



## BOARD MEETING MINUTES

**Meeting – Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> July 2018 (Meeting #6)  
Commencing 11:00 AEST**

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

**GoToMeeting:** <https://global.gotomeeting.com/join/950884901>

**Meeting ID: 950-884-901**

**Phone No: +61 2 9091 7603**

**GoogleDrive Documents:**

<https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/11jCRNrzzX2UI3A0gMNE9cctEWJwYnDp5?usp=sharing>

Distribution list: Don Driscoll (President), Amy Hahs (VP – Research), Dieter Hochuli (VP – Student Affairs), Bek Christensen (VP – Public Liaison & Policy), Kate Umbers (VP – Membership & Communications), Chloe Sato (Secretary), Jeremy Huntley (Treasurer-elect), Nigel Andrew (Austral Ecology – Chair), Pep Turner (EMR – Chair, Editorial Board), Gerry Turpin (Ordinary Director – Indigenous Engagement), Noel Preece (Ordinary Director). Gail Spina (Executive Officer), Jacky Tierney (Finance & Membership Officer).

### 1.0 WELCOME AND APOLOGIES

#### 1.1 Chairperson's Welcome and Introduction

#### 1.2 Present and Apologies

Present: Don Driscoll (President), Amy Hahs (VP – Research), Dieter Hochuli (VP – Student Affairs), Chloe Sato (Secretary), Noel Preece (Ordinary Director). Gail Spina (Executive Officer), Jacky Tierney (Finance & Membership Officer; left early 11.45am).

Apologies: Jeremy Huntley, Nigel Andrew, Gerry Turpin, Pep Turner, Bek Christensen, Kate Umbers

#### 1.3 Minutes of Previous Board Meeting (May 2018) – for ratification\*

***MOTION: That the minutes of the previous Board meeting be accepted as a true and correct record (out of session).***

Moved: Chloe Sato

Seconded: Dieter Hochuli, Don Driscoll, Amy Hahs, Bek Christensen

### 2.0 ACTION ITEMS FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS

#### 2.1 Matters Arising from Previous Board & Executive Meetings\*

Action List attached.

Board	Jun (#3) 2017	5.6.2	Contact Perpetual philanthropic arm to maintain networks
Hold over until August Board meeting.			
Board	Aug (#4) 2017	2.13.1	Policy WG to collate facts about land clearing for each state for Letters on behalf of ESA.
Completed. Double check with Bek whether letters have been sent to states.			
Board	Oct (#5) 2017	5.4.1	Develop front end of Perpetual proposal. Feedback from Board to refine and strengthen.
Waiting for Indigenous WG to have meeting (not until August). Hold over until August.			
PD	Nov (#6) 2017	4.4.3	Identify database fields and membership that would be useful to WGs to progress objectives. Identify 2-3 fields related to member expertise/details that WG would like to be compulsory.
Done. Feedback from some WGs. Now forming basis for Membership Database Project.			

PD	Nov (#6) 2017	8.4.1	List of hot topics put together by Policy WG will be circulated to Board for feedback then Bek will liaise with STA.
Hold over until August.			
Board	Apr (#3) 2018	2.1.2	Develop online sponsorship/endorsement guidelines for circulation to Board.
Waiting for Toni to come on Board (August 1). Hold over until August.			
Board	Apr (#3) 2018	5.2.1	Research Awards WG to discuss AERA criteria and present proposed criteria to Board.
List of suggestions for members sent out. Invitations sent out to subset of people. Then will address topic once WG formed. AERA corrected for this round, but MOU will be developed. Hold over item to February Board so WG can meet during ESA conference.			
Board	Jun (#5) 2018	3.3.2	Gail to provide Amy with suggested list of potential Research Awards members to contact directly.
Done.			
Board	Jun (#5) 2018	3.3.3	Sacha to contact nominating Practitioner Engagement working group members
Ongoing. Needs to be resolved ASAP. Don to contact Sacha to progress. Membership WG can offer some support, if that will aid Sacha in getting group started.			

