

**Minutes of the 29<sup>th</sup> AGM**  
**Australian Society of Herpetologists Incorporated**

Minutes of the twenty-ninth Annual General Meeting held at "Birrigai", ACT on Friday 12 July 2002. The meeting opened at 5.00pm with President Sharon Downes in the chair.

**Members present:** Murray Littlejohn, Rick Shine, Dale Roberts, Simon Blomberg, Kirsten Parris, Frank Seebacher, Mike Thompson, Simon Hudson, David Booth, Michael Mahony, David Chapple, Arthur Georges, Nancy Fitzsimmons, Mitch Ladyman, Dan Edwards, Tracy Langkilde, Andrew Hamer, Tony Tucker, Naomi Doak, Donna Hazell, Keith McDonald, Ross Alford, Jane Girling, Erik Wapstra, James Smith, Sasha Jellinek, Brett Goodman, Brian Malone, Jennifer Taylor, Dan Salkeld, Lin Schwartzkopf, Peter Harlow, David Wilson, Greg Kerr, Glenn Shea, Graham Thompson, Bonnie Lauk, Kylie Robert, Ricky Long-john Spencer, Jonno Webb, Frank Lemckert, Ric Longmore, Ian Scott, John Wombey, Sharon Downes, Scott Keogh, Roy Swain, John Clarke, Mike Wall, Trent Penman, Harko Werkman, Harry Hines, Clare Morrison, Luke Shoo, Andrew Stauber, Jemina Stuart-Smith, Jason Rossendell, Jodi Rowley, Martin Whiting, Greg Brown.

**Apologies:** Graeme Gillespie, Paul Webber.

**Minutes of the 28<sup>th</sup> AGM held at Gumleaves, Tasmania:**

Minutes of the 28<sup>th</sup> AGM were circulated at the meeting. These were taken as read and confirmed as a true and accurate record of that meeting.

Moved: R Swain

Seconded: F Lemckert

**Correspondence:**

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

**Treasurer's Report:**

This year saw the addition of 30 new members (now ~300-350 in total), as well as an ABN designation, which does not require a tax statement.

The database to replace the old black book has now been completed, at a cost of \$500.

\$500 has also been allocated to website development.

The ASH list server is current. Naomi Doak and Jean-Marc Hero should be contacted with any email changes.

The Treasurer reported that ASH has just under \$17,000 in bank, with \$1000 in stock (t-shirts, etc.).

**President's Report:** The Society's financial state is considered to be healthy. After discussion at the last AGM about allocating some of these funds to support research by students members of ASH, Downes and Keogh instated a student research grant competition at the end of 2001. A report on this competition can be found in "Other Business" below. We will continue to offer this research grant competition as long our current healthy financial state is maintained.

**Election of Office Bearers:**

As no further nominations were received, the members nominated at the AGM at Birrigai on 12 July 2002 are hereby elected.

President:	S Downes
Vice President:	R Swain
Secretary/Treasurer:	S Keogh
Asst. Secretary/Treasurer:	I Scott
Editor:	J-M Hero

Public Officer:  
Ordinary Members:

R Longmore  
P Horner and G Gillespe

### **Editors Report:**

The editor was unable to attend the meeting, but the President spoke on his behalf. There was discussion about the production of the ASH newsletter. Until recently, each newsletter produced was only done so in hardcopy format. Jean Marc Hero reported that present members were not relaying information for the newsletters as expected. It was suggested that a representative from each state be present at subsequent AGMs, which would be responsible for passing on this information. State representatives were elected as follows:

NSW Frank Lemckert  
QLD Harry Hines  
SA Greg Johnston  
WA Mitchell Ladyman  
NT Jeanne Young  
ACT Scott Keogh  
TAS Bonnie Lauck

Representatives are to be contacted by JM Hero before the next AGM (by May at the latest). It was noted by Ric Longmore that the last newsletter was produced in 1999.

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

Paul Horner and Keith Christian graciously offered to host the next AGM in Darwin, NT at Mary River Park. A meeting date during the 1<sup>st</sup> week of December (5<sup>th</sup> - 8<sup>th</sup>) 2003 was suggested, but tenuously as this weekend may conflict with another conference.

### **Other Business:**

*Student Research Grants:* Three awards were granted in 2001, the first year of the competition; 2 Phd student awards, and 1 honours student award. There was a poor response of applications (12 in total) was noted. Dale Roberts suggested emailing members rather than notifying via list server. The awards were as follows:

Joern Fisher CRES, Australian National University

Sasha Jellinck University of Tasmania

David Chapple Australian National University

The need for more judges from outside ACT and ANU was noted, due to the difficulty of assessing their own students' work. It was suggested that other suitable people may be contacted for this year's grants, with suitable timeframe given.

