

Minutes of the 5th ANZAMP AGM, Kiama

Meeting commenced 5:15pm on Thursday, February 2, 2017.

1. **Minutes:** The minutes of the 2015 AGM were approved.
2. **Apologies:** No apologies were raised.
3. **Report of the chair:** Tim Garoni briefly mentioned our membership figures before asking for opinions on a recent proposal at the AustMS council meeting that organisations such as the AIP be considered for reciprocal membership with AustMS. He questioned whether the \$69 reciprocal membership fee for international reciprocal members would be appropriate for AIP reciprocal members, given that the original idea with ANZAMP was to treat AustMS and the AIP on an equal footing. Tim proposed that we ask AustMS for leave to waive this fee for any AIP members, who are not AustMS members, to join ANZAMP (they would only pay our fee). The attendees voted yes in a clear majority.
4. **Treasurer's report:** Jon Links displayed the earnings and expenditures since the previous AGM as well as the audit report conducted by ACEMS finance. Paul Pearce asked if there was an increasing trend regarding membership income, to which Jon replied that because this was our first year as a division, we don't know. A motion to ask ACEMS to prepare the next audit was carried, again with a clear majority.
5. **Returning officer:** Tim asked for volunteers to be the returning officer for the Executive elections next year. Phil Isaac volunteered and was approved by everyone.
6. **Membership fees:** It was noted that ANZIAM charges its members slightly more than the 20% minimum (of the AustMS membership fee). It also charges ECRs the full membership fee as well as charging students a reduced fee. After some discussion, the attendees voted to round the current membership fees up to the nearest \$5, while maintaining the 50% and 100% discounts that ECRs and students currently enjoy. This means that ordinary members will be asked to pay \$30, ECRs \$15 and students \$0.
7. **Next ANZAMP:** Volunteers were sought to host the 2018 ANZAMP meeting. Rod Gover agreed to host the meeting in, or near, Auckland in late January or early February, 2018.
8. **APCTP:** Paul Pearce proposed that ANZAMP, together with MATRIX, pay Australia's APCTP membership fee. He pointed out that Australia was a financial member between 2006 and 2014 and noted that he had negotiated a 50% discount with the APCTP board so that the fee was \$5 000 USD per year, to be renegotiated after three years. Jan confirmed that MATRIX would pay \$2 500 USD per year during this period.

Paul stated that he would personally guarantee that the \$2 500 USD share of fee would be returned to ANZAMP each year as support for our annual meeting and that he would prepare the applications to APCTP, during the next three years, for this return of funding. He then discussed benefits of APCTP including scientific meetings, postdoc programmes and being hosted at APCTP for scientific visits.

Tim explained that because the APCTP guidelines for membership and funding applications had still not been finalised (we don't know the conditions that will be placed upon ANZAMP meeting organising committees in terms of choice of plenary speakers, etc), the ANZAMP exec preferred to defer voting on this to a later date. Paul agreed, but pointed out that a postal vote required a 2/3 majority to pass. He also asked ANZAMP to propose a new member for the APCTP general council. Omar Foda was nominated and confirmed by the membership.

There was some discussion concerning whether New Zealand would receive any benefits under the proposal or if it would only apply to Australia (as the member country). Paul confirmed that NZ would not be a member country and so would not be eligible for benefits. He however raised the possibility of finding a third member institute in NZ who might wish to "team up" with MATRIX and ANZAMP by paying \$2 500.

It was also explained that the APCTP is supported largely by the Korean government and that its membership fees are a very small fraction of its budget. It was pointed out that, so far, there have not yet been any Australians taking up postdoctoral positions at the APCTP, nor junior research fellowships etc.

Tim concluded by noting that if the finalised guidelines contained no surprises, then the Exec would strongly support joining APCTP for three years. A test vote was conducted to see if the attendees supported this view and the result was essentially unanimously in favour.

Vladimir Mangazeev then asked whether Paul expected that APCTP would financially support Australian meetings other than ANZAMP. Paul said this was unlikely as funding beyond membership fees was generally directed to less developed countries.

9. **Other business:** Vladimir Bazhanov asked the Exec for their “grand plan to advance the organisation”. Tim replied that we had no current plan for advancement and that it wasn’t clear that we needed one. Paul Pearce noted that we do need to look into more sponsorship as we are consistently making a small loss with our meetings. Tim agreed and mentioned two options for rectifying this: increasing membership fees significantly (which nobody wants) or starting up a journal (which seems infeasible).

The discussion then shifted to whether we want to continue holding meetings in up-market environs or whether we should hold at least some of our future meetings in cheaper venues such as universities. Jon noted that the earlybird registration fee for ANZAMP meetings has stayed constant at \$200 since 2012, so there is an argument to increase it. Tony Guttmann mentioned that our fee is very cheap by comparison to AustMS and ANZIAM.

Tim called for votes as to whether we should 1) raise the registration fee, 2) seek cheaper venues, and 3) start charging students registration fees. The attendees voted yes to 1) and no to 2) and 3), each with a clear majority. He then opined that we are not in any sort of financial difficulties thanks to our substantial reserves and that perhaps increasing registration will allow us to balance the meeting books. It was noted that we should calculate how much registration should have been in Kiama for this balancing.

Finally, Rod Gover revisited the 2018 meeting plan, noting that Jan 29 and Feb 6 are holidays in NZ and that accommodation will be difficult to get around those periods. Tim said that we have an informal agreement not to overlap with ANZIAM and Adam Rennie pointed out that later in February is awkward because of internal deadlines for grant applications. It was agreed that the week of Feb 1 would still be best.

Rod then asked whether he should be looking for nice places, eg the bay of islands, to hold it. The attendees again voted for a nice place over a university. He then repeated that we’d need to be aware that early accommodation bookings will be essential. Jon mentioned that he could also look at venues that are not around Auckland, but further afield. Rod said he would look into several alternative possibilities including Nelson and Marlborough.

There was no other business.

Meeting closed at 5:55pm.

Members In Attendance

Murray Batchelor, Vladimir Bazhanov, Nicholas Beaton, Richard Brak, Mark Bugden, Joshua Capel, Jan De Gier, Omar Foda, Jörg Frauendiener, Tim Garoni, Rod Gover, Tony Guttmann, Phillip Isaac, Peter Jarvis, Iwan Jensen, Andrew Kels, Bernd Krauskopf, Jonathan Kress, Jon Links, Vladimir Mangazeev, Anthony Mays, Paul Pearce, Thomas Quella, Adam Rennie, David Ridout, John Roberts, Yibing Shen.