

## **MINUTES OF THE GEOGRAPHICAL SOCIETY OF NSW 91<sup>st</sup> ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

*Monday, 27th August 2018, 6.00pm in the Geosciences Conference Room 449, Madsen Building, University of Sydney.*

### 1. Present and Apologies

Present: Susan Caldis, Bronwyn Bate, Rae Dufty-Jones, Phil McManus, Garth Lean, Sophie-May Kerr, Sophie Webber, Fiona McKenzie, Jo Gillespie, Emma Waterton, Laura Hammersley, Mary Pilkinton, Craig Lyons, Robert Solomon

Apologies: Stephen Codrington, Kevin Dunn, Andrew McGregor, Martin Pluss, Meg Sherval, Mal Barlow, Bruce Ryan

### 2. President's welcome to members – Phil McManus

2.1 Acknowledgement of Country

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

2.3 Thanks was extended to Bronwyn Bate for preparation of the papers for the AGM

### 3. Minutes 90th Annual General Meeting held Monday, 28th August 2017 (See Appendix 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: Jo Gillespie

Seconded: Robert Solomon

Carried

### 4. Business arising from the Minutes

4.1 There was no business arising from the minutes.

### 5. Presentation of the 91<sup>st</sup> Annual Report of the Society. The report was presented by the President Phil McManus. Please see Appendix II attached.

#### 5.1 Australian Geographer:

5.1.1 Associate Editor of our journal Australian Geographer, Natascha Klocker (who is currently filling in as Editor while Chris Gibson is on sabbatical) was invited to the meeting via teleconference to speak to the report.

5.1.2 Acknowledgement was given to Kirtsty Petrou (Editorial Assistance) and Duncan Cook (Physical Geography Editor) for their work with the journal.

- 5.1.3 Phil McManus extended thanks to Natascha, Chris and Kirsty for all the work completed around the journal to keep it thriving and moving forward in to the future with good initiatives.

5.2 Time was then provided for attendees to review the remainder of the report.

5.3 The President highlighted key points:

- 5.3.1 The Awards Night and Photography Competition is important for profiling the work of the Society and the discipline of Geography across the Universities.
- 5.3.2 The 2017 Honours/Masters Conference: Hosted at the University of Newcastle by Meg Sherval. In 2019 this event will be hosted at the University of Sydney. Thanks to Meg Sherval for all her work.
- 5.3.3 90<sup>th</sup> Birthday Celebration: Exhibition and Gala Dinner were unique for Society events.
- 5.3.4 The Study Tours: Important event for the Society. Thanks were extended to Colin Sale, Heather Rushton, 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.
- 5.3.5 The Travellers Club: Thanks were 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.
- 5.3.6 The postgraduate events: Phil acknowledged that the postgraduate events fill an important gap, allowing Geographers across NSW Universities to network while also providing useful information related to PhD and post PhD careers. Thank you to Sophie-May Kerr for leading the work in this area.
- 5.3.7 Council Membership:
  - 5.3.7.1 Council thanked Professor Phil McManus for his four years as President of the Society. Phil was presented with a bottle of wine and a card.
  - 5.3.7.2 Gratitude was also extended to Dr Natascha Klocker, Mr Colin Sale and Dr Krishna Shrestha for their contributions and extended involvement to Council over the years. On behalf of the Council, Professor Phil McManus expressed his appreciation and a vote of thanks to all mentioned above for their sustained contribution to the Society and Council.
- 5.3.8 Society Membership: Membership has increased to 133 members (from 109 in 2016-2017). In particular, student membership has significantly increased. Contributing factors are believed to be the new website functionality and the 90<sup>th</sup> Birthday celebrations.
- 5.3.9 The 2018 Planning Day: Many actions have been taken and will be revisited on the 2019 Planning Day.

