

## Minutes for Annual General Meeting for the **Australasian Evolution Society**, March 4th 2021.

Executive Present:

President: Mike McDonald

Vice-President: Iliana Medina Guzman

Treasurer: Alex McQueen

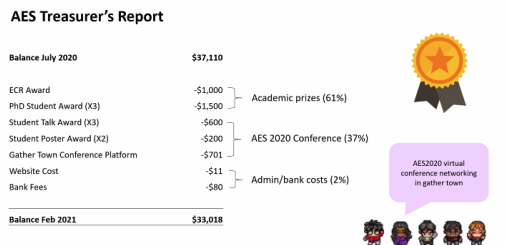
Secretary: Matthew Baker

Outgoing President: Mike Kasumovic

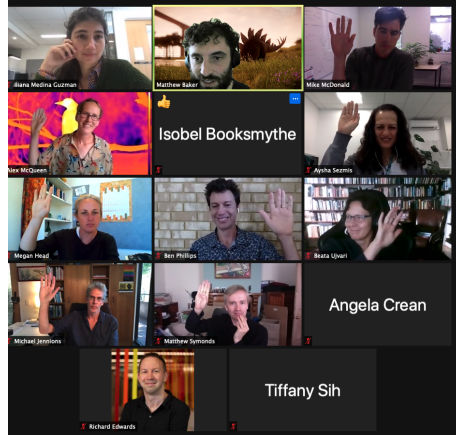
- Mike McDonald started the meeting at 12:35, March 4th, 2021
- Attending: Mike McDonald, Iliana Medina Guzman, Alex McQueen, Matt Baker, Matt Symonds, Kate Buchanan, Richard Edwards, Ben Phillips, Tiffany Sih, Michael Jennions, Beata Ujvari, Megan Head, Angela Crean, Aysha Sezmis, Isobel Booksmythe.
- Minutes from AGM 2020 were confirmed:
  - Proposed by Mike
  - Seconded by Kate

- Election of VP-elect
  - Mike summarised the system, Mike McD is current P, Iliana is current VP, we are voting for VP elect.
  - Each year they roll over.
  - Candidates:
    - Beata Ujvari
    - Megan Head
    - Mark Elgar
  - Iliana summarised system, voting via qualtrics and following link:
  - [https://melbourneuni.au1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV\\_cOYKZQTpucOsFzE](https://melbourneuni.au1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_cOYKZQTpucOsFzE)
- **President's Report** (started at 12:40)
  - Mike comments that he is relatively 'new to AES and evolution in Australia' and has talked informally with members about the desired role for AES.
  - Mike concluded that the consensus was that the 'most important thing is the conference', and using the conference and society to facilitate Student and ECR careers and opportunities
  - 2020 offered challenges, but opportunities
  - Conference: had to be online due to COVID-19 restrictions, but an upside was that it could be free.
    - We replaced travel awards with awards.
    - We gave out an ECR award; 1x\$1000 (Filip Ruzika).
    - We gave out 3 student research awards, 3x\$500 each (Duhita Sant, Laura Woods, Tom Keaney).
  - This year we are hoping to do something similar, awards with money, but also respond to 'new needs' arising in the year following COVID-19 and 2020.
  - For example, could be small grants for 'field research'. The exact number and format needs to be discussed and will be circulated to membership.
  - We had a very satisfactory ~150 attendees last year conference.
  - Society is now around 600 people (on mailing list)

- **Treasurer Report:**



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- Currently investigating changing bank accounts to reduce fees (currently \$80/annum)
- Voted to approve Mike and Iliana as added to bank access.
  - Unanimously



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- Like to thank Mike Kasumovic and Lee Ann Rollins for help on exec in previous years.
  - Special thanks to Lee Ann, she has been secretary since 2013-2020!
- **Discussion:**
  - Conference: Melbourne end of 2021
    - The Organising Committee have met to discuss online vs in-person vs hybrid.
    - Matt mentioned that we are talking about a flexible type of hybrid, on uni site. This would minimise risk of late changes, and allow us to flip to a 'Victoria only' model if that is required at the time..
    - Could try one local HQ in each state (Ben Phillips raised) 'Distributed conference'.
    - Alistair Evans pointed out this would be 6x as much organisation.
    - Matt pointed out might rule out people travelling to Victoria if we had locked in a distributed conference model.
  - Michael Jennions mentioned the website:
    - Would like a PhD applicant type website. Bit like a job board.
    - Matt pointed out hard to update, but we can create put up a one off 'list of departments in Australia' type page.
    - Matt said if Michael sends him the content, he can put it up online as a 'List of Departments' Page.
    - Megan mentioned that Rob Lanfear is pushing a job-arxiv approach with list of jobs.
    - Richard suggested we could have a protocol for using these service, ie a hashtag to link to ausevo jobs.
    - A agreement was reached that at the very minimum we can have links to major Evolution departments in Australia, and an aspirational target of an updateable link to specific opportunities as they arise.
    - Megan and Matt to follow up.
  - Student involvement in the society:
    - Potential create student position, linked with conference
  - Social Media:
    - Tiffany Sih suggested it is relatively easy if you 'break it up', and target a few things to amplify

- Alex McQueen suggested breaking up the role between multiple social media officers so people can keep attention on it.
- Alex also mentioned possibility to use Google Scholar alerts to keep track of publications from our membership and distribute information about this to members.
- Creating an ECR role:
  - Mike proposed to formally create an ECR Rep on the exec.
  - Megan seconded.
  - Amend constitution to elect the ECR Rep by mailout.
  - Matt suggested recruiting for social committee by following up on the previous poll prior to AUSEVO2020 conference where we asked for interest in helping the society
  - Richard suggested could be attached to conference, ie, social committee for conference, keep twitter on and targeted to the society account.
- Appointment of VP-Elect:
  - 17 votes, new vice-president-elect is Megan Head.
  - Thanks to Megan, Beata and Mark for putting themselves forward and their offers to contribute to AES 2021.
- Conclusion:
  - President thanked everyone for meeting.