

Australian Regolith Geoscientists Association Inc. General Meeting

Friday, 26 February, 14:45 Arkaroola (following 1st ARGA Conference)

Present: Lisa Worrall, Ian Roach, John Keeling, Steve Hill, Robert Dart (minutes), Keith Scott, Graham Taylor, Tony Eggleton, Richard Creswell, Mark Keppel, David Haberlah, Byron Dietman, Ashlyn Johnson, Verity Normington, Ben Vanderhoek, Nathan Reid, Adrian Fabris, David Hutchinson, Frances Parkhowell, Liliana Stoian

Apologies: Matilda Thomas, Steve Hore, Jon Clarke, LISA to supply full list

1.0 Introduction Lisa Worrall provided members present with a review of how and why ARGA was started. This included information on how the final board of CRC LEME in 2008 gave a gift of \$35,000 to setup the association as a vehicle for organising a regolith science conference, of which this is the first. Lisa also explained how \$375,000 was donated to each of the contributing universities (Adelaide, Curtin and ANU) in order to setup an annual CRC LEME honours and/or PhD prize for a student in regolith science.

Graham Taylor asked how often the committee met? Lisa Worrall responded that committee meetings to date had been held monthly, but additional meetings had been held over the past two months as needed to prepare for the conference.

Edited minutes from this meeting would be sent to members. Moved Richard Creswell, seconded Steve Hill, approved by show of hands.

2.0 Finance

Treasurer, John Keeling, provided a summary report on the financial state of ARGA and projected that the balance after all conference fees had been paid would be approximately \$28,000.

Tony Eggleton asked what the sources of income were for ARGA? These are the nominal membership fee of \$1 per annum (free for 4 years for conference attendees) and conference registrations.

Acceptance of Treasurers report, moved Graham Taylor seconded Richard Creswell, approved by show of hands.

3.0 Website

Ian Roach outlined the development of the website and availability of the “ask reg” forum. General discussion about what should be included was held. The website is the face of ARGA and needs to be very good to market regolith. It was suggested that the key words “pedosphere” and “critical zone” be included to increase hits to the site. **Action Ian Roach.**

The hosting cost is low, but this means limited space. It was suggested that an ARGA facebook page be setup, where pictures could be posted or linked. **Verity Normington to work closely with Ian Roach to develop this.** Moved Ashlyn Johnson, seconded Lisa Worrall, approved by show of hands.

General discussion on the need for a newsletter. It was generally felt by the group that the website should act as the newsletter. **An email would be sent out whenever the website was updated. Ian Roach and Robert Dart to action,** moved Graham Taylor, seconded Lisa Worrall, approved by show of hands.

Special thank you to Ian Roach for his work on the website, moved Graham Taylor, seconded Lisa Worrall, approved by show of hands.

4.0 Conference

The conference was a success, Graham Taylor moved a vote of thanks, seconded Lisa Worrall, approved by all.

5.0 Future/survival of regolith science

General discussion on promoting regolith science. Including ways of attracting more students from improved marketing and changes to high school curriculum. Generally felt that most students who study geology, including regolith science, fall into it rather than making it a first choice. It's all about the people, enthusiastic teachers will develop and keep students interested. It is also important to consider where students will go when studies are finished. Adelaide has good student numbers with many interested in regolith, but it is unlikely they will find immediate work in regolith related positions. It may require a generation change; as recently trained graduates move up the corporate ladder they will be able to incorporate their skills gained in regolith science with better acceptance in the industry.

Decision to form sub-committee to look at promoting regolith science to high school and undergraduate students, with David Haberlah to chair it. Moved Lisa Worrall, seconded Graham Taylor, approved by show of hands. **David to co-opt support where needed, and as chair of the sub-committee will be invited to attend ARGA committee meetings.**

Individual members need to actively promote regolith geosciences and ARGA to colleagues and students. Moved Lisa Worrall, seconded Ian Roach, approved by show of hands.

6.0 Next Conference

Arkaroola was a good conference location, because it was field based, isolated (not easy for attendees to wander off), and away from distractions, such as email and mobile phones. Future conferences should try and include these benefits.

Suggestions for the next conference were Mildura, Eucla Basin, Mt Isa, Yilgarn, Kangaroo Island and Alice Springs. John Keeling raised the possibility of the next conference being a joint conference with the Australian Clay Minerals Society (ACMS) who will, in 2012, have been in existence for 50 years. Some members of ACMS are also members of ARGA and there is the opportunity to grow membership of both organisations through a joint conference. **Agreed that John Keeling should discuss with ACMS members at their AGM in Brisbane in August 2010.** General consensus was for Mildura with possible excursions to include: clays, mineral sands, dunes, saline lakes and the Murray Darling Basin.

Conference should be held in 2012, but should avoid clashing with other conferences and university semesters.

Richard Creswell agreed to be chief organiser with assistance from Graham Taylor.

Richard will be co-opted to the committee as conference organiser

Meeting closed at 17.00