- 5.3.10 The new website: Significant capital investment that has enabled Bronwyn Bate to follow-up on more strategic work for the Society. The website has also contributed to overall better promotion of the Society.
- 5.4 Phil McManus invited questions about the Annual Report.
  - 5.4.1 P.7 The Award winner Danilo Ignacio Urzedo is a him not a her.
  - 5.4.2 Phil asked if Council notices any further edits please email Bronwyn ASAP.
- 5.5 Phil McManus thanked everyone involved in the preparation of the Annual Report.
- 6. Presentation of Annual Financial Statement 2017-2018. The report was presented by Executive Officer Bronwyn Bate on behalf of Honorary Treasurer's Stephen Codrington and Emma Waterton. See Appendix III attached.
  - 6.1 Report taken as read.
  - 6.2 GSNSW ran at a deficit again but this was expected due to the financial year falling within payment of the website and 90<sup>th</sup> Birthday Gala Dinner.
  - 6.3 New accountant has been appointed upon recommendation of the previous accountant.
  - 6.4 Phil McManus invited questions of AGM attendees about the financial report:
    - 6.4.1 Fiona McKenzie sought clarification about the loss and process of 'pre-payment' and the disparity in cost between 2 years of the Annual Dinner.
    - 6.4.2 Sophie Webber raised a question about fees being reduced as a result of scanning – Storage King to be eliminated – Rae and Bronwyn to work together on eliminating the items in the Storage King container.
  - 6.5 Phil McManus extended thanks to Stephen Codrington, Emma Waterton and Bronwyn Bate for the preparation and delivery of the report.
- 7. Changes to the Constitution. Please see Appendix IV attached.
  - 7.1 Report taken as read.
  - 7.2 Summarised by Rae Dufty-Jones.
  - 7.3 Constitution update was an action item from the 2018 Planning Day, such as a rationalised Council moving from four Vice Presidents to two.
  - 7.4 Quorum for AGM from 10 attendees to 8 and general meetings from 7 attendees to 6. It is anticipated the digital connections will improve attendance.
  - 7.5 Concerns were noted about changes to the Constitution and were expressed via email and telephone conversation to Phil McManus by Mal Barlow (fewer council, see also Appendix V attached) and Bruce Ryan (7 attendees would be a preferable number for voting).
  - 7.6 Amendment: Item 10.1.6 maximum of 8 general councillors. Item 12.4.1 – needs to read the same.

Motion: That the Constitutional changes be extended.

Accepted: Sophie Webber  
Seconded: Laura Hammersley  
Carried

8. Council Nominations for 2018–2019. Please see Appendix VI attached.

8.1 Report taken as read.

8.2 Phil McManus once again extended a vote of thanks to departing Councillors. See 5.3.7 above.

8.3 All nominations were accepted.

Motion: That the attached list become the Council for 2018 - 2019

Moved: Sophie-May Kerr

Seconded: Rae Dufty-Jones

Carried

8.4 Phil McManus welcomed the 2018 – 2019 Council.

8.5 Co-opted members: Co-opted members allow the Society to fulfil gaps in areas of expertise that may be needed on Council. For 2018-2019 the proposed co-opted members are:

8.5.1 Chris Gibson: Editor, Australian Geographer.

8.5.2 Matthew Kearnes (UNSW) in response to concern expressed that there was no representation from UNSW on Council.

8.5.3 Mary Pilkinton. Undergraduate Student Representative. Providing the Council and Society with specific expertise in geography and student experiences at the undergraduate level.

8.5.4 Dr Robert Solomon. Convenor of the Geographical Society of NSW and Geographical Names Board.

Motion: That the four people be co-opted on to GSNSW Council.

Moved: Emma Waterton

Seconded: Laura Hammersley

Carried

9. Other business

9.1 On behalf of Council, Garth Lean extended much thanks and appreciation to Phil McManus for his contribution and leadership of GSNSW, particularly after coming out of leading the IAG. Thank you for the steady leadership.

**Meeting declared closed at 7.00pm**