



Malacological Society of Australasia Ltd  
*Annual General Meeting 2020*

Date: Thursday November 26<sup>th</sup>, 2020  
Time: 12:00pm AEST (1:00pm AEDT, 3pm NZDT)  
Venue: Zoom.

**Meeting Minutes**

1. Welcome (Simon) – Carmel welcomed all MSA members to the AGM on behalf of Simon. The minimum quorum was reached (15 members), once Simon and Lisa joined the meeting. The following members were present: Bob Creese, Carmel McDougall, Don Colgan, Felicity Masters, Kerry Walton, Kirsten Benkendorff, Lisa Kirkendale, Matt Nimbs (with a proxy), Matthew Kosnik, Platon Vafiadis, Priscila Salloum, Richard Willan, Simon Hills, Steve Smith, and Wayne O'Connor.
2. Apologies (Priscila) – Matt (proxy), Simon (lateness), Lisa (lateness), and Rachel.
3. Treasurer's Report / Financial Statement (Carmel)  
Carmel presented the treasurer's report, showing that the society is in excellent financial position. Please find the full report and account audit attached.
4. Membership Report (Matt)  
Matt sent a membership report, which was read by Priscila during the AGM. Members are at the lowest since 2014. Please find the full report attached.
5. Journal Report (Don)  
Don presented the journal report, adding a short amendment of an event that happened after the report was prepared: Our UK-based production will be handled by an assistant. Don clarified that this is good news, meaning that we are providing enough work to T&F to justify an additional employment. Please find the full report attached.  
Bob is resigning, and Don thanked him for his work on the journal and on many research award-judging committees over the years (thank you Bob!)
6. Newsletter Report (Platon)  
Platon presented the Newsletter report, reiterating that the newsletter is a long-term record of MSA activities that will remain for the future. Please find the full report attached.
7. Media (Carmel, Kirsten, Steve)  
Carmel briefly updated the members about MSA activities on social media and advertisement achievements during the year.
  - Facebook: efficient platform for events and mollusc-related subjects



- Twitter: mostly used by MSA to publicise papers when they are published in the journal (tweeting every paper that comes up). Contribution from other members (tweeting/re-tweeting) would be greatly beneficial.
- Photography competition: The competition was run to select images to include in a calendar that will be run in 2021. Not for profit, just to cover costs. We had a great selection of photos and good representation of taxa. The winners will be announced in an email to members and were already posted on Facebook. They are:
  - Simon Grove
  - Steve Smith
  - Jack Hannan
  - Qiaz Hua
  - Matt Nimbs
  - Jean-Claude Stahl
  - Paige Maroni
  - Kerry Walton
  - Joan Hales
  - Michael Klunzinger
  - Platon Vafiadis

Kirsten encouraged people to submit photos for next year.

- INaturalist: Steve Smith suggested that MSA could consider having some presence on INaturalist in a more formal sense, aiming to increase visibility in a more global sense.

#### 8. Grants and Awards (Simon, Carmel)

Awards handed out during the year are outlined in the president's report (please find full report attached). There were three awards in total. Given the currently healthy financial status of MSA, council will consider having both travel and research awards next year (conference year).

Carmel thanked all members that judged awards and grant applications in 2020.

#### 9. Molluscs 2021 (Simon, Lisa, Carmel)

The organizing committee gave a brief overview of the conference planning in the face of changes imposed by Covid-19.

- The conference will be hosted at Griffith University (organized by Carmel and Lisa), either in the Gold Coast or South Bank campus, depending on the availability of rooms for booking (which will be organized by Carmel shortly).



- Proposed dates are 30-11 to 02-12-2021 (Tuesday - Thursday). This is the middle of the teaching period in the University.
- Volunteers to be in the organizing committee, please let Carmel know by email as soon as possible. Example of roles are:
  - o Scientific program coordinator;
  - o Coordinator of social events (also organizing accommodation);
  - o HDR committee member to organize events around other students attending.
- Please start thinking about symposiums and send ideas to Carmel by email. For example:
  - o Shellfish reef restoration symposium (maybe also have a workshop to get some practical learning on the topic). Just be careful to avoid overlap with the Reef Restoration Conference, which will happen in April.
- Strategic planning.
- Keynote speakers (council to consider part-funding travel for international keynote speaker, and live-stream for international attendees).
- Contingency if we need (around Covid): Blended conference delivery (virtual and face-to-face). The organizing committee will check the technology required to achieve a blended delivery, but we most likely already have it.
- A conference organizer will probably be contracted.
- The 2024 conference will be held in Perth (the Museum is now open!).

