

**Minutes of the 27<sup>th</sup> A.G.M.**  
**Australian Society of Herpetologists Incorporated**

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held at Ross River, NT on Saturday 11 December 1999. The meeting opened at 6.08 pm with President Michael Bull in the chair.

**Members present:** John Wombey, Ric Longmore, Rick Shine, Nicki Mitchell, Sharon Downes, Jane Melville, Scott Keogh, Frank Lemckert, Dale Roberts, Steve Williams, Mark Hutchinson, Mark Hearnden, Glenn Shea, Stan Orchard, Simon Hudson, Roy Swain, Michael Scroggie, Graeme Gillespie, Jean-Marc Hero, Rod Kennett, Graeme Watson, Paul Horner, Mike Thompson, Simon Blomberg, John Coventry, Michael Mahony, Tom Burton, Craig James, Brian Malone, Michael Bull, Steve McAlpin.

**Non Members present:** James Schulte, Paul Doughty.

**Apologies:**, Roger Seymour, Peter Harlow, Gordon Grigg.

**Minutes of the 26th AGM held at Yungaburra, Queensland:**

Minutes of the 26th AGM were circulated in Newsletter No.39. These were taken as read and confirmed as a true and accurate record of that meeting.

Moved: D Roberts

Seconded: T Burton

**Correspondence:**

None of the correspondence presented was considered in need of a reply.

**Treasurer's Report:**

The 97/98 financial statement of income and expenditure as published in Newsletter No. 39 were examined and accepted by the meeting.

Motion: that the auditor's report and balance sheet be adopted.

Moved: G Watson

Seconded: S Blomberg

The 98/99 financial statement of income and expenditure was tabled at this meeting.

Motion: that the auditor's report and balance sheet be adopted.

Moved: M Mahoney

Seconded: S Hudson

**President's Report:**

The Society's financial state is considered to be healthy but a need is seen to maintain a reasonable buffer so that financial assistance or research grants for students can be considered. It is in the hands of the incoming committee how this will function and could be in the form of application by students at the time of meeting registration. An increase in funds could be met by raising meeting registration fee levees or annual subscriptions to non student members.

A motion was moved to raise non-student membership fees by \$10 per annum providing surplus funds to be used to contribute towards attendance costs of ASH student members to meetings.

The motion was not passed.

An amendment to the motion above was moved to the effect that any student, member or non-member of ASH could benefit from financial assistance.

Moved: R Swain

Seconded: B Malone

Carried

#### **ASH Constitution:**

Motion to accept the revised Constitution as presented at the 1995 meeting.

Moved: R Shine

Seconded: T Burton

Carried

#### **Incorporation Status of ASH:**

As the Society has some difficulty in complying with the requirements of incorporation, in particular the need to hold an AGM within 5 months of the end of the financial year, the desirability to remain incorporated was canvassed. John Wombey and Ric Longmore have agreed to investigate alternative liability options, if any exist.

#### **End of an Era:**

The current Secretary/Treasurer, John Wombey and Editor, Ric Longmore have given notice that they wish to stand down from their respective committee positions. The meeting expressed a vote of thanks and a round of applause.

Motion: that John Wombey and Ric Longmore be nominated as Honorary Members of the Society in recognition of their efforts in their respective committee roles.

Moved: M Hero

Seconded: R Shine

Carried with acclamation

#### **Election of Office Bearers:**

As no further nominations were received, the members nominated at the Annual Meeting at Ross River on the 10 December 1999 are hereby elected.

President:	R Swain
Vice President:	M Bull
Secretary/Treasurer:	S Keogh
Asst. Secretary Treasurer:	T Burton
Editor:	M Hero
Public Officer:	R Longmore
Ordinary Members:	C James and S Hudson

#### **Editors Report**

The outgoing editor, Ric Longmore, thanked the many members that contributed to Newsletter No. 39. With the advent of computers, E-mails and the net, accumulating and publishing information are now evolving rapidly and it may well mean that periodic information to members may take the form of computer-linked contact in future, but this would be up to the incoming editor. Ric said he had enjoyed his 16 years as editor and wished Marc Hero all the best in his new role.

### **Appointment of Regional Representatives:**

Ric informed the meeting that many members had made contributions to newsletters, and that the old days of regional representatives, whose task it was to gather and collate regional information, may have come to an end. This generated some discussion with some members thinking that regional focal points should be maintained. This will be up to the new editor.

### **Venue for next meeting:**

The meeting agreed to consider Roy Swain's suggestion of Tasmania in February 2001. Roy has agreed to investigate this option.

### **Other Business:**

*Naming of Student Prize:* The Society is to consider renaming the students prize for Honours/Masters research as the "Murray Littlejohn Prize" subject to the President seeking permission from Murray to do so.

*Conference Proceedings registration:* Craig James put forward for consideration the possibility of the Society having Conference Proceedings registered with ISSN. Some discussion followed this, largely around the possibility of escalating costs, and the meeting agreed to have the matter considered.

A motion was put forward that anyone with the initials M. J. be expelled from the meeting

Moved: D Roberts

Seconded: G Watson

Carried

*Thanks:* Michael Bull proposed a vote of thanks to Craig James for the organisation of an excellent conference meeting and venue.

Moved: M Bull

Seconded: everyone - to thunderous applause.

*Student Prizes:* After detailed discussions, Session Chairs finally selected the following prize winners which were announced by the outgoing President:-

#### Student Prize for Honours/Masters research

Bob Wong - "Cold and psychic in Canberra: Effects of temperature and rain on acoustic signalling in the common eastern froglet *Crinia signifera*".

#### Peter Rawlinson Student Prize - best paper on a postgraduate student project

Sharon Downes - "Why does tail loss increase a lizard's later vulnerability to (some) snake predators?".

No other business. [NOTE:- Of the over 100 registrants who attended this meeting, only 31 bothered to attend the AGM. Given that we were all confined in a small space, this was disappointing. It may reflect that the majority was happy with how the Society was going, or to the fact that it was nice to have a cold beer under the trees at the end of a busy day. The reason is not clear; we hope it was the former.]

*New members:* Ed Meyer, Alexa Ryhorchuk, Sarah Smith, Megan O'shea, Mitchell Ladyman, Lyn Nelson, Greg Horrocks, Genaya Misso, Devi Stuart-Fox.

Meeting closed at 7.05 pm.

## COUNCIL REPORT 1999

Report of Council, December 1999

President - Michael Bull

Vice President - Dale Roberts

Secretary/Treasurer - John Wombey

Editor and Public Officer - Richard Longmore

Assistant Sec/treasurer - Tom Burton

Dale Roberts put forward the suggestion that the student honours/masters prize be named the Murray Littlejohn prize. It was agreed to have this discussed at the AGM. The financial status of the Society was discussed and is considered to be in good shape. As no suggestions for amending the draft Constitution have been put forward the meeting will be asked to consider accepting the draft. Amendments can still be made at future meetings if the need arises. Ric Longmore discussed the possibility of the position of President being held for more than one term. John Wombey drew attention to the difficulty of the Society holding AGM's within the designated time stipulated by the incorporation regulations. At this stage the Society pays a late entry fine for returns after the due date but there may be other ways to deal with liability issues which the Society could explore.

John Wombey and Ric Longmore gave notice that they did not wish to be nominated for the positions of Secretary/Treasurer and Editor.

John Wombey

Secretary/Treasurer

Ric Longmore

Editor