

SCANZ Business Meeting

Held in conjunction with Crystal-30 on Thursday 31st May 2016 in Hobart, TAS

MINUTES

Present

Stuart Batten (President), Alice Vrielink (Vice President), Bostjan Kobe (Past President), Chris Ling (Secretary), David Aragao (Treasurer), Peter Czabotar (Newsletter Editor), Charlie Bond (Councillor), Joanne Etheridge (Councillor), Michael Parker (ANCCr representative), Paula Kayser, Josie Auckett, Katrina Zenere, Chee Wah Loy, Jason Price, Adrian Emerson, Jonathon White, Ray Withers, Arnaud Grosjean, David Rae, Michael Pfrunder, Stephanie Boer, Suzanne Neville, Chris Howard, Daouda Traore, Jason Brouwer, Michael Landsberg, Bostjan Kobe, Adam Bentham, Shane Horsefield, Crystall Swarbrick, Alison Edwards, Peter Colman, Paul Carr, Mark Spackman, Richard Welberry, Ted Baker, Peter Czabotar, Charlie Bond, Michelle Dunstone, Jack Clegg, David Turner, Chris Sumbly, Alice Vrielink, Marc Kvansakul, Megan Maher, Michael Parker, David Aragao, Joanne Etheridge, Daniel Eriksson (by proxy), Tom Caradoc-Davies (by proxy), Sofia Caria (by proxy)

Apologies

Chris Squire (Councillor), Brendan Kennedy, Michael Lawrence

Agenda

1. Minutes of previous Meeting

The minutes of the previous meeting were accepted (moved by Jack Clegg, seconded by Ray Withers, passed unanimously)

2. Business arising from the previous Minutes

All action items from the previous meeting were completed.

3. President's Report (S Batten)

The President's report (Appendix 1) was presented and accepted (moved by Jack Clegg, seconded by Charlie Bond, passed unanimously)

4. Secretary's report (C Ling)

*The changes to the Constitution flagged at the last Business Meeting have been approved by postal ballot and implemented. Mark Spackman alerted the Council to an error in the Constitution as posted on the website, whereby **RULE IV: ELECTION OF OFFICERS AND STANDING COMMITTEES** which had not been updated in accordance with the changes passed in the postal ballot. Specifically, the following change was not implemented:*

Rule IV: Replace the following:

Section 1. (a) Six months before the expiry of a term, the Secretary shall send to the membership the list of nominations proposed by the Nominations Committee for all the positions for which vacancies will occur. For each of those positions he shall invite additional nominations to be submitted over the signatures of two members not later than four months before the expiry of the term.

(b) Three months before the expiry of the term, the Secretary shall mail a ballot paper to each member of the Society. The final date for the return of completed ballots shall be not later than two months before the expiry of the term. The results of the ballot shall be sent to all members of the Society.

(c) As far as possible, the mailing of election notices and subscription notices shall be coordinated with the mailing of information for the National Meetings of the Society.

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Section 1. (a) One week before each duly announced business meeting of the Society, the Secretary shall announce the list of nominations proposed by the Nominations Committee for all the positions for which vacancies will occur. For each of those positions the Secretary shall invite additional nominations to be proposed by two members at that meeting.

(b) The election of officers shall then be undertaken by vote at the aforementioned meeting. Members who are not present at the meeting may assign a proxy to a nominated member through the Secretary no less than 24 hours before the meeting. The person for whom the largest number of votes is cast with respect to each position shall be declared elected. In the event of a tied ballot the result of the election will be decided by lot.

Action (Secretary): *this error to be corrected.*

1987 Maslen scholarships awarded since the last National Meeting: 11 students were supported to attend the 23rd IUCr Congress in Montreal, Canada in 2014; 3 students were supported to attend the 13th ASCA Meeting in Calcutta, India, in 2015; 10 students were supported to attend the Australian Crystallography School in Melbourne, Victoria, in 2016; 13 students were supported to attend Crystal-30 in Hobart, Tasmania, in 2016.

The Secretary's report was accepted (moved by David Turner, seconded by Peter Czabotar, passed unanimously).

5. Establishment of an Education Standing Committee (S Batten)

It was proposed that SCANZ establish an Education Standing Committee to take ownership of the Australasian Crystallography School and any advanced methods school that might take place in a year when the Australasian Crystallography School does not run.

David Turner suggested that SCANZ should take ownership of the syllabus and maintain a repository of its content.

