AWMS 2018 AGM

Conference open at 1643 on Wednesday 5/12/2018

**29 People in attendance.** Peter Fleming, Trish Fleming, Stuart Dawson, Pip Masters, Dan Parker, Ben Allen, Maquel Brandimarti, Rebecca French, Pam Whiteley, Cathy Herbert, Thomas Newsome, Tom Crook, Dan Lunney, Malcolm Kennedy, Peter Adams, Terry Korn, Tarnya Cox, Konnie Gebauer, George Wilson, Tiggy Grillo, Stuart Huxtable, Bronwyn Fancourt, Andrew Bengsen, Mel Snape, Shannon Dundas, Greg Baxter, Tim Clancy, Linda Behrendorff, R Lewongate.

# 1. Minutes of previous AGM, December 2017, Katoomba NSW

Confirmed Terry Korn, seconded Tarnya Cox

# 2. President’s report (Trish Fleming)

## AWMS2018

Thanks to the local organising committee for organisation of the venue, selection of the keynote speakers, and the great alignment of talks.

Thank you to the executive committee for support throughout the year.

Congratulations to conference organisers and local committee on organising a successful conference. Attendees comprised 175 registrants and eight trade, one platinum, one symposium sponsor, student prize sponsor, student dinner sponsor. There were 130 (a lot) abstracts submitted, ~70 allocated 12 minute talks, and 32 posters.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Year of conference** | **Number of attendees** |
| **2018 Hobart** | **175** |
| 2017 Katoomba | 135 |
| 2016 Auckland | 108 |
| 2015 Perth | 183 |
| 2014 Brisbane | 98 |
| 2013 Palmerston North | 138 |
| 2012 Adelaide | 136 |

Alongside the conference this year we held a workshop on wildlife monitoring, drone workshop, student networking session, and writing workshop. The student dinner was also successful, which some interesting skeletons coming out of the closet.

## Prizes and awards

* We didn’t allocate a Postgraduate prize this year because we received no applications – we have subsequently reduced the required membership from two to one year.
* We didn’t allocate the Braysher Wildlife Management Fund award this year because none of the 3 applications met the purpose under which this endowment has been made.
* There were four applications for the honours/undergraduate award, which was awarded to **Giselle Owens**.
* One application was received for the DW Cooper Thesis award, which was awarded to **Stuart Dawson** for his work on community ecology in a disturbed landscape.
* The Practitioner’s Award was renamed Practical Management Award and the deadline was extended We had 8 applications and the prize was awarded to **Nick Ledgard, Chair, Ashley-Rakahuri Rivercare Group Inc**
* Joan Southgate Award - We received two Aus/NZ applicants. The applications were reviewed by an Australasian and South African team of reviewers, and the award was finally made to **Kyla Johnstone**
* During the year, there was a decision to create a new President’s Award for Early Career Researchers and Professionals to recognise excellence in research undertaken by a member of the Australasian Wildlife Management Society within 5 years of the awarding of their PhD (Early Career Researcher) or in their professional capacity. The 2018 inaugural award has been granted to **Dr Bronwyn Fancourt.**

## SAWMA

We’re continuing to work on increasing our relationship with the South African Wildlife Management Association (SAWMA). This year we paid for Dan Fletcher’s registration and SAWMA supported his flights. Dan indicated that SAWMA would offer free registration to any paid-up AWMS member who wished to attend the 2019 SAWMA meeting.

## AWMS Contributions

Everyone says it is a good idea to contribute to senate enquiries etc. (e.g. requests for comment during 2018: impact of feral deer, pigs and goats in Australia, feral horses, biosecurity, Australia’s faunal extinction crisis, proposed changes to wildlife licences granted under the Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016), but most people do not feel that they have the time/expertise to make comment on these submissions, and we are hard-pressed to get responses drafted and reviewed by the membership in time. We need a process for determining who should handle these, perhaps aligned with position statement coordination.

