

Minutes of the 30th AGM
Australian Society of Herpetologists Incorporated

Minutes of the thirtieth Annual General Meeting held at 'Mary River Park', Northern Territory, on Sunday 7 December 2003. The meeting opened at 9.30 am with President Sharon Downes in the chair.

Members present: Phil Byrne, Oliver Berry, Jemina Stuart-Smith, Erik Wapstra, Natalia Atkins, Mike Thompson, Joanne Chambers, Tracy Langkilde, Graham Thompson, Chris Clemente, Brett Goodman, Gavin Bedford, Michael McFadden, Suthidha Nou, Rob Davis, Ben Phillips, Frank Lemckert, Glenn Shea, Clare Morrison, Chris Tracey, Kerry Kriger, Danielle Edwards, Jane Melville, Michael Kearney, Lorrae McArthur, Paul Doughty, Nicki Mitchell, Christine Prosser, Jacquie Herbert, Andrew Amey, Mark Hutchison, Sharon Downes, Scott Keogh, Harry Hines, Naomi Doak, Jean-Marc Hero, Paul Horner, Keith Christian, Simon Blomberg, Dale Roberts, Mike Wall, Dan Warner, David Chapple, Clare Griffin, Steve Reynolds, Jessica Stapley

Apologies: Roy Swain, Arthur Georges, Murray Littlejohn, Steve Donellen, Keith McDonald, Ric Longmore, John Wombey

Minutes of the 29th AGM held at 'Birrigai', ACT:

Minutes of the 29th AGM were circulated in the last ASH newsletter (Edn. 41) and were taken as read and confirmed as a true and accurate record of that meeting.

Moved: S. Downes

Seconded: S. Keogh

Correspondence:

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

Treasurer's Report:

The Treasurer reported that audits have been completed for the past two financial years, and everything is up to date. ASH has approximately \$15500 in the bank.

Jessica Stapley has a list of subs owed - all present at the meeting were asked to check their membership status with Jess. Members were also asked to check their e-mail address on Jean-Marc Hero's database - this list acts as the ASH server and many addresses bounce.

President's Report:

The Student Research Grant Scheme is due to be reevaluated after three years. The current scheme consists of three grants of \$750, judged by a panel, and based on a 2-page research proposal, a CV and letter from a supervisor. The President asked if the scheme should be changed or improved. Harry Hines suggested increasing each award to \$1000, Dale Roberts suggested factoring the cost of grants into conference registration fees, and Mark Hutchinson suggested that the amount could change from year to year depending on available funds. The latter motion met with general support.

The President suggested that the Newsletter editor and the Web-page editor should be a separate posting, and the motion was carried. Jean-Marc Hero (serving Web-page editor) asked that members e-mail him with suggestions for improving the ASH website.

Election of Office Bearers:

As no further nominations were received, the members nominated at the AGM at Mary River on 7 December 2003 are hereby elected

President	Jane Melville
Vice President	Sharon Downes
Secretary/Treasurer	Nicki Mitchell
Asst. Secretary/Treasurer	Mike Kearney
Newsletter Editor	Bryan Fry
Web-page Editor	Jean-Marc Hero
Public Officer	Rick Longmore
Ordinary Members	Paul Horner Graham Gillespie

State Representatives were elected as follows:

NSW	Frank Lemkert
QLD	Harry Hines
SA	Mark Hutchison
WA	Dale Roberts
NT	Paul Horner
ACT	Scott Keogh
TAS	Erik Wapstra

Venue for next meeting

Jean-Marc Hero will organize the next meeting. The venue will be near the Gold Coast or in northern New South Wales, and the meeting will be held in the first or second week of February 2005. The meeting will be a joint meeting of ASH and SRARNZ (the Society for Research on Amphibians and Reptiles in New Zealand). Charles Daugherty indicated that 20-30 SRARNZ members are expected to attend. Registration will close either November 30 or December 1. Academic delegates will subsidize student registration, so that student registration is cheaper.