Alice Vrieling suggested that while the Australasian Crystallography School currently covers macromolecular and small molecule crystallography, consideration should be given including areas of emerging importance such as electron microscopy to future schools.

Jack Clegg moved that SCANZ establish an Education Standing Committee; this was seconded by Alice Vrieling; the motion was passed unanimously.

Action (Secretary): *the establishment of a Standing Committee for Education be put to the membership as a change to the Constitution. If passed, there will be elections for this Committee (3 member with tenures of 3 terms, 2 terms and 1 term which then move to rolling tenures of 3 terms, in accordance with Rule III, Section 3 of the Constitution) at the next Business Meeting of the Society.*

6. Proposed changes to the Maslen policy (C Ling)

6.1. Remove the requirement for a student applicant to be a member for 6 months before applying for a Maslen

6.2. Add the requirement for a student applicant's supervisor to have been a member for at least 12 months

- 6.3. Change “Support for any student will normally be limited to a maximum of one overseas conference and one local meeting (Australia or NZ; *i.e.*, CRYSTAL) and is at the sole discretion of the SCANZ Executive (in all matters).” to “Support for any student will normally be limited to a maximum of: one overseas conference; one local (Australia or NZ) conference organised by SCANZ; and one local crystallography school organised by SCANZ. All awards are ultimately at the sole discretion of the SCANZ Executive.”

Chris Howard suggested that the required membership term for a student applicant be changed from 6 months before applying for a Maslen to 3 months before applying for a Maslen.

Mitchell Guss emphasised that the requirement to be a SCANZ member be retained.

*Alison Edwards, Jack Clegg and Mark Spackman led a discussion, the outcome of which was to suggest that the condition “That the applicant is **enrolled as a full-time PhD Student** at the time of his/her application and will be presenting their research at the meeting either in oral or poster form.” be changed to “That the applicant is **normally enrolled as a PhD Student** at the time of his/her application and will be presenting their research at the meeting either in oral or poster form.”*

Action (Council): The Council will take these recommendations on board when revising the Maslen policy, and inform the membership of the outcome.

7. Treasurer’s Report – (D Aragao) – **Appendix 2**

7.1. Membership

Membership stood at 177 at the beginning of Crystal-30.

7.2. Members’ web portal

A membership web portal has been implemented.

7.3. Finances

The Treasurer proposed that membership fees increase from \$25 to \$40 in the first instance. In the ensuing discussion led by Alison Edwards and Mark Spackman, it was suggested that the Council be free to raise the membership fee to as much as \$100 if it is deemed necessary to cover costs, particularly those associated with membership of learned societies.

Action (Council): The Council to consider the membership fee and determine a sustainable level at which it should be set, and to inform the membership at the earliest opportunity.

7.4. ABN Status

Mark Spackman indicated that we are not formally a “charitable organization” but rather an “incorporated association incorporated under a state act” based on the definitions of the Australian Taxation Office.

The Treasurer’s report was accepted (moved by Ray Withers; seconded by Chris Sumby, passed unanimously).

8. 1987 Fund report (D Aragao for M Spackman) – **Appendix 3**

The report was presented, a key point of which was that the 1987 fund continues to be healthy and self-sustaining. Marc Kavansakul asked whether the large numbers of shares in one company (CSL) puts the fund in potential risk. This was discussed and Jack Clegg indicated that he thought it was well balanced.

9. Changes to the Constitution (S Batten)

9.1. Approval by postal ballot of the changes presented at the last Business Meeting

The postal ballot was carried out and the changes implemented, noting the error referred to under item 4 above.

9.2. Lodging of the updated Constitution with the SA Government

Chris Sumby is now the official SCANZ representative in SA for the purposes of maintaining the Constitution. The updated constitution has not yet been lodged with the SA Government.

Action: Chris Sumby to lodge the updated Constitution with the SA Government after the error referred to under Item 4 above has been corrected.

10. Website report (C Bond)

Charlie Bond noted that he will no longer be a Council member and does not wish to continue maintaining the website. Members interested in taking on the role of website manager are encouraged to approach the Council. Charlie also flagged the possible need for a new website in the future due to limitations of the content management system under the IUCr domain. He noted the advantages and disadvantages of the website being hosted through the IUCr server: the advantage being the ability to store information in an archival manner; the disadvantage being the difficulty associated with using their content management system.