Suggestions:  
- Pay people (e.g., members) to write position statements.  
- Recruit a consultant to write them.  
- Run workshops at each conference to work on position statements that need updating. This would also help identify emerging issues. Ask the membership at the conference to identify hot topics and then sit at designated tables to workshop these issues. Could sponsor drinks or dinner for people who are willing to prepare a statement.

*Ben Allen: Society needs to participate in order to remain relevant and influential.*

*Melissa Snape: Can we use existing review papers into position statements?*

*Cathy Herbert: Supports M. Snapes view.*

*Andrew Bengsen: These issues often require timely response from society.*

*Terry Korn: All ideas will work, but timely response is required, and someone needs to drive it.*

*Trish Fleming: Maybe we can collate a list of expertise, from members, so that president can defer quickly to an AWMS member.*

*Dan Lunney: Unfortunately these issues require someone who is on the inside.*

*Terry Korn: New committee needs to take this forward and develop a revised way to manage this. Cannot be resolved at the current meeting.*

*Dan Lunney: Unfortunately, submissions to these inquiries often don’t get taken up.*

ACTION: Committee to produce a list of expertise, and increase portfolio of position statements, and also review media statement and ensure adherence.

ACTION: Konnie to see if we have conference budget for sponsoring drinks/dinner at conference.

## AWMS2019

* The organising committee being led by Brett Murphy (Charles Darwin University)
* We have had a discussion around having an extra day of conference or running parallel sessions. This year, we’ve received about 130 abstracts but could only offer ~70 full talks. Suggestions include:

- Run an extra day or half day, followed by workshop(s) or field trip(s).

- More speed talks (no one declined them last year)

- Allow attendees to submit an abstract for a speed talk (we’ve tried this before but none were received). Could attach a prize to speed talks.

*Tarnya Cox: current survey suggests people don’t want concurrent sessions.*

*Ben Allen: moved the motion that the committee or a small group plans 2019 format early, rather than leaving it too late.*

*Tom Newsome: suggests that the stigma around 5min talks is a barrier, and also, making the older researchers do speed talks may remove that bias.*

*Dan Parker: Supports speed talks.*

*Peter Fleming: Really supports the idea of speed talks.*

*Ben Allen: Speed talks should be marketed as for in progress science.*

*Terry Korn: Meeting to recognise the efforts of Konnie in the conference planning.*

*ACTION:* Konnie will be keeping track of who withdraws if they’re offered a poster but then wants to stay in if they’re offered a speed talk. We can use this year’s data to inform next year’s plan.

# 3. Correspondence (Lily van Eeden)

No correspondence

# 4. Treasurer’s Report (Tom Newsome)

AUSTRALASIAN WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT SOCIETY

TREASURER’S REPORT 2015-2016 (1/07/2017 - 30/6/2018)

Based on the status of the accounts on the 30/6/2018 the AWMS financial position is in a stable and improving position. The total assets were $239,883.13, which is an improvement since 2017 ($212,415.92). A full breakdown is below.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Current Assets** | **2017$** | **2018$** |
| CBA chq a/c | 77,372.90 | 85,551.32 |
| CBA term deposit | 17,051.75 | 17,641.78 |
| CBA Transaction a/c | 1,357.06 | 2,873.21 |
| PAYPAL a/c | 11,034.22 | 8,786.82 |
| CBA public fund | 105,600.00 | 125,030.00 |
| **Total Current Assets** | **212,415.92** | **239,883.13** |

Note that the total current assets above includes the public fund, which is audited separately (total $125,030) – the remaining balance is $114,853.13