#### 10. 2020 Honorary Member (Priscila)

Rachel (former long-term President)

Nominated by Don, seconded by Platon. Motion to award honorary membership for 2020 moved by Carmel and seconded by Simon. All were in favour. The motion was accepted at the end of the meeting (when we had quorum).

**ACTION: Don to make a short citation for the Newsletter and send to Platon.**

#### 11. President's Report (Simon)

Simon presented the president's report, recognizing that this year has been a considerable challenge for all, but the society did incredibly well. Please find the full report attached.

Simon also thanked all council members for their dedication to the society in 2020.

#### 12. Approval of last AGM Minutes (Simon)



Simon moved that we approve the last AGM minutes, and Carmel seconded. All were in favour. The last AGM minutes were approved at the end of the meeting (when we had quorum).

### 13. Election of Officers.

All members supported the election of officers. Below is the elected council and details on nominations and votes.

**President: Carmel McDougall** (Nominated by Carmel, Seconded by Richard). All votes in favour.

**Vice President: Simon Hills** (Nominated by Carmel, Seconded by Lisa). All votes in favour.

**Treasurer: Matt Nimbs** (Nominated by Carmel, Seconded by Steve Smith). All votes in favour.

**Secretary: Priscila Salloum** (Nominated by Priscila, Seconded by Simon). All votes in favour.

**Journal Editor: Don Colgan** (Nominated by Carmel, Seconded by Richard). All votes in favour.

**Membership Secretary: Felicity Masters** (Nominated by Carmel, Seconded by Kirsten). All votes in favour.

**Newsletter Editor: Platon Vafiadis** (Nominated by Carmel, Seconded by Don). All votes in favour.

**Web Admin:** N/A

**Councillor (WA): Lisa Kirkendale** (Nominated by Carmel, Seconded by Platon). All votes in favour.

**Councillor (NZ): Kerry Walton** (Nominated by Carmel, Seconded by Simon). All votes in favour.

**Councillor (NSW): Steve Smith** (Nominated by Carmel, Seconded by Wayne). All votes in favour.

**Councillor (NSW): Wayne O'Connor** (Nominated by Carmel, Seconded by Steve Smith). All votes in favour.

**Councillor (NSW): Kirsten Benkendorff** (Nominated by Carmel, Seconded by Simon). All votes in favour.

**Councillor (TAS): Simon Grove** (Nominated by Carmel, Seconded by Lisa). All votes in favour.

### 14. Other business

- Of the reports presented to the AGM, only the president's report will be included in the next Newsletter. A short summary of all other reports can also be included.

**ACTION: Platon to summarize the reports and circulate within the council for comments before release.**

- Upon request from Richard, Platon gave a brief report regarding the Victorian Branch. Platon said he is in contact with many of the members, and that the



Branch met last week, after covid restrictions had been eased, but that he had missed that meeting. The members are low in number, 4-5 people are attending meetings regularly, but these meetings are of good quality. The Victorian Branch Bulletin reports some activity of the members. Overall, it has been a quiet year and there is not much to report.

- On behalf of MSA, Carmel thanked our council members stepping down: Bob and Rachel (thank you!)
- Further discussion regarding our membership numbers was initiated, and also on the necessity to reflect on strategies to increase it.
  - Survey questions might be helpful. Ideas on questions are:
    - On Facebook: 'what would it take for you to join MSA'
    - On the newsletter: ask for suggestion from members of what would they like to have in the society that would make them happy to be members for longer?
    - Another interesting topic would be to find out 'why did your membership lapse'

**ACTION: Simon to lead the making/circulation of survey questions next year.**

- In response to covid, more people may be interested to join a society (online initiatives)
- Council is considering to hold mini-meetings, symposia or public talks
  - Council to check if MSA can cover costs to make it attractive to speakers, and think about how to plan that.
  - Council to decide on how frequent MSA will host the talks (every couple of months?)
  - Talks will include Q&A time, and could be scheduled during non-working hours, in an informal 'Raising the Bar' model. Lisa suggested "Bring your wine and meet us online to talk about molluscs"
  - At least one talk should be organized and held in June, with the aim to use it to promote the conference (Lisa, Kerry and Priscila to organize it).
  - The lecturers could be given a distinguished title, such as in <https://www.paleosoc.org/distinguished-lecturer-program>



**ACTION: Lisa, Kerry and Priscila to organize these talks and promote one in June 2021.**

- Remind people when their membership renewal is due by email (maybe people simply forget and do not renew)
- Consider how to target the underrepresented demographics in our membership numbers – maybe target non-Australasia malacologists?
- Check if the Japanese society would like to host a joint symposium in the conference?

15. Close of meeting (Simon)

Simon thanked the council for their dedication this year, and welcomed councillors for next year, congratulating specially Carmel for her election as president for 2021.