

Minutes Quaternary Australasia Annual General Meeting 2019 UoW CABAH Meeting Room and via Zoom site, April 15th, 2019

AGM declared open at 11:00 AEST

1. Attendance/Apologies

Voting Members in Attendance: Tim Cohen, Réka Hajnalka Fülöp, Georgy Falster, Scott Mooney, Michael-Shawn Fletcher, Lynda Petherick, Haidee Cadd, Charlie Maxson, Heather Haines, Mark Constantine, Jacinta Greer, Cameron Barr, Martin Ankor, Pana Panaretos

(Note: Quorum reached as 10 members were required and 14 attended)

Apologies: Emily Field, Alex Wall, Carol Smith

2. Proxies: None

3. Minutes of the 2018 Annual General Meeting

Motion: That the previous minutes be adopted

Moved: Scott Mooney

Seconded: Georgy Falster

Carried: Unanimously

4. President's Annual Report

Tim delivered his first AGM Report as President. He noted that AQUA 2018 was a success with a specific mention of thanks to the organising committee and in particular Scott Mooney, Janelle Stevenson, Georgy Falster, and Haidee Cadd for pulling together a successful meeting in limited time. It was noted that there were over 90 participants, that Brad Pillans delivered the inaugural John Chappell lecture, and that 11 grants had been awarded to students and ECRs to attend the meeting. Scott and Tim are in the process of getting those who received a full funding award to write a piece for the upcoming issue of QA. Tim moved on to discuss INQUA 2019 in Dublin noting that AQUA received 12 applications for student/ECR travel grants to attend INQUA and a committee consisting of Tim Cohen, Lynda Petherick, and Jessica Reeves assessed the applications and decided to award 2 full awards valued at \$3000 as well as 4 partial awards valued at \$1500. However, several awardees (as well as members unsuccessful in the original AQUA fund allocation) also received funding from INQUA and due to AQUA funding rules it was decided that an individual could only hold a maximum of \$3000 AUD in funding from both sources. As such some individuals rescinded their AQUA awards which resulted in one full award and 3 partial awards being provided in total from AQUA. This meant that less money was needed for travel funding than anticipated due to overwhelmingly good support from INQUA to AQUA members.

Carol Smith requested that Tim indicate that another call would be going out shortly for articles/reports for the next QA issue with those due in on May 6th. Tim noted that it would be good to have the AQUA 2018 funding recipients write something different such as a summary of their research related to what they presented at the Canberra conference rather than having several repetitive reports about the event itself. Carol also requested that this issue of QA have an INQUA focus including a report on SHAPE which she was going to ask Drew Lorrey to contribute. Tim indicated that a summary of the AQUA meeting at ANU should also be included – Scott volunteered to provide this.

5. Treasurer's report and Financial Statement

Treasurer Georgina Falster delivered her report on the 2018 financial year, she indicated that some of the values in her report may seem skewed as some AQUA 2018 conference costs had rolled over into the 2019 financial year whereas all conference income was in the 2018 statement. She noted a spike in membership from the previous year but that is normal for a year with student/ECR funding (as membership is required for sponsorship). As an income AQUA received a \$2000 anonymous donation. Interest earned was noted as comparable to previous years. Georgy provided a full report on the conference costs indicating the biggest costs were for the poster night and ice breaker, student prizes, as well as for additional travel grants provided above the nominated funds for this purpose. Tim also added that the \$2000 charge by the bus company for the bus we could not use for the field trip was included in these costs. Largely the high costs noted by Georgy for the conference were related to the fact that several bookings were made at a later point in time that would have been ideal and so the charges could not be negotiated down / alternatives sought. Overall for AQUA 2018 a total expenditure of \$37,476 was noted along with a gross revenue of \$33,484. The expenditure did not include the standard AQUA travel awards (which are funded elsewhere) but did include the additional travel awards the executive decided to provide in 2018. Tim indicated that a small offset such as observed is not a major issue when, as stated by Georgy, we have a healthy bank balance still available (she noted it would be around \$105,000 after all conference costs were accounted for). One cost that was missing from the conference this year was funding for the best student talk recipients to attend Science Meets Parliament (Australian based student) and the Quaternary Workshop (New Zealand based student) as these were not awarded this year. Tim has requested that we make note of this and return these awards for the AQUA 2020 conference.

In regards to other costs Georgy indicated that QA costs were slightly lower this year and membership numbers were sitting at 98 as of the AGM (65 full, 17 student, and 16 concession memberships).

Membership database (Reg Online) is being retired at end of 2019 so our whole membership database will need to be migrated to a new platform which still needs to be chosen. Haidee indicated we can link into our website using a plugin for a membership database: setting up something like this for our membership would also allow us to have this to use for the conference (as what we used in 2018 was quite expensive per person). Haidee will look into this after mid-year. The IT person could then take over maintaining the membership section. Tim agrees this would be a good suggestion. Haidee noted this may cost some money but we need to look into it. Tim noted that during the next committee meeting the roles of Secretary and Treasurer are to be differentiated so that it is clearer what each role entails.

