

# AWMS 2019 AGM



**Conference open 4:30pm, Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> December, Sky City Casino and Resort, Darwin.**

**23 people in attendance:** Trish Fleming, Stuart Dawson, Jim Hone, Ganesh Pant, Deane Smith, Tim Clancy, Peter Fleming, Graham Thompson, Brooke Kennedy, Sonya Fardell, Ann Grattidge, Tracey Kreplins, Andrew Bengson, Sebastian Combe, Rebecca French, Patrick Medway, David Forsyth, Margarita Medina, Ben Allen, Laura Ruykys, John Michael Stuart, Tarnya Cox, Melissa Snape.

## **1. Minutes of previous AGM, December 2018, Hobart TAS**

Minutes circulated prior to meeting. Tarnya moved to accept previous minutes, Mel accepted, Ben seconded.

## **2. President's report (Tarnya Cox)**

Thank you for attending this year's AGM. I hope you are all enjoying the conference so far. I'd like to thank the AWMS community for giving me the opportunity to hold the position of President.

AWMS plays an important and leading role in the application of applied, adaptive best-practice wildlife management. This, coupled with our support and encouragement of our student members, is in my opinion, what sets us apart from the rest.

This year the AWMS committee has been working hard behind the scenes. Most recently we have been working on a joint position statement on the welfare and conservation implications of overabundant macropods. This has been developed through special symposia held at both the Australasian Rangeland Society and Ecological Society of Australia's conferences. AWMS was a co-convenor of these symposia. The AWMS committee has provided feedback on the draft joint statement and will circulate a final draft to members once it is available.

The committee is always looking at opportunities to provide benefits to members. This year we subsidized conference registration costs for members, reducing costs by \$100. Ben and I have also been exploring other member benefit opportunities, and while we are not at the point of being able to announce anything just yet, negotiations continue and we hope to bring you some exciting news in the not too distant future.

Our relationship with SAWMA continues to strengthen. AWMS and SAWMA take it in turns hosting a member at their respective conferences. This year it was our turn to send an AWMS representative to the SAWMA conference. Jim Hone attended as the AWMS representative this year, and you can read about his trip in the December newsletter. Next year SAWMA is celebrating 50 years. I encourage all of you to try and attend these celebrations in September 2020.

We have given out four awards this year. The Practical Management and Postgraduate Research Awards were granted, along with two winners for the Braysheer Management Fund.

To finish off, as always, our conferences would not run as well as they do without the tireless efforts of our conference liaison officer Konnie. Unfortunately Konnie can't be here this year. Despite this, she has still managed to pull the conference together from afar. I'd like to formally thank Konnie for

all of her efforts to keep this year’s conference on track. I’d also like to thank all of the committee members for their efforts and dedication over the last 12 months. In particular, Tom Newsome, Ben Allen, Mike Braysher, Sarsha Gorrinsen, Miquel Brandimarti and Pip Masters who are all finishing their time on the committee in their current roles. Finally, next year’s conference will be held in Dunedin NZ from 8-10 December. I look forward to the next 12 months as President and seeing you all in NZ in 2020.

### 3. Correspondence (Melissa Snape)

There have been two major items of correspondence:

1. Request from the NSW Taskforce to support a Joint Position Statement on Kangaroo Management. This will be circulated to the committee and the broader membership for a vote on endorsement once a final version is available.
2. Interest from the International Wildlife Management Congress about a joint conference in 2021. AWMS members are comfortable to let the Executive Committee continue negotiations on behalf of the broader membership on this matter (see also membership benefits discussion in Other Business).

### 4. Treasurer’s Report (Tom Newsome)

Based on the status of the accounts on the 30/6/2019 the AWMS financial position is in a stable position. The total assets increased from \$239,883.13 in FY2018 to \$246,494.61 in FY2019. A full breakdown is below.

| <b>Current Assets</b>       | <b>2017\$</b>     | <b>2018\$</b>     | <b>2019\$</b>     |
|-----------------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| CBA chq a/c                 | 77,372.90         | 85,551.32         | 50,037.30         |
| CBA term deposit            | 17,051.75         | 17,641.78         | 67,844.78         |
| CBA Transaction a/c         | 1,357.06          | 2,873.21          | 4,327.15          |
| PAYPAL a/c                  | 11,034.22         | 8,786.82          | 4,255.38          |
| CBA public fund             | 105,600.00        | 125,030.00        | 120,030.00        |
| <b>Total Current Assets</b> | <b>212,415.92</b> | <b>239,883.13</b> | <b>246,494.61</b> |

Note that the total current assets above includes the public fund, which is audited separately (total \$120,030) – the remaining balance is \$126,464.61.

