

Australian Regolith Geoscientists Association (ARGA)

Committee meeting

4.00 pm AEST Tuesday May 5th 2015

Phone conference

Minutes

1. Welcome and apologies

The meeting was opened at 4.05 pm AEST.

Apologies received from Jon Clarke, Ian Roach, Martin Smith, Carmen Krapf, and David Gray.

Present: Vanessa Wong, Matilda Thomas, Steph McLennan, Margi Sweeney, John Keeling, and Nathan Reid.

2. Adoption of minutes of previous meeting (March 10th 2015)

No amendments to the minutes. Vanessa Wong moved the minutes were accepted, Margi Sweeney seconded.

3. Matters arising from Minutes not dealt with elsewhere

Nil.

4. Correspondence

Secretary received an email from Rushanka Amrutkar a PhD student from IIT Bombay enquiring about our next conference. They have been added to the ARGA email list and will be notified about conference details once they are finalised.

No other correspondence.

5. Finances

Account balance as at May 3rd 2015

Westpac Community Solutions Cash Reserve	\$25,109.81
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Westpac Deposit Bearing Interest	\$4,723.11
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TOTAL	\$29,832.92
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Bills paid

April 22 2015 PO Box account	\$186.00
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TOTAL	\$186.00
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6. Conference planning

Conference will be held in the week of February 8th 2016 in Thredbo, NSW. (This date conveniently leads into a craft beer festival the following weekend in Thredbo).

Matilda Thomas has reserved the conference facilities and some accommodation at the Thredbo Hotel for that week. The hotel has not yet asked for a deposit.

Hotel has a restaurant and also free picnic and BBQ facilities.

MT also extended a formal invitation to Richard Blewett (Branch Head at GA) to invite GA to attend and support the ARGA conference. Richard and Steve Hill (GSSA) forwarded this invitation to UNCOVER. We will wait for a response from UNCOVER to see if we need to schedule a conference day and/or field trip with them. UNCOVER is meeting in Perth next week (14th May) so we expect to hear either late next week or the week after.

No field trips confirmed yet. Thoughts so far include a walking half-day trip with Dwayne White or a travelling field trip from Canberra to Thredbo.

We will start promoting the conference when dates are confirmed after a response from UNCOVER.

7. Website

Nathan Reid to submit an enquiry to CSIRO IT about having a link on the archived CRC LEME site to direct people to the ARGA website.

We would like to include an updated publications list on the ARGA website.

The website in its current form takes a lot of time to update and is not easily done. It was suggested we move the website to a platform like wordpress that could be edited by multiple people and with minimal technical knowledge. Alternatively, we retain the current .org.au website and establish a wordpress site and link the two.

Matilda and Steph to talk to Ian Roach about website.

8. 'Future of Regolith' discussion paper and UNCOVER

Steph to talk to Ian Roach about list of researchers to add to discussion document (Jon Clarke was not able to provide a list before leaving GA).

Richard Blewett indicated that UNCOVER and GA should be supportive of ARGA – these are possible places to submit the discussion document.

The committee is in favour of keeping the document within the ARGA membership for now for comment and then submit to external organisations before the conference.

The document could be used as the basis for a symposium at the conference about the future of regolith.

Steph to send the document in its current state to the committee for final edits then circulate to the membership for comment. This circulation to be done with the conference details announcement.

9. Other business

CRC LEME scholarship for regolith science at the University of Adelaide – this is a scholarship awarded to an honours student going into a regolith-related PhD. The university recently asked for applications for the scholarship (Steph received the email as a current postgraduate at Adelaide) – this is the first time they have asked for applications and it's not clear who is administering the scholarship now that Steve Hill has left.

Steph to contact Graham Heinson and Lisa Worrall to see if they know anything about the scholarship in its current form. Matilda to ask Bear McPhail about the scholarship.

10. Close of meeting

Meeting closed at 4.40 AEST.

The next meeting in on Tuesday 11th August at 4 pm AEST.