

<h1>Soil Science Australia</h1>	
Meeting: AGM 2019	12th December 2019

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Meeting Minutes

Face-to-face and online Zoom Meeting
Charles Hawker Video conferencing Room 205
Level 2, Charles Hawker Building
Waite Campus, University of Adelaide

Cloud Video Record of Meeting:

<https://zoom.us/recording/share/iTZWxyBgZADyQmoZOpLJkixHX24Ni-Pl2MK2gggt2uGwlumekTziMw>

1. Welcome and apologies

Meeting opened by Secretary (Darren Kidd) at 3:23 pm (ACT).

Executive/ Council Apologies; Uta Stockmann (NSW President), Henry Smolinski (WA President), Ashleigh Doolette (Federal Treasurer)

Present: Luke Mosley, Kate Husband, Cam Grant, Mark Thomas, Pichu Rengasamy, Jock Churchman, Austin Trueman, Ed Scott, Emily Leyden and Rob Fitzpatrick

Present On-line: Darren Kidd, Jim Payne, Tim Overhue, Louise Barton, Samantha Grover, Bernie Powell, Brendan Malone, Aaditi Dang, Mark Crawford, Katharine Brown and Vanessa Wong.

2. Minutes of the 2018 Annual General Meeting

The minutes of the 2018 Annual General Meeting held on 19 November 2018 were tabled and confirmed as correct.

- Moved as correct by Cam Grant
- Seconded by Luke Mosely
- No Actions outstanding

3. President's Report

The Federal President's AGM report was tabled, and a verbal summary provided by President Luke Mosley.

Tabled Report Link: [SSA President's AGM Report](#)

Luke's summary of the report included;

- The new 2020/21 strategic plan was released. Link: [2020 - 2021 Strategic Plan](#)
- Soil Science Australia Strategic Pillars Advocacy, Community, Accreditation, Education.
- Advocacy;
 - Snapshot of Australian soil release, social media presence has increased by greater than 30% (2860 Twitter Followers), with a record number of media releases (including news coverage and interviews, 8 press articles, 2 media releases, 8 radio reports, (ABC national), and 13 online news reports
 - Increased engagement with Stakeholders e.g. National Soils Advocate, Soils for Life, DoA, Federal Parliament – friends of soils group, industry panels, ASN, NCST, Soils CRC
- Community;
 - Luke thanked all branches, council, members, and acknowledged their hard work and events eg WA conference, SOM conference, Soil Judging,
 - New website launched, and membership portal pending release after testing in 2020
 - 2020 Conference Committee is in full swing
- Education;
 - NCST collaboration – compilation of soil information sources, Link: [State and National Soil Information](#)
 - Training Courses – Refresher
 - Soil Education Database contracted to USQ through ASN funding
 - Soils in Schools Program
- Accreditation;
 - CPSS program – increasing to > 130 members, with plans to progress the accreditation process

- Luke acknowledged the sad loss of several members (Professor Sally Smith, Dr Owen Denmead, Dr Max Raupach, Kevin Bligh).
- Luke thanked Federal Executive and Federal Council, Branch Committee members and supporters. Also JP Cummings (CPSS Board Chair) and Board, and assessor David Nash.
- Luke gave a special thanks to outgoing CPSS board Chair, with acknowledgement and gift for Cam Grant for all his hard work over many years.

4. Treasurer's Report and Financial Statements

The Treasurer's report and SSA Financial report were tabled, prepared by Ashlee and Kate. A verbal summary of the report and statements was given by Kate (Executive Officer).

Tabled Reports Links; [Treasurer's AGM Report 2019](#), [Financial Report 2019](#)

Kate's summary included;

Net \$\$ Summary;

TOTAL 2018 CONFERENCE INCOME	\$475,922.20
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$303,800.07
TOTAL NET RESULT	\$172,122.13
Profit share to NSW Branch	- \$29,260.76
FINAL RESULT	\$142,861.37

Membership break-down – crucial to SSA operation - Membership / CPSS income summary;

CPSS application & renewal	\$65,801
Ordinary membership	\$114,637
Student membership	\$6,429
Retired membership	\$4,393
TOTAL	\$191,260

SSA attracted 75 new members in 2019, dominated by Queensland and NSW

Term Deposit \$142,000, currently receiving low interest returns, and investigations into 'more ethical' financial institutions continue.

Other Expenses (see report);

Advocacy program etc, Insurance Premiums, Soil Security Conference (Sydney Uni, \$10,000, but refunded to SSA due to conference profit

Special Purpose funds – student support etc

5. Special Resolution to alter the Statement of Purposes and Rules of SSA (the Australian Society of Soil Science Inc)

Special Resolution was put to member vote at AGM, by Federal Council Approval;

It was proposed that the following clauses in the Statement of Purposes and Rules be amended as follows: The requirement to be nominated for the following categories of membership: - Ordinary - Student – Retired, to be removed thereby reducing barriers to people wishing to join Soil Science Australia. This was explained by Kate as a measure to increase membership – making the process easier by removing the need for existing member nominations. It is acknowledged that other provisions within SSA rules exist to remove undesirable members if needed.

Proposed that SECTION 2.3 to be DELETED

It was also proposed that the following clauses in the Statement of Purposes and Rules be amended as follows: The requirement to pay arrears fee of 12 months for members who have lapsed be removed for the following membership categories: - Ordinary - Student – Retired, be removed. This was explained by Kate as removal of the penalty to members of needing to pay a year's membership in arrears, which may be a disincentive to those

members re-joining the following year, effectively another measure to try and stimulate and increase membership.

Proposed that SECTION 2.9 to be DELETED

The Special Resolution was put to a vote by members present at the AGM and online. There were no proxy votes advised. The resolution (to delete both Section 2.3 and Section 2.9) was;

PASSED UNANIMOUSLY

6. 2019 Award recipients

Award Winners will be announced at the SSA Leadership Workshop in February 2020.

Darren (Secretary) advised that some delays had been encountered while moving to the online (jot-form) submission system, and then reorganising committee members due to this delay, with additional minor conflicts with some nominations. To give the committees sufficient time to appropriately assess all applications (especially the publication committee with 9 papers, and the PhD awards committee with 5 theses), and in consideration of the end of year break, it was decided to give award committees extra time, and announce the winners at the Federal Council and Committees Workshop in February 2020 (see 'Other General Business'). (For a non-conference year (i.e. 2019), the rules give options to announce award winners at another suitable event outside of the AGM).

7. Other General Business

Discussion of separate membership lists for each branch, and branch dues from Federal Memberships to be discussed at planned 'Soil Science Australia leadership workshop' and Federal Council meeting. This is planned for February 2020, and will include invitations to Federal Council, CPSS Board, Training Committee and key stakeholders (ASN, NCST, SfL etc). Luke to provide details and dates before Christmas 2019.

No other business was raised.

8. Close of Meeting

Meeting closed by Secretary at 3:51 pm (ACT).

Next AGM – 2020 SSA Conference, Cairns, November 2020.