Total income in the 2019FY was \$104,586.64. Expenses totalled \$90,255 which provided a net profit of \$14,361. This profit margin was about half of that received in 2018FY, mostly due to a reduction in membership fees and conference profit, and then the balance related to journal fees.

A full breakdown is provided below.

| <b>INCOME</b>           | <b>2017\$</b>    | <b>2018\$</b>     | <b>2019</b>       |
|-------------------------|------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| Refunds                 |                  | (2,480.00)        | (1,691.37)        |
| Publishing Income       |                  | 1,269.43          | 319.01            |
| Conference Income       | 66,530.95        | 98,491.00         | 93,706.00         |
| Membership Fees         | 10,317.22        | 16,490            | 12,050.00         |
| Workshop Income         |                  | 570.00            | -                 |
| Interest                | 13.72            | 590.03            | 203.00            |
| <b>TOTAL INCOME</b>     | <b>78,861.89</b> | <b>114,930.46</b> | <b>104,586.64</b> |
|                         |                  |                   |                   |
| <b>EXPENSES</b>         |                  |                   |                   |
| Audit                   | 4,125.00         | 3,385.00          | 2,385.00          |
| Advertising             |                  | 1,123.75          | 2,480.78          |
| Awards                  | 2,755.41         | 7,546.40          | 5,524.71          |
| Bank Charges & Paypal   | 596.63           | 2,217.23          | 2,224.15          |
| Conference expenses     | 45,201.91        | 67,122.68         | 72,757.33         |
| General expenses        | 442.88           | 37.88             | -                 |
| Insurance               | 805.11           | 843.00            | 871.08            |
| Member Clicks           | 2,478.43         | 2,863.60          | -                 |
| Printing and Stationary | 1,000            | 91.40             | 3,708.05          |
| Subscriptions           |                  | 103.17            | 66.00             |
| Telephone/Internet      |                  | 512.74            | 208.06            |
| <b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>   | <b>57,405.37</b> | <b>85,846.85</b>  | <b>90,255.16</b>  |
| <b>NET PROFIT</b>       | <b>19,456.52</b> | <b>29,083.61</b>  | <b>14,361.48</b>  |

**Major changes over the last four years have included:**

Online banking and removing the need for cheques.

Updating term deposits – there are now two term deposits set up, one for the Society and one for the Public Fund, with a current balance of \$68,535.68 and \$100,000 respectively. This should increase interest income, but the interest rates are still low (1.9%).

Changing auditor to Burton Partners to reduce the costs (the costs have reduced from \$4,125 in 2017 to \$2,385 in 2019).

Switch to using online accounting software Quick Books - \$10/month fee - to further reduce the auditing costs and cease the use of excel spreadsheets and paper receipts. Quick Books allows real time updates from all bank accounts including Pay Pal and receipts can be scanned and linked electronically. I recommend keeping this system, but to aid the processing of payments and for general bookkeeping a better system of storing receipts should be explored as it takes a long time to chase people for missing receipts (angry face).

**Other business/comments:**

**Term Deposits:** The amount in the term deposit was increased this year, and credit interest will be visible in the 2020FY records (e.g. \$654.10 in October 2019 was received). The Society term deposit needs to be renewed **now, so please confirm in the AGM if you would like the same balance to continue.** The Public Fund term deposit needs to be renewed on the 7/03/2020. The amounts retained in the term deposit need to reflect the available funds in the main accounts. At present there is \$30,617.17 in the main account, which is lower than normal, however there is \$59,369.98 in the Paypal account that needs to be transferred over. I recommend keeping the same amount in the term deposit rather than increasing it, just in case there is a further decline in membership and conference income. To maintain general expenses, there typically needs to be >\$50,000 in cash available. Other investments could be explored, but I don't think we have enough funds for this. Cash in the public fund account is low – currently at \$8,446, so the term deposit amount may need to be reduced for the next period.

**Profits:** With a declining membership base and lower conference income, there may be a need to review expenditure, although we have continued to make a profit each year. We trialed a free conference calling provider for the last Council meeting, and ongoing use of this would save around \$500/year. The journal fee this year is not an ongoing expense, so printing and stationary costs should be back to normal next year. There aren't many other ways to reduce costs, so I would focus on improving the membership base and ensuring the conference is profitable (ideally >\$20K).

