



BOARD MEETING MINUTES

**Meeting – Thursday 29th March 2018 (Meeting #2)
Commencing 11:00 AEDST**

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

GoToMeeting: <https://global.gotomeeting.com/join/960217397>

Meeting ID: 960-217-397

Phone No: +61 2 8355 1038

GoogleDrive Documents:

<https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1JXvRugEcFAv57LUqhodGcom0xXldDJIV?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: Amy Hahs (VP – Research), Dieter Hochuli (VP – Student Affairs), Bek Christensen (VP – Public Liaison & Policy), Kate Umbers (VP – Membership & Communications), Jeremy Huntley (Treasurer-elect), Nigel Andrew (Austral Ecology – Chair), Pep Turner (EMR – Chair, Editorial Board), Noel Preece (Ordinary Director), Gail Spina (Executive Officer), Jacky Tierney (Finance & Membership Officer).

Apologies: Don Driscoll (President), Chloe Sato (Secretary), Gerry Turpin (Ordinary Director – Indigenous Engagement).

1.3 Minutes of Previous Board Meeting (February 2018) – for ratification*

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

Moved: Dieter Hochuli

Seconded: Noel Preece

All in favour: motion passed.

2.0 ACTION ITEMS FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS

2.1 Matters Arising from Previous Board & Executive Meetings*

Action List attached.

*Provide fields from membership database to Board for distribution to WG Chairs.
Complete. Membership WG to take over and report at May Board.*

*Discuss STA Policy Committee requirements with STA president.
Awaiting response. Postpone to April Board as meeting with STA early April.*

*Identify Perpetual projects to pursue in 2018.
Postpone to April Board.*

Develop risk appetite threshold options and present options to Board.

Postpone to May Board.

Develop financial KPIs for consideration by Board.
Postpone to May Board.

Finalise ESA sponsorship process.
Postpone to April Board.

Conduct benchmarking on return-on-investment from Media Officers and report back to board.
Postpone to Planning Day. Need to wait to review combined value of Scientell and Online Media Manager role.

Draft hot topics list for STA President and present to board for feedback.
Postpone to May Board.

Email Kylie and Emma to query timing of STA cluster representative nominations.
Postpone to May Board. STA Process and timing not yet finalised. Update pending.

3.0 REPORTS

3.1 Treasurer’s Report – Jacky Tierney*

The Treasurer’s report was tabled and the balance sheet and profit/loss discussed. Two key points were highlighted:

- the conference reconciliation is almost finalised and indicates a modest profit which flows through to a small predicted profit overall for ESA at end of financial year.
- FGWG will be reviewing the Society’s risk structure and 2018/19 budget at their next meeting at the end of April. All Board members and Working Group Chairs reminded to forward any 2018/19 budget bids to Gail by April 6.

3.2 Correspondence Report – Gail Spina*

Correspondence Report tabled and noted.

3.3 Working Group Report – All

Substantial items tabled prior to the meeting. Verbal update to be provided for all WG from directors with WG oversight.

Oversight	Working Group	Chair	Update as at 29 March 18
President	JOURNALS	Don Driscoll	Nigel reported that the Journals Working Group had discussions with Wiley regarding the new publishing contract which will likely be a combined agreement for both Austral Ecology & EMR. Negotiations will continue over coming months. It was also noted that longtime Wiley contact, Peter D’Onghia, was moving to a more senior position and the journals would have a new case manager. Peter will still be involved at some level maintaining the corporate knowledge.
	EQUITY	Vacant	No update.

Oversight	Working Group	Chair	Update as at 29 March 18
	INDIGENOUS ENGAGEMENT	Gerry Turpin	Gail advised that the Indigenous Engagement Group had preliminary discussions and were planning to submit a budget bid to fund a face to face meeting with all members to make a substantial start to developing a broader IEK initiative.
	ACADEMIC FREEDOM	Don Driscoll	No update.
VP Student Affairs	STUDENT ACTIVITIES & AWARDS	Dieter Hochuli	Dieter advised that the 2017 Student Research Grants had now been resolved and applicants advised. The Applied Forestry Award assessment has also been completed.
	SCHOOL ENGAGEMENT	Pep Turner	Pep requested to be removed as Chair of the Schools WG due to the time commitment of the EMR role. Dieter will step into the WG Chair role.
VP Research	EARLY CAREER ECOLOGISTS	Amy-Marie Gilpin	No update.
	RESEARCH CHAPTERS	Sacha Jellinek	Amy advised that Sacha has stepped down as Chair of the Research Chapter Group to take on the role of Chair, Practitioner Engagement. Amy will oversee the Research Chapter Group until a replacement is found.
	RESEARCH AWARDS	Amy Hahs	No update.
VP Member Communications	CONFERENCES	Jodi Price	Conference Working Group will meet during April. There have been email discussions to progress issues relating to ESA18 and considering destination options for ESA19.
	PRACTITIONER ENGAGEMENT	Vacant	No update.
	BULLETIN	Dustin Welbourne	Bulletin was published in March. Board congratulated Dustin and his team on another excellent publication.
	MEMBERSHIP	Kate Umbers	Membership Working Group will meet in early April.
VP Public Outreach & Policy	MEDIA	Euan Ritchie	The Media Working Group has been active via email on a number of issues and will meet in April.
	POLICY	Bek Christensen	The Policy Working Group has coordinated and submitted responses to the National Biodiversity Strategy Secretariat re Australia's Strategy for Nature Conservation and to the Qld Government re changes to the

