planning across the parks estate, and sought feedback on the draft Aspiration and Guiding Principles.

5.0 GENERAL BUSINESS (Discussion and/or Voting)

5.1 Draft AGM Agenda – Don Driscoll*

The Annual General Meeting will be held on Tuesday November 26th. The draft agenda was tabled and noted by the Board. If anything needs to be updated or changed in the agenda, please send comments to Don Driscoll and Chloe Sato.

5.2 Draft Planning Day Agenda – Don Driscoll*

Planning day will be held on November 24th. The draft agenda was tabled. The Board suggested that promotion of membership be added to item 5.1, as we need to promote philanthropic value of

membership as well as returns to members. The Board also suggested that an item for Communications and Website discussion be added to the agenda.

AGENDA ITEM #	ACTION ARISING	PERSON	DUE BY
Board_Oct_19_5.2.1	Gail to forward amended agenda the Secretary.	Gail	ASAP

5.3 Conference Statement 2019 – Don Driscoll*

Don drafted a conference statement and this has been through two iterations of input from the Academic Freedom, Media and Policy working groups. The conference statement was tabled and the Board suggested that a link to survey results to support evidence base is required. This link may need to be a summarised or abridged version so journal publication option is not compromised. Results can be shared confidentially with STA who are currently also investigating academic freedom. Don and Bek to manage that process.

Motion: That The Board approves the conference statement for use at the ESA2019 in Launceston.

Moved: Don Driscoll
Seconded: Bek Christensen
All in favour: motion carried.

5.4 Strategic Plan – Don Driscoll*

The strategic plan has received comments from working groups and was tabled and approved. The Board is looking forward to implementing the Plan over the next five years.

Motion: That the Board endorses the tabled Strategic Plan 2020-2024

Moved: Don Driscoll
Seconded: Bek Christensen
All in favour: motion carried.

5.5 Constitutional Amendments – Gail Spina*

The Constitutional amendments to be taken to the 2019 AGM were tabled. The amendments are proposed to align the Constitution with current practice and procedures, or to address minor spelling or grammatical errors.

The Board agreed that CI12.12 be amended to require that where Board nomination are elected from the floor, the member must provide a CV, statement of intent, and proof of current membership to the ESA Board within on week. The Board also agreed to delete CI15.2-15.6 to remove reference to specific staff positions from the By-Laws and amend 15.1 to authorise the Board to appoint the staff members required at any given time. Position descriptions should still be maintained for all staff positions.

Motion: That the Board endorses the amendment of Clause 15 of the By-Laws as detailed above

Moved: Don Driscoll
Seconded: Gerry Turpin
All in favour: motion carried.

Motion: That the Board endorses proposed constitutional amendments as amended for consideration at the 2019 Annual general meeting.

Moved: Don Driscoll
Seconded: Bek Christensen
All in favour: motion carried.

5.6 Position statement on management of overabundant macropods – Don Driscoll*

John Read, George Wilson, Dave Paton, Graeme Coulson, and Fiona Garland have been contacting people over the past few months about an initiative to address the welfare and conservation implications of overabundant macropods.

Read et al. recognise that this is a publicly and politically complex issue that is challenging for individual organisations to address in isolation but have been encouraged by widespread support for making a

united, credible and reasoned stand. The appended one pager has been drafted many times, includes input from a variety of stakeholders, and is informed by a special symposium at the recent Rangelands Society conference in Canberra. A final draft will be compiled after a second workshop at the Ecological Society of Australia Conference in late November. The intention of Read et al. is that this statement forms the basis of a press release and policy advocacy to improve the management of macropods and reduce their suffering and environmental impacts.

Read et al. are asking the ESA Board to provide input and ideally in-principle endorsement. Read et al. are looking to craft a statement that has universal endorsement by major conservation, animal welfare, veterinarian and ecological groups in Australia - so any discussion to achieve such an aim is welcomed. No organisations logos or support will be included without written approval of the final document that we hope to circulate in early December 2020.

The position statement of Read et al. was tabled and discussed. Don to provide feedback to authors suggesting a stronger link to evidence base is required for ESA endorsement, the recommendations need more clarity about leadership of the proposed initiative, and should reference optimal population levels to maintain ecosystem function not just sustainable numbers to avoid local extinction.

AGENDA ITEM #	ACTION ARISING	PERSON	DUE BY
Board_Oct_19_5.6.1	Provide feedback to authors of overabundant macropod management position statement.	Don	Planning Day 2019

6.0 OTHER ITEMS (Noting and/or Information)

6.1 ESA Expenditure Request Form – Jacky Tierney*

ESA Expenditure Request form tabled. This form needs to be completed when seeking reimbursements from ESA. Jacky will circulate copies of updated forms prior to Planning Day. Board members requiring reimbursement to contact Jacky before or during the conference with bank account details and receipts and completed form.

7.0 LATE ITEMS

7.1 ESA Calendar 2020 – Gail Spina*

ESA 2020 calendar has been finalised – time to start advertising to your networks!

8.0 NEXT MEETINGS: Planning Day (24 November), AGM (26 November).

Meeting close: 12:30pm