

Minutes of the 7th ANZAMP AGM, Merimbula

Meeting commenced at 4:40pm on Wednesday, February 6, 2019.

1. **Minutes:** The minutes of the 2018 AGM were approved by Phil Isaac and Chris Raymond.
2. **Apologies:** Peter Jarvis, Bernd Krauskopf, Jørgen Rasmussen.
3. **Report of the Chair:** ANZAMP membership has increased to 273 (from 222 last year) with 123 (81) ordinary members, 150 (91) student members, 17 (20) NZ members and 55 female members (15 of which are ordinary and 40 student).

Jonathan mentioned that we officially became the Member Entity for the APCTP in March. Moreover, Omar Foda officially asked to be replaced as ANZAMP Representative late last year. Murray Batchelor has agreed to take his place and serve out the rest of the three year term.

It was also noted that the AustMS website is supposed to go live sometime this year and that ANZAMP needs to arrange to have our pages transferred across.

4. **Report of the Treasurer:** Jon reported that we have roughly maintained our financial situation over the last year. The current balances in our accounts are
 - Society Cheque account \$11,853.
 - Term Deposit \$63,884.

Paul Pearce asked about interest from our term deposit with the answer being that it is increasing by roughly 1K each year.

5. **Auditing and the Constitution:** Jonathan explained the need to have a financial audit each year. Historically, ACEMS did the audit for free but this arrangement was discontinued. Monash is currently doing it for us, again for free, but we should have a backup plan.

Enquiries with AustMS and ANZIAM, as well as asking the private sector for quotes, indicated that paying for an audit would cost around 1K each year which is untenable given our simple finances. Legally, it seems that we are not required to be audited by a professional so the Exec proposed to remove the term “external Auditor” from article 26c of the Constitution and replace it by “Auditor, external to the Executive Committee,”. A vote was taken and agreement was unanimous.

There was some discussion concerning whether such votes are sufficient to change the Constitution. It was also suggested that anything decided by a vote at an AGM needs to be specific regarding a quorum of members present. It was therefore proposed that the Exec would undertake a review of the Constitution and propose some changes to be decided by Special Ballots in the near future.

6. **Appointment of an external auditor:** Monash was reappointed as the external Auditor.
7. **Nominations for Returning Officer:** Judy-anne Osborn volunteered, and was confirmed, as Returning Officer for the upcoming Executive Committee elections to take place towards the end of the year.
8. **Future meetings:** It was confirmed that that UQ (Phil Isaac, Jon Links) would organise the 2020 meeting. Flinders (Iwan Jensen and Yang Shi) is looking into hosting the 2021 meeting. There is a vague plan for a Melbourne consortium (Nathan Clisby, Tim Garoni, David Ridout) to do 2022.
9. **AustMS matters:** Jonathan asked for input from the membership as to what features we want the new ANZAMP website to have. Paul Pearce requested info and links about APCTP. Jonathan agreed that links to all relevant societies should be incorporated. Sergei Kuzenko raised the long-running problem of broken arXiv feeds on the member pages. It was noted that this issue is well known, but currently difficult to fix because nobody knows how. This will change with the new website as it will be professionally maintained. Jonathan noted that AustMS is drafting a Code of Conduct which will be in place at future meetings. ANZIAM already has one which is highly visible on their website. It deals with harassment, support,

sanctions and protocol, among other things. We will have to draft one as well, but it is highly likely that we can use the AustMS one perhaps with a few minor changes of wording.

At the recent AustMS Council meeting, Peter Stacey noted that the AustMS was no longer going to pay the entire fee for ANZIAM's branded lecture course at each year's AMSI Summer School. Instead, they would pay 6K of the 8K price tag, with ANZIAM having to foot the remaining 2K. Jonathan proposed that ANZAMP inquire with AustMS and AMSI as to a deal whereby an ANZAMP-branded mathematical physics course would be created. In particular, we would hope for a lengthy introductory deal, similar to ANZIAM's, whereby we would not need to pay.

Judy-anne Osborn asked how the 8K is spent. David replied that 6K goes directly to the lecturer(s) with the remaining 2K used by AMSI. Jonathan noted that the next Summer School will be at La Trobe under Yuri Nikolayevsky who might be expected to be sympathetic to math physics anyway. Jan de Gier concluded that having an ANZAMP-branded course was a good idea if it were financially viable.

Lastly, Jonathan mentioned that three people had raised the issue of our meeting clashing with ANZIAM's this year. Jonathan noted that this still represents an extremely small intersection of the respective membership. Chris Bradley asked why there was a clash with the answer being that the first week of February is desirable as it falls after the AMSI Summer School and school holidays, but before semester starts and ARC DP grants are traditionally due. There was no interest from the audience for changing the dates next year.