**Improving handover:** An assistant treasurer was not found last year, and I still think this would help to reduce workload and provide a more stable handover period (assuming the assistant treasurer becomes the treasurer). This would require the creation of a new board position.

**Greater input from the Board is needed:** No other board member commented on the draft audit this year. I recognise there was little time to do so, but a greater understanding of the audit will help with governance and help provide more context for the financial position of AWMS.

**2020 Treasurer:** I have decided to step down as Treasurer after four years in the role, in part because the rotation of this role will help inject new ideas and enthusiasm. I look forward to assisting the next Treasurer get up to speed with the process and software over the next 12 months. Thanks for everyone's support and help over the last four years.

Thomas Newsome

AWMS Treasurer 2019

Ben Allen moves to accept the report, Peter Fleming seconded.

### Other comments:

- Ben Allen added that AWMS aims to maintain a stable account as a not for profit enterprise. This is generally done through income from memberships, and expenditure on membership benefits.
- Wild Apricot is now used over Member Clicks to manage the membership on the website.
- A proposal was made to consider switching from CBA to another bank based on recent investigations and the Banking Royal Commission. The membership recognised the value in reconsidering banking institutions, but advice was provided that CBA still offers a competitive rate for NFPs and the membership decided to remain with CBA for the next 12 months – especially whilst the new Treasurer comes up to speed with other matters.
- Peter Fleming moved a motion to formally thank Tom for “dragging us out of the stone age” in the treasury department. Motion carried.

## 5. Membership Secretary Report (Shannon Dundas)

Sorry I couldn't be there to present this myself. I hope the conference is going well and you are all enjoying the warm weather.

Our membership numbers have decreased from last year. The current membership numbers stand at 183.

The breakdown is

| Year               | 2019 |
|--------------------|------|
| Full               | 103  |
| Student            | 48   |
| Institutional      | 9    |
| Retired/Unemployed | 18   |
| Lifetime           | 5    |
| Totals             | 183  |

This compares to 230 for 2018 and 210 for 2017. We had the usual increase in new memberships prior to this year's conference (23 Full, 12 Students).

The automatic renewal option has been in place since the 2017 last AGM and we have some uptake (12 full memberships and 3 student memberships). Remember this option when you are next renewing your membership.

The drop in membership appears to be the result of new members joining to get the conference discount and then letting their membership lapse if they are not attending the next conference. Any suggestions for how we can retain members would be welcomed!



Shannon Dundas

Membership Secretary

**Other comments:**

- Trish suggested having a discount for three-year memberships to enable people (especially students) to sign up for longer membership periods towards the end of their studies and continue to get member benefits in the tumultuous time of trying to get employment.
  - Counter suggestion that a three-year membership option may reduce opportunities for membership engagement through annual membership renewal.
- Bec suggested that it would be good to have more membership benefits unrelated to the conference.

**ACTION:** Committee will review options for membership renewal based on website capability, and try and offer a range of options to best maintain membership numbers.

## 6. Position Statement report (Andrew Bengsen)

### Commercial harvest of kangaroos

- Still undergoing review, will be circulated to membership prior to publication

### Indigenous use of wildlife

- Due for revision; looking for options.
- Rachel Paltridge can be asked.

### Translocation

- Will Batson has reviewed this, and it is now on the website.

### Management of feral horses

- Dave Burman is revising the feral horse position statement.

### Feral goats

- Still under review (by John Parkes?)

## 7. Public fund (Terry Korn)

Report by the Public Fund Management Committee for the 2018/2019 Financial Year.

### AWMS AGM December 2019

The change over to the new financial year is now complete and the public fund management committee (PFMC) was able to hold its obligatory two meetings for the financial year (1 July 2018-30 June 2019).

**Donations/Income** – Nil.

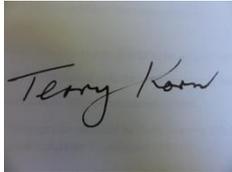
**Expenditure** - \$5000 on travel awards for overseas conference attendance (Southgate Award).

**Balance of Public Fund Account** - \$120,030 - Note that \$100,000 has been placed in an investment account.

**Committee Meetings** – 6 December 2018 and 29 May 2019.

**Committee Members** – Terry Korn, Lyn Nelson, Greg Baxter, Tarnya Cox and Will Baston. I would like to thank the PFMC members for contributing their time to this important governance role for AWMS.