Oversight	Working Group	Chair	Update as at 29 March 18
			<p>Qld Native Vegetation Management legislation. Copies of both these documents were tabled for information. Bek advised that STA had assisted in providing feedback on the Biodiversity submission and considered it a very strong submission which could be used as a reference point for other organisations preparing similar responses. The Board congratulated Bek and the Policy WG for their work. Bek acknowledged the support of Noel Preece in doing a lot of the groundwork for the Vegetation Management submission, and Euan Ritchie for coordinating the <i>Conversation</i> piece accompanying the Biodiversity submission.</p> <p>Noel recommended Don's presentation published in <i>Nature Ecology & Evolution</i>.</p>
Treasurer	FINANCIAL GOVERNANCE	Jeremy Huntley	FGWG will meet at the end of April to consider budget bids received and finalise 2018/19 draft budget, and to consider a risk assessment strategy.
	FUNDRAISING & SPONSORSHIP	Vacant	No update.

AGENDA ITEM #	ACTION ARISING	PERSON	DUE BY
Board_Feb_18_3.2.1	Gail to send Dieter contact details for people interested in Schools Engagement Group.	Gail	April Board

AGENDA ITEM #	ACTION ARISING	PERSON	DUE BY
Board_Feb_18_3.2.2	Noel to forward copy of Don's Nature Ecology Evolution presentation to Board.	Noel	April Board

3.4 Web Officer Report – Gail Spina

Verbal update. Gail reported that there had been no significant web issues over the last month. The Online Media Manager position had been advertised closing end April. Shortlisting and interviews will be scheduled in May.

3.5 Membership Report – Jacky Tierney

Verbal update. Membership tracking very well for this time of year. Rolling membership and reminder system seems to be effective in prompting early renewal with membership just over 1200 members. This has also assisted in providing good cash flow.

3.6 Conference Report – Gail Spina

Verbal update. Gail reported that preparations for ESA18 were progressing very well with the

majority of plenaries in place, 23 symposia received, and planning for workshops, field trips and social program well underway. The sponsorship prospectus has been distributed and QUT has indicated interest and there is hope that UQ & Griffith will also come on board.

Planning for ESA19 is also underway. The Conference Working Group is currently looking at Tasmania as a potential destination and have had preliminary discussions about venues in Hobart and Launceston.

4.0 SUBMISSIONS

4.1 Submission for Australia's Strategy for Nature Conservation – Bek Christensen*

ESA tendered a submission to the National Biodiversity Strategy Secretariat for Australia's Strategy for Nature Conservation. This submission was accompanied by an article in *The Conservation* and the submission will also be sent to State and Territory Governments. Tabled for noting. Discussed at Item 3.3.

4.2 Submission for Qld Native Vegetation management changes – Bek Christensen*

ESA tendered a submission to the Queensland Government for their proposed legislative changes to Native Vegetation management. Tabled for noting. Discussed at Item 3.3.

5.0 GENERAL BUSINESS (Discussion and/or Voting)

5.1 Book Review Editor – Pep Turner/Gail Spina

The position of Book Review Editor is vacant following Pep stepping down. Details of the recommended applicant were circulated to the Board for consideration with the EMR Chair looking for endorsement of the new Book Review Editor. The following Motion was put:

MOTION: That Maggie Watson be appointed to the position of ESA Book Review Editor in accordance with the ESA constitution and by-laws.

Moved: Nigel Andrew

Seconded: Dieter Hochuli

All in favour: motion passed.

The Board congratulated and thanked Pep for her long-term work and significant contribution to the Book Review Editor Role.

AGENDA ITEM #	ACTION ARISING	PERSON	DUE BY
Board_Feb_18_5.1.1	Pep to contact Maggie and make arrangements for handover.	Pep	April Board

5.2 Endorsement for Invertebrate Conservation Council – Kate Umbers

Kate presented a verbal report about the activities of the Invertebrate Conservation Council and their request for ESA endorsement. The Board considered that a formal written request was required before a decision could be made.

AGENDA ITEM #	ACTION ARISING	PERSON	DUE BY
Board_Feb_18_5.2.1	Kate and Gail to discuss format and content of formal endorsement request.	Kate/Gail	April Board

6.0 NEXT MEETING

April Board – 26 April 2018.