Motion: That the Presidents and Treasurer's Reports be accepted

Moved: Scott Mooney

Second: Haidee Cadd

Carried: Unanimously

1. Election of members of the Executive Committee

All positions were declared open.

President:

Nominees: Tim Cohen, self nominated for 1 more year and would like to hand over prior to the next AQUA conference, seconded by Georgy.

Nomination accepted: Yes
Outcome of voting: Elected unopposed
Position declared

Vice President:

Nominees: Lynda Petherick, seconded by Tim
Nomination accepted: Yes
Outcome of voting: Elected unopposed
Position declared

Secretary:

Nominees: Alex Wall (proxy nomination due to inability to attend meeting) also nominated by Tim, seconded by Georgy
Nomination accepted: Yes
Outcome of voting: Elected unopposed
Position declared

Treasurer:

Nominees: Heather Haines, seconded by Tim
Nomination accepted: Yes
Outcome of voting: Elected unopposed
Position declared

Editor of Publications (Quaternary Australasia):

Nominees: Carol Smith and Sanja Van Huet, seconded by Tim
Nomination accepted: Yes
Outcome of voting: Elected unopposed
Position declared

National Earth Sciences Committee Rep:

Nominees: Jessica Reeves should be okay to continue in this role but she has not communicated in this regards – we will leave this for now and get back to it after contacting her. No other nominations were received.

Information Technology Editor:

Nominees: Haidee Cadd, seconded by Tim
Nomination accepted: Yes
Outcome of voting: Elected unopposed
Position declared

General Members:

Nominees: It was noted that we could use some NZ members in this section but no one was available from NZ to speak for this – Andrew Rees a current general member is away in the field at the moment. Charlie Maxson and Martin Ankor nominated and Tim seconded both
Nomination accepted: Yes
Outcome of voting: Elected unopposed
Positions declared

Vote of thanks to Georgy by Tim for her hard work as well as gratitude that she will shadow in Heather as the new treasurer.

2. Confirmation of annual subscription/joining fees

Proposition by Tim that AQUA student memberships next year get dropped to \$25 with QA hard copy / \$20 electronic – it was discussed last year but it was not followed up on. We should put this into action this year.

Georgy moved that we increase the full membership up by \$5 each. To \$60 with QA hard copy and \$55 with electronic edition.

Haidee suggested that we make QA available for everyone (outside of the membership) electronically so we get more readership. Georgy noted that once a new QA comes out the previous is available free of charge and she thought it was best to have something that people get that is special for their membership. After discussion Tim suggested that we keep QA as it is for the moment.

Tim queried if we can change the membership costs now (as of the AGM date) for new members. Georgy noted that this may not be good for those who have recently joined. Réka noted that this reduction will help us to get new members and we want to increase our membership.

Change to fees to above amounts were decided to be changed for new members now and for renewals at the next financial year:

Moved: Tim

Seconded: Georgy

Carried: Yes

Georgy noted there is a push by some senior members to get others in more senior roles to contribute financially. Is there a way we can solicit donations from other senior AQUA members? This is something to follow up on moving forward in getting more donations.

AQUA 2020

Cameron Barr and Michael-Shawn Fletcher have put their hands up to help organize this. Cameron noted that he, Michael, and Simon Haberle have discussed about holding this in Cairns as it could be held in winter so this would not clash with other conferences (eg AGU). They have also discussed that Peter Kershaw's contributions to the field could be recognised and celebrated at this time. There was some discussion of holding it on the Atherton Tablelands more like an older field style AQUA meeting – Cameron noted that these were smaller than the meetings held now which makes it more difficult for accommodation, child minding, etc especially from a financial perspective. We may be able to find a cheaper venue via the university. Michael has been in touch with Cairns researchers - Mike Bird and Cassie are happy to help as on the ground people in Cairns. Michael feels the options for venue etc are better in Cairns than on the Tablelands – we can try and engage the oceanography group to try and pitch it to be more than just the typical lake conference seen recently from AQUA. There is possibility to go on a Cruise on the Reef. So at this point all is going well. Tim noted that it would be nice to have a more gender balanced organising committee but does recognise that this depends on who puts their hand up. Tim has requested that Cameron/Michael/Simon talk with JCU researchers and come up with 2 dates for the conference – a preferred date and a back up date. He would like to try to have the capacity by INQUA 2019 to know the preferred dates to spread around at that time. Tim raised with

Sean Ulm to see if JCU can contribute funds/etc to AQUA 2020. Currently JCU is the target venue to help keep costs down. JCU is a bit distant from Cairns but we just need to take that into account in regards to accommodation/transport vs venue. Hadiee has offered to help with the registration set up for the conference. Heather offered to help with conference organisation.

INQUA AQUA dinner

Noted by Scott – he will put some feelers out to where we should hold this with friends who are Dublin based. Everyone agreed that this was a good idea.

Tim thanked everyone for attending and participating

3. AGM closed by Tim at 11:56 AEST

This is an accurate copy of the minutes of the 15/04/2018 AQUA AGM.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Heather Haines".

As recorded by Heather Haines, AQUA Treasurer