*Election of Official Librarian:* Glenn Shea was nominated for a new position of the official ASH librarian. He accepted the nomination. His task is to file archival ASH information.

*Ejection:* Murray Littlejohn, who objected due to prejudice of early opinions.

*Ejection:* A motion was put forward to eject Dale Roberts from the meeting.

Moved: R Shine

Seconded: All

*National Database of Herpetofauna:* The development of this database was restricted by funding cuts. G Gillespie said that he is working on the problem and will report back on the feasibility of setting up this scheme at the next meeting.

*Herpeteformists Unite:* Mike Thompson stressed the relationship between ASH and NZHSoc, inviting members to the next NZHSoc AGM. Please email Mike for further information.

*Retiring:* It was brought to the meeting's attention that Jeanette Covacevich was retiring as the Curator of Reptiles at the Queensland Museum and it was suggested that the Society send her a letter.

*Population Disturbance:* One of the Broad-headed snakes strongest populations is under duress, as reported by Rick Shrine (or is that Stein?). He suggested that the NSW NPWS be encouraged and supported by ASH to lock gates in and around Morton National Park.

*Symposia in Africa:* Two open-invitation Comparative Physiology symposia (specifically, reproductive and thermal biology) are being offered in Africa during the upcoming year. There are a limited number of places, so please contact Mike Thompson for details.

*2004 AGM Invite:* Mike Thompson offered to host the AGM following the Darwin-2003 meeting in the Sydney region.

*Thank You:* Ric Longmore thanked the ACT members of the Society for organising the meeting at Birrigai.

*Climatic Data:* Simon Hudson wanted to state that it was cold.

*Student Prizes:* An increase in posters at ASH meetings over the past few years was reported, with an award being handed out at the last meeting. The continuation of this practise was approved and it was suggested that the award be named the "Ric Longmore Student Prize for Best Poster". Ric Longmore accepted this suggestion.

Murry Littlejohn Prize for Honours/Masters Research:

Winner (\$200)—Bansi Shah, "Why do thick-tailed geckos aggregate?"

Honorable mention—Rachel Sims, "Use of thermal springs for aquatic basking by the Pig-nosed Turtle, *Carettochelys insculpta*"

Peter Rawlinson Prize for Postgraduate Research:

Winner (\$300)—Kerry Beggs, "Conservation versus pastoralism: herpetofauna as indicators of ecological change in the Mary River region, Northern Territory"

Honorable mention—Kylie Robert, "Designer families: sex determination in the viviparous lizard *Eulamprus tympanum*"

Honorable mention—Sean Doody, "Patterns of Predation in Pig-nosed Turtles"

Ric Longmore Prize for Best Poster:

Winner (\$200)—Tara Goodsell, "Freshwater turtles in wet and dry waterholes: tracking metapopulation patterns of the Cooper Creek turtle with microsatellites"

*New members:* NATALIA ATKINS, VALERIE BOYARSKI, HEATH BULTER, CHRIS CLEMENTE, CHANTELE MAY DEREZ, DANIELLE EDWARDS, STEWART FORD, TARA GOODSSELL, MARK HARMANN, JULIE-ANN HARTY, HARRY HINES, DAVID HUNTER, ELIZABETH MAGAREY, MEGAN MCCANN, MICHAEL MCFADDEN, BRETT MOTT, TRENT PENMAN, BEN PHILLIPS, FIONA POWELL, KRIS ROGERS, JASON ROSSENDELL, DAVE RUNCIMAN, STEVEN JOHN SASS, BANSI SHAH, JAMES SMITH, ANDREW STAUBER, JEMINA STUART-SMITH, DANE TREMBATH, MIKE WALL, MELISSA WHITE, DAVID WILSON, DOUG WOODHAMS.

The meeting closed at 5.51 pm.

## **COUNCIL REPORT 2002**

Report of Council, July 2002

President - Sharon Downes

Vice President - Roy Swain

Secretary/Treasurer - Scott Keogh

Public Officer - Richard Longmore

Assistant Sec/treasurer - Ian Scott

Scott Keogh put forward the suggestion that a poster prize be awarded to the best student presentation at ASH and that this prize be named the Richard Longmore 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. Ric Longmore discussed the possibility of the position of President being held for more than one term. The president indicated that she would be happy to run for a second term. Ric Longmore also raised the issue of the lack of production of an ASH newsletter since 1999. It was agreed to ask at the AGM for volunteer state representatives to pass on information for the newsletter to the editor, Jean Marc Hero.