Total income in the 2017-2018 financial was $114,930.46. Expenses totalled $85,846.85 which provided a net profit of $29,083.61. A full breakdown is provided below.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **INCOME** | **2017$** | **2018$** |
| Refunds |  | (2,480.00) |
| Publishing Income |  | 1,269.43 |
| Conference Income | 66,530.95 | 98,491.00 |
| Membership Fees | 10,317.22 | 16,490 |
| Workshop Income |  | 570.00 |
| Interest | 13.72 | 590.03 |
| **TOTAL INCOME** | **78,861.89** | **114,930.46** |
|  |  |  |
| **EXPENSES** |  |  |
| Audit | 4,125.00 | 3,385.00 |
| Advertising |  | 1,123.75 |
| Awards | 2,755.41 | 7,546.40 |
| Bank Charges & Paypal | 596.63 | 2,217.23 |
| Conference expenses | 45,201.91 | 67,122.68 |
| General expenses | 442.88 | 37.88 |
| Insurance | 805.11 | 843.00 |
| Member Clicks | 2,478.43 | 2,863.60 |
| Printing and Stationary | 1,000 | 91.40 |
| Subscriptions |  | 103.17 |
| Telephone/Internet |  | 512.74 |
| **TOTAL EXPENSES** | **57,405.37** | **85,846.85** |
| **NET PROFIT** | **19,456.52** | **29,083.61** |

**Major changes over the current and previous financial years include:**

* Online banking and removing the need for cheques.
* Updating term deposits.
* Changing auditor to Burton Partners to reduce the costs (this provided a $740 savings in the first year and ~$2000 saving this year).
* Switch to using online accounting software Quick Books - $10/month fee - to further reduce the auditing costs and cease the use of excel spreadsheets and paper receipts. Quick Books allows real time updates from all bank accounts including Pay Pal and receipts can be scanned and linked electronically. Based on the audit this year, I recommend to keep this system.
* Management of both the Public Fund and AWMS accounts, increasing workload slightly.

**Other business:**

* The term deposit was renewed, but the interest rate is still very low. The amount in the term deposit could be increased given good performance in recent years.
* Given poor performance in previous years the budget still needs to be managed carefully to increase surplus funds, especially because our financial growth is solely reliant on the conference.
* Other ways to improve the budget:
  1. Term deposit for Public Fund surplus
  2. Stop using conference calling and switch to another provider (~$500)
  3. Banks charges; this year the PayPal charges were included (>$2K), but this is probably unavoidable.
* To allow a sufficient hand-over to the next Treasurer I recommend to appoint an Assistant Treasurer to manage the accounts with the current Treasurer for a one year period prior to handover. This will require a new board member position to be created.
* All members of the board should more closely inspect the audit results, as this will help provide more context for the financial position of AWMS.
* The audit for this year was completed on time and was delivered prior to the AGM for sign-off.

Thomas Newsome

AWMS Treasurer 2018

*Tom raised the idea of moving to an online conference system, rather than the current system, which cost $500 over the financial year.*

*Terry Korn seconds the Report.*

*Greg Baxter moves to move $25 000 into term deposit, Tarnya Cox seconds. Peter Fleming seconded, and AGM vote is in favour.*

*Melissa Snape: Moves to recognise the efforts of Tom Newsome*

# 5. Membership Secretary Report (Shannon Dundas)

Membership Secretary Report

AGM 5 December 2018

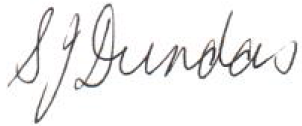
Our membership numbers have increased slightly from last year. The current membership numbers stand at 230.

The breakdown is

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Year** | **2018** |
| **Full** | 135 |
| **Student** | 62 |
| **Institutional** | 13 |
| **Retired/Unemployed** | 15 |
| **Lifetime** | 5 |
| **Totals** | **230** |

This compares to 210 for 2017 and 213 for 2016. As usual, we had an increase in new memberships prior to this year’s conference (38 Full, 23 Students)

The automatic renewal option has been in place since the last AGM and we have some uptake (5 full memberships and 3 student memberships). Remember this option when you are next renewing your membership.