10.1. Creation of a permanent repository of SCANZ Agenda and Minutes, Newsletters, conference booklets etc.

All newsletter except issues 1-3 were digitised by Chris Ling and uploaded to the SCANZ website by Charlie Bond.

Action (Secretary): Newsletter issues 1-3 to be scanned and added to the SCANZ website.

11. National Committee for Crystallography (NCCr) report (M Parker)

11.1. NCCr Annual Report 2015 – **Appendix 4**

11.2. Subscription to the IUCr

At its March meeting, the Australian Academy of Science Executive Committee agreed that an internal review will be undertaken into the value and level of Academy subscriptions of the international scientific unions and organisations belonging to the International Council for Science (ICSU). This will be discussed in depth at the 27 April meeting of National Committee Chairs. There are a number of possible outcomes for SCANZ including: (a) SCANZ will be required to pay 50% of the IUCr subscription cost (the full cost is currently \$8031 p.a.); (b) the Academy will pay the minimum subscription cost (currently ~\$1000) and SCANZ will pay the balance. Ray Withers suggested that option (a) was preferable, with which there was unanimous agreement.

11.3. Nominations for IUCr Executive Committee and the Commissions

Members are encouraged to nominate for the IUCr Executive Committee and the Commissions.

11.4. “Crystallography around the world” website <http://www.iucr.org/world/>

The IUCr website has launched on 15 March 2016 a major new section, “Crystallography around the world” (<http://www.iucr.org/world/>). This showcases crystallographic activities country-by-country. For each country, there is a list of relevant national associations or societies, and separate tabs describing formal adherence to the IUCr, access to the World Directory listing for resident crystallographers, forthcoming meetings, the country's participation in the International Year of Crystallography and subsequent initiatives, and, in most cases, a historical overview and photographic archives. Members are encouraged to visit their entries and the IUCr of any significant errors or omissions. The IUCr is also interested in hearing suggestions for how this part of the site might be further developed. Comments should be sent to execsec@iucr.org, with a copy to bm@iucr.org.

12. Bid to host the IUCr 2023 Congress (S Batten)

Melbourne (led by Michael Parker) and Sydney (led by Brendan Kennedy, presented in his absence by Chris Ling) presented bids. The Melbourne bid was selected to go forward by a Temporary

Committee (Jack Clegg (Chair), Charlie Bond, Ted Baker, Jane Allison, Chris Sumbly). It was noted that both state governments had promised significant financial support such that the financial exposure of SCANZ was relatively acceptable given the scale of the conference. In particular, costs associated with the bid itself would be borne entirely by the state government and not by SCANZ.

13. Nominations for Office Bearers (A Vrieling for J Martin)

The Nominations Standing Committee (Jenny Martin, Mark Spackman and Richard Welberry) nominated the following people:

<i>[Past President</i>	<i>Stuart Batten (VIC)]</i>
<i>[President</i>	<i>Alice Vrieling (WA)]</i>
<i>Vice President</i>	<i>Alison Edwards (NSW)</i>
<i>Secretary</i>	<i>Chris Ling (NSW) to continue</i>
<i>Treasurer</i>	<i>David Aragao (VIC) to continue</i>
<i>Newsletter Editor</i>	<i>Peter Czabotar (VIC) to continue</i>
<i>Ordinary Member</i>	<i>Chris Sumbly (SA)</i>
	<i>Chris Squire (NZ) to continue</i>
	<i>Jo Etheridge (VIC) to continue</i>
<i>[ANCCr rep</i>	<i>Michael Parker (VIC) to continue]</i>
<i>Nominations Committee</i>	<i>Jenny Martin (QLD) to continue</i>
	<i>Mark Spackman (WA) to continue</i>
	<i>Richard Welberry (ACT) to continue</i>

[Those listed in brackets were automatic and not subject to election.]

Mark Spackman noted that the procedure for presenting nominations had not been followed correctly: specifically, the report of the Nominations Committee was not circulated to the membership one week before the Business Meeting (cf. the erroneous omission of this requirement from the updated Constitution, noted under Item 4 of these Minutes). Consequently, Members did not have the intended 1-week period to consider the nominations put forward by the Nominations Committee. This could have affected the decisions of Members concerning the making of other nominations at the meeting; while those absent from the meeting did not have adequate opportunity to submit an informed vote by proxy. Following a discussion involving Jack Clegg and Mark Spackman, it was decided by Stuart Batten (President) that the best resolution of this situation was that nominations presented at the meeting should be accepted, but that votes by proxy could not be accepted.

