

# The Geographical Society of New South Wales

## 90<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting



*Monday, 28th August 2017 at 6.00pm in the Geosciences Conference Room 449,  
Madsen Building, University of Sydney.*

1. Present and Apologies

**Present:** Kevin Dunn, Jo Gillespie, Meg Sherval, Stephen Codrington, Robert Solomon, John Connell, Phil McManus, Emma Waterton, Husnia Underabi, Colin Sale, Bronwyn Bate, Susan Caldis

**Apologies:** Martin Pluss, Natascha Klocker, Wendy Shaw, Rae Dufty-Jones, Garth Lean, Krishna Shrestha, Sophie-May Kerr, Chris Gibson

2. President's welcome to members

2.1 Acknowledgement of Country

2.2 The meeting was opened and a welcome was extended to all present

3. Minutes 89th Annual General Meeting held Monday, 15th August 2016 (See Annex I attached).

3.1 There was time provided to review the minutes

Motion: That the minutes are a true and accurate reflection of the meeting

Moved: Stephen Codrington

Seconded: Robert Solomon

Carried

4. Business arising from the Minutes

4.1 Robert Solomon has not yet heard from the Geographical Names Board regarding his appointment. Bronwyn to investigate.

5. Presentation of the 90<sup>th</sup> Annual Report of the Society. The report was presented by the President Phil McManus (see Annex II attached).

5.1 The Annual Report was taken as read.

5.2 The President highlighted key points:

5.2.1 Australian Geographer - a more detailed presentation about the journal will be delivered at the Council Meeting, in particular around the impact factor.

Bronwyn to include in the report that Graeme Hugo's two special issues and obituary come out as a book in 2018. 2018 signifies the 9th anniversary of the journal and a special edition will be curated by Chris Gibson.

- 5.2.2 The social media presence of GSNSW has grown.
- 5.2.3 The 2016 Awards Night : Very successful, particularly Kevin Dunn's trivia. The evening was well attended. The 2017 event looks to build on 2016 structure.
- 5.2.4 The 2016 Honours/Masters Conference: Hosted at Macquarie University by Jess McLean. 10 presenters from a range of institutions attended. The quality of presentations was impressive. In 2017 this event will be hosted at the University of Newcastle by Meg Sherval.
- 5.2.5 The 2016 Study Tours: Thanks were extended to Colin Sale and Stephen Codrington for their continued organisation and input. Some tours have been cancelled due to declining numbers and this is an appropriate financially driven decision. Proposed study tours include Namibia and Botswana. The Study Tours are an important aspect of GSNSW activities not only for education, but also as an income stream and the potential for networking.
- 5.2.6 The Travellers Club: Thanks was extended to Robert Solomon. The program of talks has covered a range of topics and places. A reminder was given to those who would like to do a talk, to please approach Robert Solomon. Heather Rushton will be presenting the next Travellers Club talk. There is a proposal to increase the entry fee from \$10 to \$15 to cover room costs. John Connell was invited to consider presenting a talk.
- 5.2.7 The postgraduate events: There were 2 events; a workshop hosted by Robyn Dowling around publishing, and a networking event at the Royal Hotel with a focus on post-career non-academic pathways. The latter was hosted by Rae Dufty-Jones, Fiona Mackenzie, Adam Tyndall and Daniel Montoya. The main purpose is to get postgraduate students together and welcome them to the geographical community and GSNSW.
- 5.2.8 Council Membership: Gratitude was extended to Jess McLean, Carolyn Cartier, Duncan Cook and Wendy Shaw for their contributions and extended involvement to Council over the years. John Bliss has been website convenor and he is stepping down from the role. A gift has been organised to acknowledge his work over many years. The new website is now managed by a Council Committee comprising of Phil McManus, Bronwyn Bate and Stephen Codrington. On behalf of the Council, Phil McManus expressed his appreciation and a vote of thanks to all mentioned above for their sustained contribution to the Society and Council.
- 5.2.9 Society Membership: John Connell expressed concern about a slight but consistent decline in membership over the past 4 years. He suggested a membership drive. Bronwyn to arrange. Bronwyn noted that retention of membership across all categories is a priority and of continual concern, however, this may be resolved through the new website records management system and electronic payment system available. This new system reminds each member individually, via email, when their membership is about to expire.

