

## Minutes of the 8th ANZAMP AGM, Tweed Heads

Meeting commenced at 5:40pm on Wednesday, February 5, 2020.

1. **Minutes:** The minutes of the 2019 AGM were approved by Tim Garoni and Phil Isaac.
2. **Apologies:** None.
3. **Report of the Chair:** ANZAMP membership numbers are stable at 275 (273 in 2019, 222 in 2018) with 114 (123 last year, 81 in 2018) ordinary members, 161 (150 in 2019, 91 in 2018) student members, 18 (17 in 2019, 20 in 2018) NZ members and 59 female members (12 of which are ordinary and 47 student, compared with 15 ordinary and 40 student in 2019).

Regarding the Asia Pacific Centre for Theoretical Physics (APCTP), Murray Batchelor continued to be the Australian representative on the APCTP General Council, Paul Pearce has been reappointed to another 3 year term on the APCTP Board of Trustees, and the MoU between ANZAMP and the APCTP ends in March (21/3/2020). APCTP has agreed to continue the 50% reduction in fees (\$10,000 reduced to \$5,000) for a further 3 years should ANZAMP continue as a member.

4. **Report of the Treasurer:** Jon Links reported that over the course of his 4 year term as Treasurer, the bank balance has increased from \$74,345 in March 2016 to an estimated \$77,000 in March 2020.

Membership income is as follows:

2016 - \$5,877  
2017 - \$6,663  
2018 - \$6,525  
2019 - \$6,266.

Total Income since 31/8/2018: \$36,118.68, including member subscriptions, conference fees, reimbursements and sponsorship for meetings.

Expenditure: \$16,453.05, including conference expenses, Guttman student prize and APCTP membership.

Net operating income as at 30/8/2019: \$19,665.

Term deposit as at 30/6/2019: \$65,102.81.

Tim Garoni mentioned that there was some discussion 1-2 years ago about aligning with AustMS investments, and that we should once again look into this.

Conference delegate numbers (excluding plenary speakers) at the last few meetings are as follows:

Kiama 2017 - 62 (19 students)  
Auckland 2018 - 71 (23 students)  
Merimbula 2019 - 46 (21 students)  
Tweed Heads 2020 - 54 (15 students).

It was also noted that the numbers from the Mooloolaba meeting in 2013 were 47 (11 students). The numbers in 2020 were lower than expected but not worrying. Paul Pearce noted that the meeting clashes with the Australian Institute of Physics (AIP) AGM and ANZIAM. Comments that followed indicated that there was no plan to change the time of year of future ANZAMP meetings.

5. **New Executive:**

Joshua Capel was appointed as returning officer after Judy-anne Osborn withdrew from the position. There was exactly one nomination for each position on the executive committee and so all positions were filled without a ballot.

The new executive committee is:

Chair: David Ridout  
Deputy chair: Judy-anne Osborn  
Secretary: Phillip Isaac  
Treasurer: Milena Radnovic  
Immediate Past Chair: Jonathan Kress.

## 6. **Date and location for 2021 and 2022 ANZAMP meetings (plus future planning):**

The meeting in 2021 will be hosted by Flinders University, possibly at the Glenelg Stamford in early February. The chair of the local organising committee will be Iwan Jensen. The program committee chair will be Tim Garoni from Monash. The dates will likely clash with the ANZIAM meeting, but we cannot move the meeting earlier as it will clash with the AMSI Summer School.

The 2022 meeting will be hosted by a Melbourne consortium, comprising Tim Garoni (Monash), David Ridout (Melbourne) and Nathan Clisby (Swinburne). A location has not yet been decided, but David Ridout asked what members thought about Tasmania as a location. Sergei Kuzenko pointed out that would be expensive, particularly coming from WA. Judy-anne Osborn indicated that Melbourne would be preferable for convenience, and also that there are currently no active members remaining at UTas. Further discussions will take place throughout the year 2020 year.

It was suggested that we start thinking about a venue for 2023.

## 7. **Constitution changes:**

A special ballot was held recently in order to approve the following proposed change to the ANZAMP Constitution.

Original: 26(c) the appointment of an external Auditor for the following Session;

Replacement: 26(c) the appointment of an Auditor, who may not be a member of the Executive Committee, for the following Session;

This proposal passed with 29 votes for and 0 against. The constitution will be amended, and Monash University will be appointed as the new auditor.

## 8. **Website update:**

The AustMS is in the process of updating its webpages. Jeremy Hague is being employed to make these changes. At the 2018 AustMS Annual Meeting, Kate Smith-Miles (AustMS president at the time) had said that ANZAMP could make use of Jeremy Hague to update ANZAMP webpages, paid for by AustMS. This should be followed up with the AustMS. Jeremy has been contacted. It will probably be a WordPress base. Question to the membership: What do we want? David Ridout said that the ANZAMP executive should have direct access to a central membership database, events and meeting websites, for the purposes of responding, for example, to requests from AustMS or AMSI for membership data. Some of the current information, e.g. personal webpages, appears to be out-of-date. Sergei Kuzenko pointed out that the original ANZAMP webpage had useful information about publications, or at least arxiv postings, linked to an individual members arxiv activity. This was useful, at least while it was working. Judy-anne Osborn suggested that we could have an ANZAMP member in charge of ANZAMP's online presence (either formally or informally). To this end, we could make use of Richard Brak's database skills. Richard Brak responded that the first thing to do would be to see what Jeremy Hague is doing, and then take it from there.

