

Australian Regolith Geoscientists Association (ARGA) Committee Meeting

4.00 pm AEST Thursday March 6th
Phone Conference

1. Welcome and apologies

Meeting commenced at 4.10 pm AEST

Present: David Gray, Nathan Reid, Vanessa Wong, Carmen Krapf, John Keeling
Margi Sweeney, Martin Smith, Jon Clarke, Ian Roach, Matilda Thomas, and
Steph McLennan.

There were no apologies.

President Vanessa Wong thanked the previous committee for their work.

2. Adoption of Minutes of previous Committee meeting

Matilda Thomas to email the minutes from the previous meeting to the committee for adoption at next meeting.

3. Matters arising from Minutes not dealt with elsewhere

It was confirmed that Steph McLennan (incoming secretary) has access to the secretary@regolith.org.au email address.

4. Correspondence

Nil to report

5. Finances

John Keeling reported the current bank balance is \$28,718.13 (as of 06/03/2014) and all payments from the conference have been settled.

Outstanding – donation from CSIRO for \$1000 for conference has not been received

David Gray and Nathan Reid to chase up from CSIRO

6. Conference planning

Matilda Thomas reported on progress with planning 2016 conference. Some people from Geoscience Australia recently attended a conference in Thredbo – but venue was too costly for ARGA at \$1500/day.

Matilda will look at finding a venue that is self-contained to encourage networking rather than having attendees spreading out to disparate accommodations.

It was agreed for conference to take place over three days. There is a possibility for a field trip before and after the conference.

7. Website

Ian Roach reported that the conference proceedings are now up on the ARGA website.

IR requested photos (with captions) from the Bunbury conference to put on the website.

The website currently receives about 200 hits per month (largely from automatic visits).

It was asked how we can make the website more appealing and increase traffic –

suggestions included having a link from the CRC LEME website (which is still quite popular) to the ARGA website however ARGA may have to pay CSIRO to alter the CRC LEME website.

It was suggested Lisa Worrall may know who the appropriate contact is at CSIRO to have a link to the ARGA website included – ***IR to contact Lisa Worrall for a contact for the CRC LEME website.***

IR to fix link from conference proceedings to publications section as it has not appeared on the website yet.

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

It was suggested the committee ask the general membership for comments on a summary document and to compile a position paper then forward to other societies and organisations (eg GSA, Academy of Science)

The committee discussed whether ARGA should have a presence at the upcoming Uncover Summit. Points made included

- ARGA members could speak to industry attendees to determine what the industry wants in terms of understanding the regolith and to provide that feedback to the Uncover Summit organisers (where it will have the most impact on driving the approach of the initiative)
- Push to have someone in regolith field on panel at the discussion session on the final day of the Uncover Summit
- ***Matilda Thomas to talk to Richard Blewitt about suggesting a regolith scientist to be on the discussion panel***
- ***Steph McLennan to talk to Steve Hill about his approach and agenda to the Uncover Summit***

A small group from committee will prepare a summary document to have ready for Uncover Summit

Matilda Thomas to turn notes from conference into discussion document

Further comments will be added following the Uncover Summit meeting

9. Other business

The ARGA facebook page is not used very much –

- Jon Clarke suggested that all ***committee members try to post at least one picture or article per week.***
- ***Invite 'regolith-minded' friends to join to increase activity***
- Carmen Krapf suggested ***posting links to regolith-themed papers and articles to increase traffic***

10. Close of meeting

The meeting was closed at 4:50 pm.