### 3.0 REPORTS

#### 3.1 Treasurer's Report – Jeremy Huntley\*

Financial statements tabled. Jacky spoke to financial papers.

Currently, end of year position is reporting a loss but JLTF and AERA are not reflected and audit is still underway. Auditors are expected to submit a report to FGWG in mid-August, and a final audit report expected to be submitted for August Board meeting. With regards to comparison of forecasted to actuals, ESA is doing well due to Wiley & interest from bank account. Expenses are a little above expected due to JLTF, AERA, some student grants and web officer position.

#### 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 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 July 18
<b>President</b>	JOURNALS	Don Driscoll	DD attended Wiley breakfast and discussed potential for a new journal, which Wiley were interested in, but would do some background work first. Confirmed Nige's report from last meeting regarding potential threat to revenue in 5 years' time from journal royalties.
			EMR board had a teleconference meeting. Tein and Pep have a list of things to do including preparing a discussion paper on open source and implications for EMR for the planning meeting - happy to work with AE on this. Increased

Oversight	Working Group	Chair	Update as at 26 July 18
			Impact factor was well received. All going well.
	EQUITY	Vacant	<p>Currently being managed by Membership WG pending nomination of an Equity WG Chair. This role has been advertised in e-news.</p> <p>Current action is to develop a membership survey to identify equity issues. Aim is to have this live during ESA18 so it can be promoted at the conference and reach as many people as possible</p> <p>Provided data to Canterbury Uni 'Science Societies &amp; Gender' project.</p> <p>Contact from University of Melbourne regarding potential \$1500 grant to progress an equity initiative. More detail to be provided and options will be considered and presented to the Board. Discussed at Item 5.1.</p>
	INDIGENOUS ENGAGEMENT	Gerry Turpin	<p>Difficulty finding suitable date for first face to face meeting - aiming for late August early September</p> <p>Contact from Michelle Pyke (Walker). Had previously discussed possibility of developing an IMPACT grant proposal around funding regional on country workshops. Michelle did not have the time to dedicate at that point but is now keen to pursue this idea. We will progress this through the IWG.</p>
	ACADEMIC FREEDOM	Don Driscoll	The survey text has been finalized. Georgia Garrard and Alex Kusmanoff at RMIT have applied for ethics approval.
VP Student Affairs	STUDENT ACTIVITIES & AWARDS	Dieter Hochuli	<p>Fundamental Ecology award managed by Jodi Price (judged with John Dwyer_. Eight applications received with Nicole Bezemer successful.</p> <p>Dieter has emailed Nigel about the Mike Bull award for 2018.</p> <p>A list of winners of conference prizes has been drawn up for ESA website.</p> <p>Student have queried location of next conference, so they can strategically apply for student travel awards. Gail to identify next location for student conference grants.</p>

Oversight	Working Group	Chair	Update as at 26 July 18
	SCHOOL ENGAGEMENT	Vacant	<p>Planning to look at activities of American ESA. Also looking at synergies or conflicts with science communication and education group (Kristen has been emailed).</p> <p>The WG has a desire to reframe ToR to reflect what is going internationally; and to make more aspirational. Looking to have more scholarly tone than just placing ecologists in schools.</p>
VP Research	EARLY CAREER ECOLOGISTS	Amy-Marie Gilpin	Workshop for conference being developed.
	RESEARCH CHAPTERS	Vacant	<p>More members required. Call for members required.</p> <p>May need more reports on each of the research chapters to keep board abreast of activities. 5-min Annual report and annual report for</p>
	RESEARCH AWARDS	Amy Hahs	<p>List of potential members who will be emailed shortly.</p> <p>Wiley next gen award given to Ayesha Tulloch.</p> <p>AERA reviews from 2 people but quite disparate, so sending out to a third person.</p>
VP Member Communications	CONFERENCES	Jodi Price	<p>Face to Face meeting planned for early August to discuss issues including ESA19 venue &amp; LOC, registration fees, web content, 2020 congress, practitioner/consultant engagement, interaction with other societies, and social media strategy.</p> <p>Site Inspection of potential ESA19 venues in Hobart &amp; Launceston undertaken in July. Waiting on quotes to inform final decision. Facilities available to hold conference in either location. Decision will be made by August Board meeting</p>
	PRACTITIONER ENGAGEMENT	Sacha Jellinek	No report.
	BULLETIN	Dustin Welbourne	<p>Working well under Dustin's leadership.</p> <p>Have connected Toni Stevens and Dustin so they can consider delivery and marketing options for future editions.</p> <p>Considering theme of 'value of philanthropy' for next edition to</p>

