

Australasian Quaternary Association Annual General Meeting 2023

Zoom meeting, May 17th, 2023

Agenda and Minutes

Started: 13:00

1. **Welcome (John Tibby)**
2. **Approval of 2022 minutes (Patricia Gadd)**

Patricia moved a motion to get 2022 AGM Minutes approved. Charles seconded the motion and 2022 minutes were approved.

3. **Report from the Committee (John Tibby)**

I am very grateful to all the committee members but wish to particularly acknowledge those people who are stepping down in 2023: Patricia Gadd, Nick Patton and Olivia Traux

The Executive Committee's activities mostly operated in a devolved manner, where individuals or small numbers of committee members were responsible for activities (e.g. INQUA travel prize).

The major activities of the AQUA Executive Committee were related to Quaternary Australasia, the Adelaide conference, the awarding of the Leanne Armand award and travel prizes to INQUA, discussions about life membership and, to a lesser extent, AQUA's mentoring program. Consideration was also given to the nature of AQUA's finances and the need to reduce unnecessary expenses (particularly with respect to banking charges).

The Executive Committee also oversaw the development of a Code of Conduct which initially was utilised for the activities of the mentoring program but was then applied to registrations for the Adelaide AQUA meeting.

4. **Report from Treasurer (Patricia Gadd on behalf of Annie Lau)**

- We made over \$13000 in 2022, thanks to the Biennial Conference in Adelaide. As the conference was held in December 2022, some conference income and expenditure are not included in this financial statement. Overall, the conference made over \$14000 (excluding expenses on student travel awards). There is about \$33000 in the Transaction account by the end of 2022.
- AQUA is administering the "Leanne Armand Travel Award" since its establishment in 2022. In July 2022, all AQUA's funds have been moved from the "Online Saver" account to the transaction account so that the Online Saver account can be used solely by this Travel Award.
- Our term deposit is now locked for an 18-month term until March 2024. It will give us about \$4200 in interest at maturity.
- Outlook for 2023: A deficit is expected as there will be no conference income, and we are spending over \$10000 for student travel awards to INQUA. Donations will be hugely appreciated! The new committee may also look into ways to reduce costs (e.g. bank fees, STA subscription, QA design cost).
- Heather Haines stepped down as the shadow treasurer in early 2023 as she moves out of Australia. Thanks to Heather for the help in the past year.

5. Nominations for executive committee positions (Patricia Gadd).

1. President
John Tibby was elected uncontested
2. Vice President
Tim Barrows was elected uncontested
3. Secretary
Caroline Mather was elected uncontested
4. Treasurer
Annie Lau was elected uncontested
5. Shadow Treasurer
Alex Francke was elected uncontested
6. IT & Communications
Micha Campbell was elected uncontested
7. QA Editors
Emma Rehn and Lydia MacKenzie, both elected uncontested
8. Shadow QA Editor
Lauren Linnenlucke was elected uncontested
9. General Members
Johanna Hanson
Charles Maxson
Patricia Gadd
Juliet Sefton

6. Other business

- AQUA Adelaide Conference update (John Tibby)

John Tibby briefly reported on the AQUA conference and noted the enormous amount of work the local organising team undertook. The quality of science at the conference was very high and there was a strong representation of people who had not previously attended AQUA.

- INQUA (John Tibby)

It was suggested that AQUA host a one-day online meeting before iNQUA primarily, but not exclusively, designed to give people a chance to practice INQUA talks while also exposing those not attending INQUA to that material. In addition, it was suggested that we develop a buddy or mentoring program for students (and ECRs) to be paired with experienced conference goers to help them with the conference experience. Lastly, it was suggested we organise an AQUA dinner at a (cheap) restaurant early in the conference.

Scott mentioned potential opportunities in INQUA committee that may be useful for AQUA members. He said it was very positive and often well-funded, so useful to have Australasian contingent on the committees.

- Mentoring Program (Caroline Mather)

The inaugural AQUA mentoring program ran during 2022. It was successful and we had generally positive feedback. We intend to run the mentoring program every second year, matching with the biennial AQUA conference to provide the opportunity for mentees and mentors to meet in person at the event.

- Next conference

Helen Bostock (in collaboration with Patrick Moss) has offered to host the next AQUA meeting in June or July 2024. The likely venue is Minjerribah (Nth Stradbroke Island) where University of Queensland's research station is an ideal venue providing both accommodation and teaching facilities.

Attendees: John Tibby, Tim Barrows, Caroline Mather, Marjorie Sullivan, Philip Hughes, Charles Maxon, Johanna Hanson, Nathan Jankowski, Timothy Cohen, Kia Matley, Bianca Dickson, Stephen Piva, Scott Mooney, Emma Rehn, Lauren Linnenlucke, Nick Patton, Paul Hesse, Lydia MacKenzie, Haidee Cadd, Teresa Dixon, Helen Bostock, Fred Saltre, Amdrea Johansen, Sarah Kachovich, Jamie Shulmeister, Heather Haines, Annika Herbert

Concluded 13:40