10. **APCTP:** Jonathan raised the question of what will happen once our agreement with the APCTP expires in early 2020, noting that this is something which will need to be decided by this time next year at the very latest. The current deal (2.5K USD per year) is 50% of the reduced fee of 5K USD per year. Paul Pearce confirmed that he expected a 5K USD deal per year to be approved because Canada has just had a similar deal re approved. Unless another organisation agrees to pay the remaining 50%, we would need to pay the full 5K USD per year.

Paul was then invited to describe the benefits of APCTP membership. After describing the background and current structure in some detail, he emphasised that APCTP:

- maintains a web site at apctp.org;
- has in-house Junior Research Groups that hire Group Leaders (at Assistant Professor level), postdocs and PhDs, with priority given to applicants with passports from Member Countries;
- has an affiliated research centre and a network, in cooperation with the ICTP Trieste, that host workshops and schools.
- hosts workshops at its facility in Pohang, which Member Countries may co-organise under the APCTP Topical and Focus programmes;
- funds a visitor programme in Pohang, which Member Countries are eligible to use;
- funds workshops in Member Countries, generally by returning their membership fee (we already use this);
- provides funds for an annual school, in Member Countries selected from member country proposals.

He further indicated that Australia was unlikely to be able to apply for School funding on its own due to its relative isolation, but might try a joint application with Thailand and/or Vietnam. There is up to 20K USD available per School. The key conclusion is that we must engage with them in order to see these benefits.

Murray Batchelor then confirmed all of these benefits, adding that they also have outreach activities including their own journal devoted to popular science. He mentioned that five Australian workshops have received APCTP funding since 2015. Tim Garoni emphasised that all of these workshops were funded by returning the fee paid to the APCTP. Murray also stated that the application paperwork is now significantly easier to fill out.

Judy-anne Osborn asked about the journal and postdoc situation. The latter are funded 100% by the APCTP and can be for up to five years. She also asked if they had facilities for remote participation meetings. Paul Pearce indicated that they had some audio/visual rooms but strongly preferred face-to-face.

Jan de Gier asked if the AIP had been approached to take over MATRIX's part in paying the APCTP fee. Murray Batchelor replied that he was planning to do that. Peter Bouwknecht noted that the Theoretical Physics Special Interest Group would be the natural entity for facilitating this and that their resurrection was an AIP Agenda point for the AIP's Council meeting next week.

11. **AIP Theoretical Physics:** Jonathan reiterated that there is a movement to revive the Theoretical Physics SIG of the AIP and that it may be good for us to try to include them in ANZAMP activities. As reciprocal membership appears to be difficult, because AustMS and the AIP don't allow it, we could just offer them a limited-period discount on ANZAMP registration fees.

Murray Batchelor said that there were 20–30 people at the recent AIP Congress in Perth interested in reviving TP. They seemed keen to engage with ANZAMP, but most seemed to be unaware of our existence.

Mark Bugden enquired as to whether the AIP would reciprocate by giving our members discounted AIP registration fees. Jonathan said that this was an excellent idea that should be part of any offer we make.

Sergei Kuzenko wanted to know who these 20-30 TP members were. Murray mentioned Ian Macarthur and Igor Bray. Cedric Simenel was also mentioned. Peter Bouwknecht said that one of the issues is that TP is fragmented with Nuclear and Particle Physics having their own SIGs within the AIP.

Jan de Gier stressed that any offer we make must be limited-period and should ask for reciprocal discounts from the AIP. Then, it doesn't hurt us in any way. Jonathan agreed.

Paul Pearce asked if the TP SIG already has a meeting. Jonathan said not that he was aware of. Sergei Kuzenko indicated that Ian Macarthur had once refused to allow him to attend a meeting because he wasn't an AIP member.

Murray Batchelor and Peter Bouwknecht asked how many AIP + ANZAMP members there are. Only a few were in attendance.

Peter also mentioned that the AIP recognises "cognate members" but didn't know what that meant. He also stressed that the AIP might welcome interaction that promoted math physics reconnecting with the broader physics community.

Jonathan noted that he had contacted the Chair of the New Zealand Institute of Physics, David Wiltshire, and asked for his opinion regarding joint activities between ANZAMP and NZIP members. David was supportive of advertising each others meetings but thought that other opportunities for cooperation were limited because of the small size of the NZIP.

12. **Other business:** There was no other business.

Meeting closed at 5:35pm.

Members In Attendance

Remy Adderton, Murray Batchelor, Chris Bradly, Peter Bouwknecht, Evgeny Buchbinder, Mark Bugden, Jaklyn Crilly, Jan de Gier, Zac Fehily, Devid Ferri, Tim Garoni, Pedram Hekmati, Phillip Isaac, Jonathan Kress, Sergei Kuzenko, Jules Lamers, Jon Links, Vladimir Mangazeev, Judy-anne Osborn, Paul Pearce, Michael Ponds, Thomas Quella, Christopher Raymond, David Ridout, Yibing Shen, Kyle Wright, Zongzhong Zhou.