Shannon Dundas

Membership Secretary

**Basic member statistics**

Membership 2014: 208 Lifetime members: 5

Membership 2015: 239 Prize winners: 8

Membership 2016: 213

Membership 2017: 210

Membership 2018:

# 6. Position Statement report (Andrew Bengsen)

*AWMS has 14 statements, 5 for review next year. AB will be seeking help for review. Quick cumbersome way of dealing with issues, and not an ideal way to respond to current events. For example, some people working on one to address Feral Horse management, and has taken months. Most viewed statement was Indigenous harvest of wildlife. Kangaroo harvesting is well out of date, and requires review.*

# 7. Public fund (Terry Korn)

Australasian Wildlife Management Society Public Fund

*Report by the Public Fund Management Committee for the 2017/2018 Financial Year.*

The change-over to a 1 July - 30 June financial year plus a new financial management system has impacted on reporting this year.

**Donations/Income** – A $20000 Southgate donation was transferred from the AWMS general account to the Public Fund Account 21 November 2017.

**Expenditure** - $570 on the mentoring workshop at the 2017 annual conference.

**Balance of Public Fund Account** - $125,030

**Committee Meetings** – One meeting on the 28 May 2018.\*

**Committee Members** – Terry Korn, Lyn Nelson, Greg Baxter, Tarnya Cox and Will Baston

Terry Korn PSM

Chair

AWMS Public Fund Management Committee

\* Note the committee has undertaken to meet twice per year but the changeover to the new financial reporting year meant we only had one meeting this financial year.

*Terry Korn: suggests investing $100 000 in term deposit. This is for the committee to decide.*

*Tarnya Cox: seconded the noting of the report.*

# 8. SAWMA liaison officer (Pip Masters)

*Asks people to make sure they encourage people to attend SAWMA.*

*Dan Parker (President of SAWMA) any AWMS member who applies to the SAWMA conference in September, on the South Cape will have their registration waved. SAWMA is making a concerted effort to get the student or post grad the be involved in the AWMS conference, rather than just a committee member. SAWMA is turning 50 in 2020, at Kruger National Park, start saving.*

# 9. Student representative (Miquel Brandimarti)

Asked members about the Katoomba writing workshop, and they wanted to attend one at the next conference. They would like a publisher present, and also wanted senior committee members being present. Members wanted a writing workshop every second year. Student dinner was a success, thankyou to the committee.

# 10. Other Business

## List of Past Presidents

Jim Hone suggests that a list of past presidents be included on the website; attendees supported.

## Abstract booklets as a permanent record of AWMS activities

Greg Baxter: We need more data in the abstracts, or a more prescriptive abstract format, in order to make the abstract book more informative. Use the format of the Wildlife Research abstract. Committee to do something action this – using a template based around the abstract topics for Wildlife Research: Context; Aims; Methods; Key results; Conclusions; Implications

## Contingency fund

Peter Fleming: Events happen, such a bushfires, which are unexpected opportunities to perform really good wildlife management. AWMS will not provide the money, but drive for the creation of such a fund from state governments (to be modelled on the plague locust fund). Proposed that AWMS develops a briefing document that is presented to state governments and stake holder. The new committee is to prepare the brief.

*Greg Baxter: This type of thing would have more weight if prepared in collaboration with ESA and other organisations.*

*Peter Fleming: Moves the motion that committee progresses and instigates the process. Ben Allen Seconds.*

*Representative from Wildlife Health: Commended AWMS on the inclusion of a wildlife health symposium.*

## Member benefits

Ben Allen: Committee to review member benefits, and look at what you get for your membership. Some suggestions; include a job or CV workshop, volunteer message board, publications notice board.

*Tarnya Cox: The newsletter is open, so the only remaining benefit is a discounted*

# 11. Election of Office bearers

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Role |  | Nominated | Seconded |
| President | Tarnya Cox | Greg Baxter | Peter Fleming |
| Secretary | Melissa Snape | Bronwyn Fancourt | Greg Baxter |
| NZ Student Rep | Rebecca French | *Miquel Brandimarti* | Peter Fleming |

*Ben Allen: Moves to thank Trish Fleming.*

*Tom Newsome: Push the motion to have an assistant treasurer, and this will opened to the broader membership.*

Meeting Closed at 18:16.