Sharon Downes suggested that due to the large number of delegates expected, many presentations could be given as posters so as to avoid concurrent sessions. Sharon suggested that students give oral presentations, and academics poster presentations, or that oral talks are allocated on a 'first in, best dressed' basis. Naomi Doak emphasized the value of academic talks to student members, especially those attending their first ASH meeting. It was agreed that the priority given to oral papers should be decided at some later point by the Organizing Committee, after liaising with the Office Bearers of the respective societies.

Other Business

Future Meetings

Paul Doughty (WA), Jane Melville (VIC) and Mike Thompson (NSW) all indicated their willingness to host future meetings. It was agreed that the 2006 meeting will be in Western Australia or Victoria, with Victoria being the most likely option since ASH met in WA in 1996.

Student Travel Support

Erik Wapstra asked what has happened to student support to attend ASH meetings, noting that it is critical to students attending from distant states. Sharon Downes stated that financial assistance is given retrospectively, with a portion of conference profits divvied up between students that attended. It was agreed that in the future ASH would attempt to allocate travel awards before a meeting, but that ultimately, the decision falls with the conference organizers.

Student Research Grants

Fourteen applications for funding were received, with six applications from Honours students. Accordingly two awards were granted to Honours students, and two awards to postgraduate students. Judges for this years awards were Sharon Downes, Mike Kearney, Nicki Mitchell and Bob Wong. Awards (IOU's written on paper toweling) were made as follows

Honours

\$450 Zoe Hamilton (University of Western Australia): Morphological and molecular variation in the *Egernia stokesii* species-complex.

\$450 Eliza Marie Poole (University of Melbourne): Habitat associations, regional distribution, and the conservation management of the growling grass frog (*Litoria raniformis*)

PhD

\$750 Erika Alacs (University of Canberra): Molecular markers in long-necked turtles: phylogeography, gene flow, and applications to wildlife forensics.

\$750 Joanne Chambers (Queensland University of Technology): The influence of terrestrial habitat on the distribution of anurans.

Student prizes

Dale Roberts announced that the standard of oral presentations was very high, with at least 10 individuals being suggested as potential prizewinners. Students who had won previously were not eligible to win again. Judging was based on the ability of students to present and answer a contemporary question, and judges were particularly impressed by presentations with a strong theoretical base. Prizewinners were as follows:

Murray Littlejohn Prize for Honours/Masters Research

\$100 Christine Prosser, 'Effects of habitat modification associated with urban areas, on the garden skink, *Lampropholis guichenoti*

\$100 Karen Murphy, 'Patterns of sperm storage and reproductive cycles in south-eastern Australian skinks'

Peter Rawlinson Prize for Postgraduate Research

\$150 Martin Dziminski, 'Evolution of variable maternal investment in frogs from southwestern Australia'

\$150 Matt Morgan, 'A phylogenetic analysis of the Myobatrachid genus *Heleioporus*'

Ric Longmore Prize for Best Poster

\$100 Naomi Doak, 'Historical Biogeography and population genetics of Fleay's barred frog (*Mixophyes fleayi*)'

Congratulations

The president noted that Roy Swain retired recently, and alerted the newsletter editor to offer congratulations on behalf of the society in the next issue.

Thank You

Naomi Doak thanked the departing President and Secretary/Treasurer for their service to the society.

NEW MEMBERS:

Mark Harmann, Julie-Ann Harty, Erika Alacs, Robyn Bellamy, Stephen Bellamy, Greg Brown, John M. Clarke, Leah Delfs, Martin Dziminski, Sabrina Hall, Jacquie Herbert, Atilla Hettyey, Michael Kearney, Kerry Kriger, Matt Morgan, Eridani Mulder, Suthilda Nou, Paul Oliver, Eliza Poole, Christine Prosser, John Scanlon, Chris Schafer, Daniel Stratford, Chris Tracy, Josh Van Buskirk, Dan Warner.

Meeting closed at approximately 10:15 am by newly elected ASH President Jane Melville