Oversight	Working Group	Chair	Update as at 26 July 18
			<p>complement 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Holsworth Wildlife Research Endowment.</p>
	MEMBERSHIP	Kate Umbers	<p>Meeting with Interlated planned in early August to initiate database review project with an aim for completion by end 2018. This will allow testing in prior to bulk membership renewal period in March 2019 when we will require membership data fields to be populated as part of membership renewal process.</p> <p>Holsworth applicants &amp; supervisors will be invited directly to join ESA as a mechanism to expand membership.</p>
	MEDIA	Euan Ritchie	<p>Toni Stevens has now been appointed as the online media manager and has met with Euan, Gail and Scientell to discuss media activities/ideas to implement in the short- and longer-term.</p> <p>Euan recently contacted The Conversation, Jo Khan (ABC) and Lisa Cox (Guardian) about media for ESA18. I've heard back from the first two and they're keen to do some stories, once abstracts are available.</p>
<b>VP Public Outreach &amp; Policy</b>	POLICY	Bek Christensen	<p>Submission to the Inquiry into Funding Australia's Research submitted 30 June (see Item 4.1). ESA has been invited to attend face-to-face roundtable with the Committee overseeing this Inquiry on 30 July in Brisbane; Bek will attend.</p> <p>WG currently working on submission to the Inquiry into Australia's Faunal Extinction Crisis. Survey has been sent to members to get some feedback and case studies for this. WG is also contacting particular members for more information or comment on specific Terms of Reference.</p> <p>Bek is away for the next 2 weeks. John Morgan will be the main contact for the Policy WG if anyone needs to contact the WG.</p> <p>Policy WG has found some savings in budget allocation due to cheaper STA fees and decision not to attend science</p>

Oversight	Working Group	Chair	Update as at 26 July 18
			meets policy. Will reallocate those funds to employ a casual support officer to put together and file submissions that Policy WG are dealing with. Will engage the 'runner up' from the Web Officer position for this role. Trial of 40 hours at \$30/h. If it is a good resource and relationship, potential to continue and make more formal.
Treasurer	FINANCIAL GOVERNANCE	Jeremy Huntley	No update received.
	FUNDRAISING & SPONSORSHIP	Vacant	Group not currently active.

AGENDA ITEM #	ACTION ARISING	PERSON	DUE BY
Board_Jul_18_3.3.1	Issue research chapter activity survey and draft survey report for Board.	Amy	September Board 2018

### 3.4 Web Officer Report – Gail Spina

Verbal update. Toni to start August 1. Meeting between Euan, Scientell and Gail identified Toni's scope of work. To begin with, Toni will have online/social media responsibilities while Scientell has print/TV responsibilities. In addition, Toni's first task is a content audit of the ESA website. Toni will be contacting everyone once audit is completed to progress website development. From here, Toni can progress to data collection for evaluation of ESA impact (and changes in impact). Web officer will provide a report on social and website analytics from next Board meeting.

### 3.5 Membership Report – Jacky Tierney

Verbal update.

Lodged with Interlated to load up new membership fees (increase by 2%). Membership WG are trying to meet face-to-face with interlated to do work on database query so we can access the database and its information more simply (this is the Membership Database Project flagged last meeting). Interlated to quote on project, and if acceptable, will proceed with it.

