

Australian Regolith Geoscientists Association (ARGA)

Annual General Meeting 2010

Minutes for the 2nd AGM of the Australian Regolith Geoscientists Association held in the Mawson Lecture Theatre, Mawson Laboratories, The University of Adelaide, at 16.00 PM on Thursday 25th November 2010.

Present: Lisa Worrall (President), John Keeling (Treasurer), Robert Dart (Secretary & minute taker), Steve Hill, Ian Roach, Ashlyn Johnson, Verity Normington, Ben Vanderhoek and Richard Cresswell (via phone hookup).

1. Welcome (Chair Lisa Worrall)

The 2nd AGM of ARGA was opened at 4.00pm and those present were welcomed by Lisa Worrall. The following apologies and proxy votes were noted:

Apologies: Ken McQueen, Liliana Stoian, Anna Petts, Tony Eggleton, Steve Hore, Graham Taylor, Nathan Reid, Jon Clarke, John Wilford, David Hutchinson, Matilda Thomas and Marina Costelloe.

Appointment of proxy votes: Ken McQueen, Liliana Stoian to Robert Dart, David Hutchinson, Jon Clarke and John Wilford to Ian Roach, and Marina Costelloe and Matilda Thomas to Lisa Worrall.

2. Minutes of previous AGM

Minutes of the last AGM were presented and accepted as a correct record of the meeting. Moved, Steve Hill, seconded, John Keeling.

3. Business arising from previous minutes not dealt with elsewhere

Resolution that the committee membership be expanded to include a student representative. Proposed Steve Hill, seconded Ian Roach, Passed unanimously.

4. Reports

a. President – Lisa Worrall

Lisa Worrall reported that the Association had a very successful first year with the first conference being held at Arkaroola in February 2010. She thanked Steve Hill, the conference organiser, saying that he had set a high standard and that Richard Cresswell, as the 2012 conference organiser, had a hard act to follow.

Lisa noted that members had identified education/outreach as a priority at the general meeting held at the 2010 conference. David Haberlah had been co-opted to the committee as Education Officer at the meeting, but unfortunately contact with David has been lost. Lisa suggested that the incoming committee look at contacting the universities allocated money for CRC LEME perpetual scholarships to obtain details of scholarship winners, and that this information be posted on the ARGA website.

Lisa noted that the ARGA website was another ARGA success story in 2010 and thanked Ian Roach for his efforts in establishing and maintaining the site

Presidents report be accepted: Moved by Robert Dart, seconded by Steve Hill - Agreed.

b. Secretary – Robert Dart

Robert Dart advised the meeting that membership now stood at 35 with 6 new members applying in the last few days in time for the AGM. This is on track for the target of 50 members suggested at the last AGM as reasonable for the first few years, with a long term goal of 100 plus members. Steve Hill suggested that maybe the committee should aim for a membership of 50 in time for the next conference in 2012.

Secretary's report be accepted: Moved by Lisa Worrall and seconded by John Keeling - Agreed.

c. Treasurer – John Keeling

The financial report was tabled by John Keeling. The association has gone from having zero funds to \$32,849.63 following receipt of the initial funding from CRC LEME. Additional income came from conference registrations (\$3,900.00), membership fees (\$13.00), and bank interest (\$57.82). Note; four years membership is included in the conference registration fee.

Expenditure was mainly for the conference (\$5,660.19) and administration (460.75), including mailbox and webpage fees.

The cost of the conference was a small loss of \$1,760. It was expected that the first few conferences may be run at a loss to encourage students and new members into the field of regolith science.

Treasurers report be accepted: Moved by Ian Roach and seconded by Lisa Worrall - Agreed.

d. Website manager – Ian Roach

A report of webpage usage was tabled and presented by Ian Roach. Average monthly visits to the website had increased from approximately 58 in January to 247 in October with the highest month being September with 314 visits. The bulk of these were from Australia; however interest has also been shown from international locations, especially China.

We have used 13Mb of our allocated 25Mb, which we receive for a fee of \$99 per year. Ian Roach also advised that a bi-annual fee of \$99 is required for the website name, this will next be due again in 2011.

Website manager's report be accepted: Moved by Steve Hill and seconded by Lisa Worrall - Agreed.

e. Conference report, including details of the 2010 ARGA Conference at Arkaroola –Steve Hill

Steve reported on the very successful inaugural ARGA conference held at Arkaroola, in February 2010. The event was held with no incidents and under very favourable weather conditions, considering the time of year. Steve thanked the staff and management at Arkaroola for their support, and Steve Hore for his expert knowledge of the area and for providing access to some great field sites. It was great to have a conference that provided more than just presentations, due to the great location. This is a great format and if we can maintain this in future conferences, it will be an ideal opportunity for members to see some interesting geology, some of which they would not normally have the chance to view.

It was noted that Keith Scott had recorded that part of the success was due to the remote location and lack of mobile coverage, which meant that attendees were not distracted away from the conference. This view was supported by those present at the meeting. Conference report be accepted: Moved by Verity Normington and seconded by Ashlyn Johnson - Agreed.