## 9. **APCTP matters:**

Jonathan Kress reiterated that the MoU with APCTP expires March 21, 2020. Australia has a 50% reduction in APCTP membership fees to \$5000 per year, a cost which is shared with Matrix. There is another potential MoU, also with a 50% reduction in fees for the next 3 years.

Murray Batchelor and Paul Pearce were invited to report to the AGM on APCTP matters.

Murray Batchelor discussed the AIP. In particular, he is the coordinator of the AIP Theoretical Physics Interest Group as of January, which may have implications for ANZAMP. For example, there could be a possibility of holding joint activities with AIP or reciprocal membership between AIP/ANZAMP. Murray informed members that Cedric Simenel (from ANU), the Theoretical Physics Interest Group rep. in AIP will attend the AIP AGM, and that it would be a good opportunity to discuss potential links between AIP and APCTP. It was suggested that Cedric Simenel could suggest or find out about such possibilities while attending the AIP AGM. Peter Bouwknecht pointed out that something similar was discussed last year, but to no avail. Paul Pearce said that the long term plan was to have AIP and ANZAMP contribute to APCTP membership, and that arrangements with Matrix contributing to APCTP were understood to be temporary.

Paul Pearce updated the membership on developments concerning APCTP. The current president was recently re-elected. He is sympathetic to Australia's membership. Refer to last year's minutes to see why APCTP membership is valuable to Australia. Paul Pearce reminded members that the APCTP supports ANZAMP meetings by paying for one speaker from an APCTP member country. So far, the \$5000 fee has been shared between Matrix and ANZAMP. Matrix, however, is not an ideal partner of APCTP. In the coming year, Matrix has only committed to pay US\$1000 per year towards Australia's APCTP membership for the coming 3 years. So it remains to pay \$4000 per year. This is therefore an extra financial burden on ANZAMP, which could be alleviated if AIP were to contribute.

Sergei Kuzenko asked what are the benefits to us as members of ANZAMP. Paul Pearce replied that Australian citizens are eligible to apply for postdocs at APCTP, set up regional networks, and so on. Students and ECRs can be partially supported to attend regional conferences. Again, a great deal of this information can be found in last year's minutes. There was a show-of-hands for in-principle support for renewing membership, which was strongly supported. Paul Pearce also nominated Murray Batchelor to continue in his role on the APCTP General Council, should APCTP membership be renewed for the next 3 years. This was supported unanimously.

Once the ANZAMP Executive has information concerning contributions from AIP to renew Australia's APCTP membership, particularly so that it is understood what ANZAMP's contribution will be, a special ballot will be held among the ANZAMP membership to decide if APCTP membership be renewed. As part of the ballot, benefits of APCTP membership for ANZAMP members should be documented. To this end, an email will be sent to ANZAMP members in due course.

#### 10. **Other business:**

Judy-anne Osborn enquired as to the status of a review of the constitution. Jonathan Kress replied that this process is ongoing.

Sergei Kuzenko asked about the process followed by the Program Committee for deciding on speakers, and suggested that the process could be made more transparent, particularly with more communication within the Committee. David Ridout suggested that a document be prepared, particularly with a view to making the job of the Program Committee Chair easier, outlining expectations on how to decide speakers. Both Judy-anne Osborn and Phil Isaac offered to begin preparation of such a document.

ANU has a special year in 2020 for Mathematical Physics. There is still an opportunity to bring high-profile mathematical physicists into the country to give seminars or public lectures, in order to raise the profile of mathematical physics in Australia. Murray Batchelor should be contacted for details.

Meeting closed at 6:55pm.

## **Members In Attendance**

Murray Batchelor, Peter Bouwknegt, Richard Brak, Joshua Capel, Nathan Clisby, Jacklyn Crilly, Zac Fehily, Tim Garoni, Mark Gould, Tony Guttmann, Bolin Han, Pedram Hekmati, Daniel Hutchings, Phillip Isaac, Iwan Jensen, Jonathan Kress, Sergei Kuzenko, Jon Links, Ian Marquette, Jeremy Nugent, Judy-anne Osborn, Paul Pearce, Xavier Poncini, Michael Ponds, Milena Radnovic, Emmanouil Raptakis, Chris Raymond, David Ridout, Gabriele Tartaglino Mazzucchelli, Guo Chuan Thiang, Yao-Zhong Zhang, Zhongzheng Zhou.