- 5.2.10 The 2016 Planning Day: Many actions have been taken and will be revisited on the 2017 Planning Day.
  - 5.2.11 The Subcommittees: Very active during the year. The Gala Event for 90th Anniversary was the main function (dinner and exhibition). Phil McManus expressed sincere thanks to Bronwyn Bate and all other Council members who were involved in the organisation of the events and had specific duties on the night.
  - 5.2.12 The website: New website opened today. Phil McManus thanked Bronwyn Bate and Stephen Codrington for their organisation and input in the design and functionality of the website. Please email Bronwyn Bate if there are concerns with the website operation.
  - 5.3 Phil McManus invited questions about the Annual Report.
  - 5.4 Phil McManus thanked everyone involved in the preparation of the Annual Report.
  - 5.5 Robert Solomon asked those attending the meeting to consider making a presentation to the Travellers Club. He is concerned that we have the same presenters each year and it might be nice to have some new presenters.
6. Presentation of Annual Financial Statement 2016-2017. The report was presented by Honorary Treasurer Stephen Codrington (see Annex III and Annex IV attached).
- 6.1 GSNSW lost money in the last financial year (\$20,000 – reflective of an ambitious program overall compared to previous years).
  - 6.2 Stephen put together a ‘traffic light’ system (see Annex IV attached) developed to make further sense and provide clarity to the document – green cells = positive; red cells = negative (change is 10% and more than \$1000).
    - 6.2.1 Membership has gone up 46% \$1300 (green) and half price is no longer offered.
    - 6.2.2 Australian Geographer 40% reduction in costs (green) although this is a timing issue.
    - 6.2.3 100% decrease from revenue in Study Tours (cancelled Study Tours – income received now goes in to next financial year).
    - 6.2.4 Interest decline in investment account 13% due to interest rates and withdrawal of money for 90th Birthday dinner and the website.
    - 6.2.5 Prizes and awards have blown out by 52% \$3000 compared to previous years – due to greater generosity of GSNSW and the T&F withdrawal of prize funds.
    - 6.2.6 Sundries 99% decrease in amount spent but this is due to the appointment of a treasurer and one-off expenses in previous financial year which are no longer relevant.
    - 6.2.7 Website 416% increase in expenses \$7500 – this was a known cost but should be considered as an investment rather than a cost due to its long term effects in promoting the GSNSW and encouraging membership.
    - 6.2.8 Digital archiving went from 0 - \$28,700 to scan the archives, a known and one-off cost.
  - 6.3 Stephen Codrington raised the potential of reinstating a budget for 2017 – 2018 to provide a foundation to measure / judge initiatives that may be proposed and the actual costs of activities that take place. The Budget could be developed after the Planning Day

once initiatives are confirmed; however there could be merit in developing a Budget prior to the Planning Day. A quarterly report would be more meaningful if attached to a Budget and this is best practice for Associations and other organisations.

6.4 Phil McManus invited questions of Stephen Codrington.

6.5 Phil McManus extended thanks to Stephen Codrington, supported by “warm congratulations” from Robert Solomon.

## 7. Council Nominations for 2017–2018 (Please see Annex V attached)

7.1 Taken as read

7.2 Presented by Bronwyn Bate

7.3 There are several vacancies including VP x 1, Hon Secretary x 1, Councillors x 1

7.3.1 Phil McManus nominated Laura Hammersley (UOW) for the Councillor vacancy

7.3.2 Phil McManus nominated Susan Caldis (MQ) for the Honorary Secretary vacancy

7.3.3 Kevin Dunn nominated Meg Sherval (UoN) for the Vice President vacancy.

All nominations were accepted.

Motion: That the attached list become the Council for 2017 - 2018

Moved: Josephine Gillespie

Seconded: Kevin Dunn

Carried

Phil McManus welcomed the 2017 – 2018 Council and once again extended a vote of thanks to departing Councillors.

## 8. Other business

### 8.1 Auditor

8.1.1 It was raised that an Auditor nomination needs to be on the AGM agenda for each year.

8.1.2 Current concerns with existing auditor around a sustained lack of professional critique and finding of errors raises the situation whereby it is possible to re-evaluate the position of auditor for GSNSW.

8.1.3 The recommendation from Treasurer is for GSNSW to find a new auditor who will help Council address areas of concern around expenses. Ideally, an auditor would fulfil the role of a critical friend

Motion: That Bronwyn Bate be empowered to investigate suitable names for a new auditor and bring a justified recommendation to Council, and that Council have the power to authorise the recommendation.

Amendment: Bronwyn Bate be empowered to investigate a suitable auditor in consultation with GSNSW Executive and bring these recommendations to the next Council meeting.

Moved: Stephen Codrington

Seconded: Meg Sherval

Carried

**Meeting declared closed at 7.00pm**