5. Election of Office bearers and three ordinary committee members

Lisa stepped down as President at this point for the election of the new committee. The Secretary advised the meeting that as only one nomination had been received for each position, the candidates as listed below, were elected unopposed.

- a. **President:** Lisa Worrall
- b. **Secretary:** Robert Dart
- c. **Treasurer:** John Keeling
- d. **Ordinary Committee members (3+1)** Anna Petts, Ian Roach, Jon Clarke, & Nathan Reid.
Note that four committee members are currently elected until the Vice President position is filled. As per the rules of the association the position of Vice President will be filled by the retiring President.
- e. **Student representative:** Verity Normington

As the re-elected President, Lisa Worrall returned to chair the meeting. It was noted by Steve Hill that the skills and geographic locations of the committee members was widespread, with experience in many aspects of regolith science.

6. Any Other Business

a. Next Conference:

Richard Cresswell agreed to maintain his co-opted position on the committee as the conference organiser. A general discussion on the potential date of the next conference resulted in the decision that members should be canvassed for a preferred date in 2012. The proposed dates being either early in the year – possibly February, around the Easter holiday period, or toward the end of the year, possibly November. Richard will compose a letter to members which the secretary will send out. It was noted that the International Geological Congress will be held 5-12 August 2012 and the conference would need to avoid this date.

The preferred location for the conference is Mildura, as discussed at the last general meeting. Richard had investigated the potential of using houseboats for accommodation and/or the conference venue. This may be difficult however, due to the limited accommodation potential. Other alternatives are the Mildura TAFE, or University campus. It was noted that Graham Taylor had expressed an interest in assisting with organising the conference.

John Keeling informed the meeting that the Australian Clay Minerals Society was willing to combine with ARGA for the conference. These bi-annual conferences usually attract between 45-50 attendees, given an overlap of about 10, we could therefore expect around 70 attendees at a joint conference. John Keeling to provide Richard with contact details for the ACMS President.

Richard asked for confirmation on the purpose of the conference funding and whether it was imperative that we make a profit from the conference. Lisa Worrall and John Keeling confirmed that the intent of the initial funds was to organise the first few meetings and to promote regolith geoscience. Therefore, in the early years of ARGA, a loss was expected

and could be maintained in the short term, however the long term aim should be to run the conferences at cost, or with a small profit to provide for future conferences.

Lisa Worrall proposed the resolution that Richard Cresswell draft a letter to all members re the preferred date of the 2nd ARGA Conference in 2012. This was seconded by John Keeling, and approved unanimously.

b. Material for ARGA website:

Ian Roach suggested to the meeting that the information provided on the website could be more informative, especially with the addition of more detailed educational material. A general discussion on the material provided on the website followed. One of the main aspects that we should provide is a mission and vision statement of ARGA. Ian Roach was prepared to compile the education material. Ashlyn Johnson supported this and would like to see an online tutorial based on regolith geoscience. Ian Roach informed the meeting that these amendments would likely require the purchase of additional web space. This will cost extra money. John Keeling advised that this could be discussed during a regular committee meeting as the need arose and would most likely be supported.

Ian Roach proposed that we create material that describes what ARGA is about and why. This was unanimously supported by those present.

A second point regarding the website raised by Ian Roach was the facility of the “ask an expert” type section. Both the forum on the ARGA website, and the use of an ARGA Facebook page have been under utilised. Ian Roach asked the meeting for advice on the use of these facilities and whether they should be maintained. General discussion followed and it was decided that whereas Facebook was less secure than the ARGA forum, it provided free space for members to lodge pictures. In general for either of these facilities to benefit they have to be supported by all members.

c. Members List:

Following a recent request by a member of ARGA for a list of members, clarification was sought on whether this should be provided. It was agreed that many similar organisations provide members lists in this way. It was felt by those present that the provision of member’s details should be by choice and that the membership application form be amended to seek members approval before passing on their contact details to other members. This approval would also be sought retrospectively from existing members. This proposal was moved by Lisa Worrall and seconded by Ian Roach - Agreed.

d. Payment of annual Fees:

Robert Dart advised those present that the collection of the \$1 membership was inconvenient for members with administrative costs generally costing a similar or even higher amount than the actual payment.

A suggestion was made by Ian Roach about the possibility of offering life membership. It was noted however that this could present difficulties in the future. An example was given by John Keeling who said that lifetime membership was offered by the Gemmological Association of Australia (GAA) in the past to raise funds, which was great at the time, but now these members are costing the GAA, because they still require access to the journal etc. Lisa Worrall said that she would like to think that in the future Lifetime Membership could be offered in recognition of service given to the Association or to regolith science.

Robert Dart proposed that fees could be paid to any committee member, who would advise the Treasurer of the payment and hold the money until they could pass it to the Treasurer. This was unanimously agreed by those present.

7. Meeting Close:

Lisa Worrall thanked everyone for attending and closed the meeting at 5:03 PM