

Australian Regolith Geoscientists Association (ARGA) Committee Meeting

4.00 pm AEST Monday July 14th 2014
Phone Conference

Minutes

1. Welcome and apologies

The meeting was opened at 4.05 pm (AEST).

Apologies were received from Martin Smith and Jon Clarke.

Present – Vanessa Wong, Matilda Thomas, Stephanie McLennan, Margi Sweeney, John Keeling, Nathan Reid, Dave Gray, and Ian Roach.

2. Adoption of Minutes of previous Committee meeting

The minutes of the previous meeting were passed by V. Wong, seconded by M. Thomas

3. Matters arising from Minutes not dealt with elsewhere

Other matters to be brought up as needed during the meeting.

4. Correspondence

Nil to report.

5. Finances

J. Keeling cited the ARGA bank balance was \$29,755.34 as of 14/07/2014.

Outgoings - \$168 for the mailbox. The committee approved this cost.

Incomings – Sponsorship from CSIRO for the conference was received - \$1000.

6. Conference planning

M. Thomas reported talking with Lisa Worrall about the potential for whole-of-lodge bookings at Guthega for the conference.

Possible dates for the conference were discussed, early December 2015 was suggested as the Structural Geology conference was held in the area around that time and was reportedly good weather. Teaching and university exams have also finished by this time of the year.

Committee to check their own calendars for potential clashes, S. McLennan to report on potential conference clashes.

Other conferences:

- ANZGG – 2014 conference is 30 November – 5 December. Next conference will be in 2016 (biennial conference)
- DET CRC – Annual Hahndorf Conference is generally around the third week of November, in 2015 this would be 18-20 November.

The aim is to have a date and location decided on by the end of this year to send to members.

7. Website

I. Roach reported photos from the conference will be put on the website soon.

The CRC LEME website is currently hosted by CSIRO. The contract ended in June 2013 but CSIRO said the LEME website is the most popular legacy website they host and they would like to keep it. No maintenance is being done on the website. The potential for a link to the ARGA website to be put on the LEME website was raised. **I. Roach to write a request and send to D. Gray/N. Reid for forwarding to CSIRO IT.**

8. Document: 'Future of Regolith Discussion' from 3rd ARGA Conference/Uncover Summit

- J. Keeling reported a vote was taken at the Uncover Summit for the areas that were deemed important to study in the Uncover Initiative.
 - Characterisation of the cover was well supported by the audience.
 - Regolith was not well-represented in the researchers (largely hard rock and geophysics) but Ravi Anand and Steve Hill spoke at the Summit.
- It was reported that the workshop following the Summit focused on 'seeing through' 500 m of cover, largely through drilling and geophysics
 - Geochemistry of the cover was also discussed
 - There is a push in the Uncover Initiative to develop regolith geophysics
 - Surface processes were also discussed

- I. Roach proposed the preparation of a positive, 'up-beat' document from ARGA with the aim of demonstrating the value of regolith geoscience
 - Legacy products
 - Publications and resources
- A summary document of the Uncover Summit is in preparation by Karol Czarnota at Geoscience Australia and GA committee members will inform the rest when it is available for reading.
- This document was started at the ARGA conference in March with a discussion
 - **Committee members who attended the Uncover Summit to write a few sentences or a paragraph on how regolith geoscience will be a valuable asset in the Uncover Initiative. S. McLennan will collate the responses.**
 - **M. Thomas to turn the notes of the ARGA conference discussion into a working discussion document and circulate to the committee.**

9. Other business

ARGA facebook page – There was a lot of enthusiastic posts following the last meeting, everyone encouraged to invite new members and keep putting up photos.

10. Close of meeting

The meeting was closed at 4.45 pm (AEST).