The following additional nominations were subsequently made:

- Chris Ling for Vice President (moved by Alice Vrieling, seconded by David Aragao)*
- Jack Clegg for Secretary (moved by Alice Vrieling, seconded by David Aragao)*
- Jade Forwood for Ordinary Member (moved by Alice Vrieling, seconded by David Aragao)*
- Marc Kvensakul for Ordinary Member (moved by Peter Czabotar, seconded by Michael Parker)*
- Suzanne Neville for Ordinary Member (moved by Jack Clegg, seconded by Joanne Etheridge)*

Alison Edwards subsequently withdrew her nomination, resulting in the election (unopposed) of Chris Ling as Vice President and Jack Clegg as Secretary.

An election was held for the position of Ordinary Member, the outcome of which was the election of Suzanne Neville as Ordinary Member.

14. Newsletter report (P Czabotar)

Three newsletters have been published since the last National Meeting in April 2014. The June 2014 newsletter followed the Crystal-29 conference and contained reports from the new and past presidents, meeting and Maslen reports from Crystal-29, an update on the IYCr and a tribute to David John Martin (Judge) Bevan. The July 2015 newsletter focussed on the Legacy of IYCr with reports from major events occurring throughout the year and a Maslen report on the IUCr meeting held the previous year in Montreal. The January 2016 newsletter followed the AsCA meeting in Kolkata and included meeting and Maslen reports from that event. Many thanks to those who have contributed pieces to the newsletters over the last few years. Our next issue is planned for May 2016 to report on the Crystal30 meeting, future issues will be produced following other major SCANZ, AsCA and IUCr events. The Editor welcomes any feedback on past installments and suggestions for upcoming issues.

Alison Edwards suggested that Corporate Members of the Society be permitted to include notices in the Newsletter, and that this could be used to justify an increase in the cost of Corporate Membership. David Aragao suggested that Corporate Members could receive a discount on sponsorship of Crystal meetings.

Action (Council): The Council to consider raising the Corporate Membership rate and possible benefits for Corporate Members that could accompany it.

15. SCANZ Medals (C Ling)

15.1. Report of the Lawrence Bragg Medal Committee

The Selection Committee for the 2016 Lawrence Bragg Medal consisted of Brendan Kennedy, Bostjan Kobe, Joanne Etheridge and Brendan Abrahams. As has already been announced, the Committee selected Edward (Ted) Baker as the recipient of the Medal.

15.2. Report of the Sandy Mathieson Medal Committee

The Selection Committee for the 2016 Sandy Mathieson Medal consisted of Brendan Kennedy, Bostjan Kobe, Joanne Etheridge and Chris Ling. As has already been announced, the Committee selected Chris Sumby as the recipient of the Medal.

15.3. Proposal to change to the Medals policy such that an unsuccessful candidate will be automatically considered in 3 consecutive rounds (with the option that the candidates and their nominators can update the application in each round).

This proposal was favourably received, with the suggestion that the change should add the clause that automatic consideration would be subject to eligibility.

Action (Council): The Council to modify the Medals policy accordingly.

16. Location of next SCANZ Business Meeting (A Vrielink)

Alice Vrielink reported that the AsCA meeting would be held in Auckland NZ in December 2018 and that, Ted Baker, the Local Organizing Chair of that meeting had indicated an interest in combining this AsCA meeting with a SCANZ meeting. She suggested that due to the fact that there would be an AsCA meeting in December 2016 in Hanoi, Vietnam and an IUCr meeting in August 2017 in Hyderabad, India, we could consider not having a CRYSTAL meeting in 2017 and have the next meeting in combination with the New Zealand AsCA meeting. She also pointed out that, based on the constitution we would be required have a Business Meeting in the interim where we elect new council members. It was noted that we could hold a SCANZ Business Meeting at the IUCr conference and could elect new members at this meeting.

Alison Edwards pointed out that this would be too long between CRYSTAL meetings which is the society's core activity citing that meetings are normally held twice in each 3 year cycle.

Stuart Batten indicated that these valid concerns would be further discussed amongst the Council and that a decision would be made as to when and where the next CRYSTAL meeting would be held and that the members would be notified.

Action: The Council to consider the timing and location of the next National Meeting in and report back to the membership.

17. Any other business

There was no other business.