



## Minutes of meeting

### Australasian Evolution Society Annual General Meeting

DATE/TIME Friday, 14<sup>th</sup> April, 2023 – 2pm (AEST)

VENUE <https://anu.zoom.us/j/82525745676?pwd=ZG1JcUxhWFErOVh4MWp2Z0swbm4yZz09>

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#### Present

Rowan Lymbery  
Lee Ann Rollins  
Venkatesh Nagaran  
Simone Blomberg  
Michael Jennions  
Emma Sherratt  
Renee Firman  
Scarlett Howard  
Putter Tiatragul

#### Item 1. Welcome and Apologies

- Welcome from Megan
- Apologies from Iliana (can't make it), Rowan Lymbery (will be late)

#### Item 2. Previous Minutes

- 1.1 Approval of the minutes
  - Megan proposed, Venkatesh seconded
- 1.2 Update on actionable items from previous minutes
  - See presidents report (below)

#### Item 3. Nominations for upcoming positions

- 3.1 Vice president elect (nominations: Emma Sherratt, Renee Firman)
- 3.2 Treasurer (nominations: John Whale)
- 3.3 Secretary (nominations: Venkatesh Nagarajan)

### 3.4 ECR representatives (continuing: Rowan Lymbery)

### 3.5 Website officer

### 3.6 Social Media representatives

- Megan thanked previous executive members for their time and work on the committee
- Since the Agenda was sent out Sasha Mikheyev current Vice President stepped down due to other commitments. Leaving this position open as well.
- It was agreed that Emma and Renee would state their preference for the VP versus VP elect positions to determine if it was necessary to vote
- Renee preferred to nominate for VP elect, Emma preferred to nominate for VP
- It was noted that that neither Emma nor Renee have continuing positions, however no-one saw this as an impediment to their taking positions on the executive
- Since there was only one person nominated for each position and there were no objections. No voting was needed. New executive are: President – Megan Head, Vice President – Emma Sherratt, Vice President elect – Renee Firman, Treasurer – John Whale, Secretary – Venkatesh Nagarajan, ECR Rep – Rowan Lymbery
- Lee suggested that we should continue to seek out another ECR rep – with preference for a PhD student, to allow continuity. People agreed.
- Lee also suggested we seek keen ECRs to fill roles of web officer and social media rep, as this can be a big job if done well. People agreed
- Putter was interested in potentially becoming Website officer and is going to seek out more information about what is involved
- Scarlett asked what was considered an ECR, it was agreed that for the ECR rep role we are probably looking for phd students or early postdocs

## Item 4. Reports

### 4.1 Presidents report (report on conference)


- in 2022 we ran our first ECR grant, this was to facilitate networking after the pandemic (details provided on slide)



#### **Presidents Report ECR Networking grants**


- 8 applications
- 3 grants awarded
- Total amount awarded = \$6,000
- First Prize (\$2500) Nathan Butterworth (Monash)
- Runner up (\$2000) Katarina Stuart (Auckland)
- PhD award (\$1500) Simon Lobos (Deakin)
- Judges – Sasha Mikheyev, Emma Sherratt, Renee Firman


- We also held our annual conference at the ANU, it was deemed a success, highlights were noted
- Arludo has agreed to sponsor best talk for next two conferences as well




### Conference highlights

- Successful hybrid model
- Tag Team Talks
- ECR plenaries (Melanie Wilkinson, Patrice Pottier)
- Flash Talks
- Sponsorship from:
  - Arludo (best student talk \$1000)
  - Centre for Biodiversity Analysis (\$5,000)
  - Research School of Biology ANU (\$5,000)
  - Free Venue hire at ANU
- Low cost – Students/postdoc \$180, Faculty/fellows, \$300
- 15 travel grants made (total \$6,000)
- Talk prizes (total \$2,100)







arludo



Centre for Biodiversity Analysis



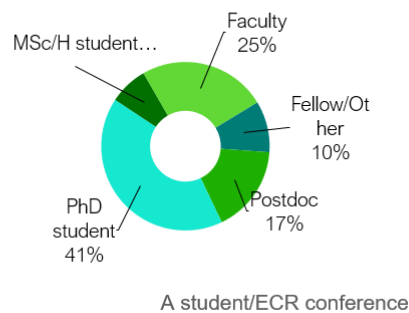
Ecology & Evolution ANU



Australian National University

- comparison to previous conferences was provided
  - numbers back up to pre covid
  - Relatively more faculty and fewer students/postdocs than last year... Lee noted that timing was good for faculty

**2022 – 235 attendees (212 in person, 23 online)**  
**2021 – 214 attendees (102 in person, 112 online)**  
**2019 – 240 attendees (none online)**



#### 4.2 Treasurer report

- Things to note
  - We've had a great year
  - Arludo sponsorship includes pay forward of prizes for next two conferences
  - Unexplained debit reversal - Maybe someone didn't get their travel award - but no-one said anything
  - The conference covered itself even though it was cheap, because there were unexpectedly no venue fees. This meant that overall we made a profit.



## Treasurers Report

<b>Starting Balance (16/2/2022)</b>		<b>24,543.36</b>
<b>Outgoings</b>		
Account fees		120
ECR networking grant		6,000
Conference		
	Welcome	2,947
	Catering	19,498
	Travel grants	6,018
	Prizes	1,950
	ECR plenary awards	400
	Dinner	10537.05
	Student Help	800
	Miscellaneous (masks)	392
	Corsizio service fee	833
	<b>Total outgoings</b>	<b>49,495</b>
<b>Incomings</b>		
Conference		
	Sponsorship	9,877
	Registration + Dinner	49,757
	Arludo sponsorship	3000
	Unexplained debit reversal	400
	<b>Total Incomings</b>	<b>63,034</b>
<b>Ending Balance (10/2/2023)</b>		
	Calculated total	38,082.43
	Actual total	38,082.87
		<b>-0.44</b>

### Item 5. Topic for discussion

#### 5.1 Voting for bank access for new executive members

- Lee pointed out we don't need to do this for President and Treasurer

#### 5.2 2023 conference

- Emma proposed to hold the conference in Adelaide, most likely around the same time as last year everyone agreed this would be great

#### 5.3 Other activities for 2023

- Emma highlighted how much she enjoyed the visual aspect of the last ECR grant and thought that something that promoted visual forms of communication would be good
- Rowan highlighted that having grants focused at ECRs was a good use of funds, people agreed
- Megan noted we are always open to ideas, and the exec will work on coming up with something awesome

### Item 6.

#### 6.1 Open discussion to other business

- Michael asked about where the Society email list comes from and whether it would be possible to list people on the website so that we know who each other are.
- Lee highlighted that we would need permission to list people on website

- Megan noted that current email list is a bit random, made up from people from conferences past, as well as solicitation, then culled to get under the 500 subscribers required so mailchimp is free to use.
- It was suggested that in a future email we ask recipient to opt in to our email list so that we are not spamming people who don't want to be on it, and so our list is current. It was agreed this is a good idea
- Michael also suggested a good way to increase visibility of the society would be to make poster to stick up around biology departments, and Simone added that it would be good to have a presence at the Genetics Society meeting in Melbourne and a poster might come in handy there too.
- Emma noted that we could add a link to the AES website that people can click on to get added to the email list.