Scott Keogh

Secretary/Treasurer

Sharon Downes

President

**J.M. Neill**  
**CHARTERED ACCOUNTANT**  
(A.B.N. 59 971 007 603)

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**AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF THE AUSTRALIAN  
SOCIETY OF HERPETOLOGISTS INCORPORATED**

1. I have audited the attached accounts being the Income and Expenditure Statement for the year ended 30 June 2001 and the Balance Sheet at that date in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards.
2. As an audit procedure it was not practicable to extend my examination of fund raising beyond the accounting for amounts received as shown by the books and records of the Association.
3. Subject to paragraph 2, I report that in my opinion:
  - (a) The accounts are properly drawn up so as to give a true and fair view of the matters required by subsection 72(2) of the Associations Incorporation Act, 1991 to be dealt with in the accounts.
  - (b) The accounts are properly drawn up in accordance with the Act.
  - (c) The accounts are properly drawn up in accordance with proper accounting standards.
  - (d) I have obtained all the information and explanations required.
  - (e) Proper accounting records and other records have been kept by the association as required by the Act.
4. It is noted that the Society has not been holding annual general meetings within the 5 months time frame laid down by section 69 of the Associations Incorporation Act 1991. It is recommended that the situation be corrected in future.

  
**J M NEILL**  
**CHARTERED ACCOUNTANT**

7 June 2002

THE AUSTRALIAN SOCIETY OF  
HERPETOLOGISTS INCORPORATED

BALANCE SHEET  
AT 30 JUNE 2001

Last Year		\$	\$
	ACCUMULATED FUNDS		
15992	Opening Balance		19460
3468	Surplus (Loss) for the year		(4427)
-----			-----
19460	Closing Balance		15033
=====			=====
19460	TOTAL FUNDS		15033
=====			=====
	REPRESENTED BY:		
	CURRENT ASSETS		
1124	Stock on Hand - at cost	1125	
18372	Bank Cheque on hand	0	
4	Cash on Hand	4	
0	Cash at Bank	13737	
0	Income tax Credit	32	
0	Subscriptions in arrears	135	
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19500			15033
-----			-----
19500	TOTAL ASSETS		15033
	CURRENT LIABILITIES		
40	Subscriptions in advance	0	
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40			0
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19460	NET ASSETS		15033
=====			=====

J.M. NEILL  
CHARTERED ACCOUNTANT

2 June 2002

THE AUSTRALIAN SOCIETY OF  
HERPETOLOGISTS INCORPORATED

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2001

Last Year		\$	\$
	INCOME		
2604	AGM Fees		2892
1340	Subscriptions		310
220	Newsletter		0
118	Sale of T Shirts,etc - profit		0
6	Interest		83
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4288	TOTAL INCOME		3285
	LESS EXPENSES		
240	Audit Fee	220	
0	AGM Expenses	2892	
16	Bank Fees	25	
64	Filing Fees	75	
500	Prizes	3500	
0	Web Site Expenses	1000	
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820	TOTAL EXPENSES		7712
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3468	SURPLUS (LOSS) FOR THE YEAR		(4427)
=====			=====

**THE AUSTRALIAN SOCIETY OF HERPETOLOGISTS INCORPORATED**

**NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE ACCOUNTS  
FOR THE PERIOD ENDING 30 JUNE 2001**

Last Year	1.	<b>STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES</b>	\$
		<p>The Company is not a reporting entity because in the directors' opinion there are unlikely to exist users who are unable to command the preparation of reports tailored so as to satisfy specifically all of their information needs, and these accounts are therefore special purpose financial reports that have been prepared to meet the requirements of members and income tax law.</p> <p>The Company has applied Accounting Standard AASB 1025 Application of the Reporting Entity Concept. No other Accounting Standards or Statements of Accounting Concepts have mandatory applicability and have not been applied.</p> <p>The significant accounting policies which have been adopted in the preparation of the financial statements are:</p> <p>(a) Accrual accounting has been applied and the accounts have been prepared on the basis of historical costs and do not take into account changing money values nor, except where stated, current valuations of non-current assets.</p>	
	2.	<b>INCOME TAX CREDIT</b>	
		<p>An amount of \$32.00 withholding tax was deducted by the bank from interest received until the Society obtained an ABN. This amount is refundable by the Taxation Office as the Society is exempt from income tax at present.</p>	
	3.	<b>SUBSCRIPTIONS IN ARREARS - \$135.00</b>	
		<p>These subscriptions for the year were received after 30 June 2001.</p>	