**Representation on the AWMS committee** - Greg Baxter has completed his term on the AWMS committee. The new contact person on the AWMS committee for the PFMC will be Tarnya Cox.



Terry Korn PSM

Chair

Public Fund Management Committee

29 November 2019

**Other comments:**

Terry reminded people that the point of this committee is to ensure that the money is spent in accordance with the objectives of the society.

Ben Allen moves to accept the report, Andrew Bengson seconded.

## 8. SAWMA liaison officer (Pip Masters)

Rick ?? and Pip Masters went with Jim Hone to SAWMA in 2019.

Kayla ?? last name?? (check spelling) was awarded the Joan Southgate in 2018 but will report back next year due to not being able to make the 2019 conference.

Joan Southgate was not awarded in 2019 as none of the applications sufficiently met the criteria.

Stuart Dawson requested an overview of the Award which was provided (information also on website). Ben Allen offered to assist AWMS members with connections in South Africa to maximise cost efficiency and experience. A note was made that the Southgate award is open Jan - March rather than June – August as is the case for other awards.

It was noted that the relationship between AWMS and SAWMA remains strong.

## 9. Student representative (Miquel Brandimarti, Rebecca French)

Dinner went well. Thanks AWMS for covering student dinner expenses, and the committee for providing “sage advice” to students in regards to career opportunities and life generally. Commented that the casual format was appreciated, and that it was a good opportunity to learn who the other students at the conference were. Noted that students appreciate that the conference dinner is part of the conference fee.

**ACTION:** Have different coloured lanyards for students at future conferences so they are able to identify one another and network more easily.

**ACTION:** Instigate a ‘capture the flag’ type set up for committee members at future conferences, to encourage students to approach committee members throughout the conference.

## 10. Other Business

### Member benefits

#### CSIRO Publication

The AWMS Committee (Tarnya and Ben) have been in liaison with CSIRO Publishing around a membership benefit related to publications in CSIRO books and journals. This negotiation has been through a few iterations, but the committee’s position is to aim for a deal which benefits all members and does not tie people to publishing in a particular journal. Worthy of note is that Elsevier also offered a deal for the journal ‘Food Webs’ but AWMS felt this was too specific and constricted. Peter Fleming commented that CSIRO seems like a good option as it is supporting an Australian Publisher.

Ideas being pursued include

- discounted publication fees for open access – might be that AWMS subsidises part of this but need to avoid the committee needing to review papers in addition to the formal review process by the publisher in order to determine merit. Trish Fleming also commented that AWMS would need to consider limitations on how many publications a person will have subsidised in what time frame. These points are also relevant to the idea of direct subsidy of publication costs by AWMS (Stuart Dawson commented this could be too much work for AWMS in reviewing, and Andrew Bengson identified the risk that publications may be submitted to lower quality journals).
- subsidised or free writing workshops for members (CSIRO/Camilla Myers does a good one)
- provision of prizes for conference awards (books, merchandise)

These ideas were supported by the majority of those present at the meeting. Graham Thompson did not support a partnership with CSIRO due to issues experienced previously with this publisher.

**ACTION:** Ben and Shannon will collate a list of publications in CSIRO journals by AWMS members to date, to get an idea of what the relative return on investment might be in this space.

#### Benefits to Local Organising Committee

This year, the local organising committee was given two complimentary registrations to use at their discretion – nominally to assist in engaging local TOs or practitioners in attending the conference. A proposal was also put forward that the LOC should receive discounted conference registration in recognition of their efforts.

It was also noted that it would be ideal to have AWMS (or SAWMA) members giving keynote presentations (as an additional member benefit) – and that complimentary registrations could alternatively be used for these speakers.

Each of these ideas were supporter unanimously.

#### Newsletter and Communications

AWMS members continue to have access to the newsletter and are encouraged to submit content for inclusion. Members are also encouraged to submit content for publication on social media platforms, which now include twitter, Instagram and Facebook. Members are reminded that they

are able to advertise (and be made aware of) job and volunteer opportunities on these platforms. Margarita would also appreciate grabs from papers published by members so she is able to provide a link in posts.

**ACTION: Trish and Ben to assist Margarita with using SciVol to get notifications when AWMS members publications are accepted.**

#### Student Camps

In recognition of the value of the former Invasive Animals CRC's 'Balanced Scientist' program, a proposal was put forward that AWMS might offer a similar student get together immediately prior to (or after) the annual conference. This would take advantage of the students already being all in one place (to limit costs associated with bringing students together from across Australasia) – and provide opportunities for the rest of the AWMS membership to assist students in developing 'soft' skills, such as writing, communication, self-awareness, etc.