### 3.6 Conference Report – Gail Spina\*

Conference report and ESA18 program circulated as late items.

Abstracts well ahead of last year's submissions; it is the most received since 2010. May need to add additional concurrent session to accommodate increased number of Abstract submissions.

A concern was raised that student award presentations are spread over multiple days, but it would be better to schedule with President's speech. The LOC are already investigating. An additional concern was regarding scheduling of OEH award. However, requirements and communications with stakeholders discussed with Trisha already to avoid issues from last year.

Code of conduct for conference was raised. A code gives ESA leverage to talk to people who are behaving in ways that are contrary values of ESA. Gail to raise with conference LOC and Dieter to send codes from other associations to help with development of ESA conference code.

Strategic and considered conference message raised. This is ultimately a Board decision, but Gail can seek advice from LOC and Media WG on the impact of a strategic statement and whether this statement changes from year to year.

## 4.0 SUBMISSIONS

### 4.1 Inquiry into funding Australia's research – Bek Christensen\*

For noting: a submission from the Policy WG is attached regarding the Inquiry into funding Australia's research. Senate inquiry is next week in Brisbane. Bek will attend on ESA's behalf. Also invited to have meeting with QLD environment minister in September.

Communication of these activities to members was raised. When web officer starts, look to develop communication mechanisms (website, e-news, link to Hansard documents etc).

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

### 5.1 Grant opportunity for diversity initiative – Gail Spina

A private donor from UMelb has contacted ESA about a potential \$1500 grant opportunity to progress a diversity initiative around the 2018 conference. I have a chat booked in next week to find out more detail but would be great to get some feedback on ideas for how we could meaningfully put it to use.

Grant running through VicBioCon (breaking barriers grant) and wanted to do something at the ESA conference. Had ideas about childcare (i.e. support for carer to come to conference). Potentially also interpreters– but this is difficult to achieve. Gail suggested support for ECR & indigenous members.

Board discussed offering childcare support for 2018 conference as a trial. It is a model that can be run year to year, and makes a difference to the attendance of members and particularly students with children.

## 6.0 OTHER ITEMS (Noting and/or Information)

### 6.1 President report on Wiley Breakfast – Don Driscoll\*

Don attended a breakfast with Wiley CEO and other Wiley journal reps. Report attached for information.

The idea of a third ESA journal was raised at the breakfast. Board saw it as an innovative idea but it will take time to develop. Raising impact factor will be challenging with competition from publishers, and the need to encourage people to get on board with publishing in new Australian journal. It may be better to focus on impact of Austral Ecology and EMR, but worth discussing further at Planning Day given the risk to income coming up with shift to open access journals.

AGENDA ITEM #	ACTION ARISING	PERSON	DUE BY
Board_Jul_18_6.1.1	Discuss ESA pursuing new high-impact scientific journal.	All Board	Planning Day 18

### 6.2 Addition to web officer report – Don Driscoll\*

Don worked through the ESA web pages and found a few things that need to be updated. This included uniformity in presentation and the business plan (which is now being considered by FGWG). Board members are asked to review this document and volunteer to provide or update content prepare any new content for easy revision by Toni when she starts in August.

## 7.0 LATE ITEMS

### 7.1 Submissions – Noel Preece

Noel has been advised about an audit by Queensland audit office due 31 July. Noel only has capacity for finalising a brief submission, but Kara Marshall may be able to support submission. Another option is that the meeting in September with the Queensland environment minister may allow key points to be communicated directly regarding issue.

Policy WG should discuss how to prioritise submissions, as well as work to gain insight from within agencies about what happens with comments, and where ESA can be more influential. Could also use September meeting with QLD environmental minister to query how to get advance warning about upcoming submissions.

## **7.2 Nominations for ESA Board – Don Driscoll/Gail Spina**

It is time to renominate for ESA Board Positions. Let Don and Gail know if you intend to renominate.

## **8.0 NEXT MEETING**

**August Board** – 30 August 2018.

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Meeting close: 12:27pm