**ACTION: Committee to continue to develop this idea and assess feasibility as part of greater review of membership benefits.**

#### R Workshops

Tim Clancy proposed that R workshops would be of huge benefit to members. This idea was seconded by Trish Fleming.

**ACTION: Committee to continue to develop this idea and assess feasibility as part of greater review of membership benefits.**

#### Online Networking Hub

Proposal to set up a platform for closed networking/idea sharing between AWMS members between conferences. The Australasian Bat Society has a successful platform which could be looked at as an example.

**ACTION: Committee to continue to develop this idea and assess feasibility as part of greater review of membership benefits. Noting limited enthusiasm for this idea in the meeting.**

**ACTION: Mel to create a memberships benefit survey for circulation to the membership to provide an opportunity for different ideas and their relative popularity to assist the committee in pursuing attractive opportunities.**

#### Awards and Scholarships

Jim Hone suggested a list of previous winners is put on the website – supported by the membership.

It was also noted that very few applications are generally received for the awards. Students are not aware that they exist and supervisors forget to tell them. Suggestions include sending a reminder to universities and student societies, need multiple emails/social media posts to get through to people (recognising that algorithms may be preventing people from seeing them on socials). More regular content provided by members will improve algorithms such that social media has broader reach (which can be monitored and reported on to assess effectiveness).

**ACTION: Margarita to get list of award winners from Jim to put on the website.**

**ACTION: Committee to put more effort into communicating availability of awards (most are for students) during the year, and encourage more content on social media to improve algorithms.**

## SAWMA Conference

SAWMA are celebrating 50 years in 2020 and have invited AWMS members along to the conference, with waived registration fees. Ben Allen will be attending and can assist in coordinating cost effective accommodation (i.e. spare couches) for others interested in attending.

## International Wildlife Management Congress

Ben Allen has been liaising with IWMC organisers around the possibility of co-hosting a conference in 2021. Brisbane Convention Centre has offered to host, however this is not confirmed and so there is opportunity for AWMS to influence where the conference is held to best suit members. Based on previous experience, AWMS will need to ensure that the partnership – if it goes ahead – is financially viable for AWMS members and they still are afforded the same opportunities (i.e. to give spoken presentations, student benefits) as if AWMS has a stand alone conference.

Note that there is already overlap between AVPC, AWMS, IWMS and AMS and so a stand alone AWMS conference may not be financially viable anyway if we decided not to collaborate. Members may opt for the international conference over the AWMS conference if they have to choose.

Ben Allen suggested other similar opportunities may exist, for example a partnership with The Wildlife Society. (Peter Fleming said this particular pairing hadn't been beneficial for AWMS previously).

Peter Fleming reminded members that our partnership with SAWMA came out of the last international conference which AWMS co-hosted.

Patrick Medway moved to support further investigation into a good option for AWMS.

**ACTION:** Committee to continue assessing options for conference co-hosting for AWMS to provide broader benefits and reach to the society and its members.

## 11. Election of Office bearers

| Position                       | Nominees                      | Nominated     | Seconded        |
|--------------------------------|-------------------------------|---------------|-----------------|
| Vice President                 | Tom Newsome                   | Ben Allen     | Tarnya Cox      |
| Treasurer                      | Sebastian                     | Peter Fleming | Mel Snape       |
| Membership Secretary           | Shannon Dundas                | carry over    |                 |
| Committee Member               | Linda Behrendorff (QPWS, Qld) | Ben Allen     | Peter Fleming   |
| Committee Member               | Tracey Kreplins (DPIRD, WA)   | Trish Fleming | Tarnya Cox      |
| Committee Member               | Oliver Orgill (PCS, ACT)      | Mel Snape     | Stuart Dawson   |
| Committee Member               | Bronwyn Fancourt              | carry over    |                 |
| Media and Newsletter           | Margarita Medina              | carry over    |                 |
| Position Statement Coordinator | Andrew Bengsen                | carry over    |                 |
| Student Rep (Aus)              | John Stuart                   | Trish Fleming | Tracey Kreplins |
| SAWMA Rep                      | Ben Allen                     | Pip Masters   | Tarnya Cox      |

\* NZ student rep also happy to hand over if someone else is keen, due to personal circumstances.

### Meeting close:

Next AGM to be held 2<sup>nd</sup> December, Dunedin, NZ.