

CAA Australasia AGM 2024 Minutes

Meeting time and venue:

Tuesday, 11 June 2024

9:00 pm NZT | 8:00 pm JST | 7:00 pm AEST | 6:30 pm ACST | 5:00 pm AWST

Held online via Zoom.

Present:

Joshua Emmitt, Calum Farrar, Thomas Keep, James Frances Loftus, Aleks Michalewicz, Justin Morgan, Corey Noxon, Michael Rampe, Olivier Rochecouste, Emily Tour, Simon Wyatt-Spratt

Apologies:

Kelsey Lowe

MINUTES

1. Welcome

The Chair, Dr Joshua Emmitt, opened the meeting at 7.06 pm AEST.

2. Apologies

Apologies were received from Kelsey Lowe.

3. Minutes of the previous AGM

Motion to accept the minutes of the previous meeting was moved by Simon Wyatt-Spratt, and seconded by Aleks Michalewicz. Passed unanimously.

4. Business arising from previous minutes

No business arising from the previous minutes.

5. 2024 Reports

a. Chair's Report

Dr Joshua Emmitt delivered the Chair's report.

Josh reported that the major focus on the last 12 months was the CAA International Conference. Since the conference is over the main focus will be on updating the constitution and restarting a series of regular CAAA events.

He noted that we remain the largest regional chapter of CAA by a considerable margin.

Olivier Rochecouste thanked Josh for his hard work throughout the year and for making the conference a success.

Motion to accept the Chair's report moved by Michael Rampe, and seconded by Olivier Rochecouste. Passed unanimously.

b. Treasurer's Report

Dr Olivier Rochecouste delivered the Treasurer's Report.

This has been an active year. We've made an income of \$944.44 and our expenses were \$4,611.44. Our current balance is \$20,688.67. We will shortly be receiving the profits from the CAA International Conference, which will be approximately \$25 - 26,000 AUD. This will allow us to look into setting up a term deposit, the interest on which would fund the association's annual activities.

We've had increased expenses with increased monthly fees for an enhanced MailChimp package, necessary for communication in the lead up to the conference. We've gone back to the free tier now that the conference is over. We also had our annual Service NSW administrative fee as a registered association in NSW, as well as the fee for requesting a copy of our current constitution. The major expense was to pay for the flights for CAA International Chair, Lisa Fischer, to attend the conference. Other major expenses included the purchasing of three promotional banners for the association, one for Melbourne with Aleksandra Michalewicz, one in Sydney with Simon Wyatt-Spratt and one in Auckland with Josh Emmitt. Income came from sales of t-shirts at the conference.

Motion to accept the Treasurer's Report moved by Joshua Emmitt, seconded by Thomas Keep. Passed unanimously.

c. Secretary's Report

Secretary's Report delivered by Simon Wyatt-Spratt.

We've had 12 committee meetings over the last year mostly relating to conference organisation. Outside of the conference, the major project for the year has been reviewing our constitution. When we began the process it wasn't clear if the most recent version of the constitution was in our files. When we received an official copy of the association's constitution from NSW Fair Trading we realised it was long overdue for some revisions, which Josh and I will talk about in more detail when we get to voting on those changes later in the meeting.

Our YouTube channel continues to grow, though our metrics are quite ways down compared to the previous year, probably reflecting the fact that we haven't uploaded any new videos due to focusing on the conference. Even so, we've had

almost 3000 views equating to 160 hours of viewing and have 29 new subscribers.

We put out two newsletters over the last 12 months, and our goal for the next year is to make those more regular.

Finally, our website has been kept up-to-date, primarily with conference news, though we are still waiting (another year) on the templates for the new branding from CAA International. I'd also like to thank all of the committee members for their assistance and expertise throughout the year.

Joshua Emmitt noted that the delays in the branding is due to CAA International's webmaster stepping down. Michael Rampe noted that there was collateral left over from the design of the banners that could be used for the website design in the meantime.

Motion to accept the Secretary's Report moved by Joshua Emmitt, seconded by Michael Rampe, passed unanimously.

d. Membership Secretary's Report

Thomas Keep delivered the Membership Secretary's report.

Membership has continued to grow in the CAA Australasian chapter, with 30 new members joining since the last AGM, slightly above the increase of 28 members seen between the 2022 and 2023 AGMs. Of these 30 new members, 22 are based in Australia, 6 in New Zealand, 1 in Indonesia, and, curiously, 1 in Poland. We see an even split in the new members, with half associated with universities and half working in consulting archaeology or associated fields, representing a promising diversity in our member base.

This continued growth is particularly impressive given the chapter's focus on the international conference this year. Our largest spike in new members was seen following our 'Developing Your Career in Digital Archaeology' panel discussion, with 14 new members joining the chapter soon after this event. As we shift our focus towards local events following the international conference, we can hope to continue the growth that results from these events. At present we have 340 members total in the chapter.

I'd like to thank the members and committee of CAA Australasia for their continued efforts in promoting our events and encouraging sign ups, while continuing to engage members through our newsletters. I'd also like to thank Matthew Barrett for his guidance as the preceding Membership Secretary.

Motion to accept the Membership Secretary's report moved by Joshua Emmitt, seconded by Aleks Michaelwicz. Passed unanimously.

6. Report on CAA International 2024 (8-12 April)

Joshua Emmitt reported on the CAA International Conference that the chapter hosted in April. Attendees from 25 countries registered to attend the conference, and 23 countries were represented at the conference itself.

Josh reiterated that a hybrid conference wasn't economically feasible, but that future CAA International conferences would need to consider it as an option. Given that, there is definitely still space for the local chapter to continue with online mini-conferences in the future to fill in the gap for digital archaeologists and other local events.

Motion to accept the conference report was moved by Thomas Keep. Seconded by Olivier Rochecoste. Passed unanimously.

7. Future plans for the chapter

Joshua Emmitt discussed some of the plans for the future of the association, though noting it was ultimately up to the new committee to decide. The goal for this year is to set-up the association up for the future now that the conference is over, and to start hosting regular events. Based on feedback on the conference, one of these goals is to develop a model of hybrid events to allow more in-person interaction while still maintaining the wide reach that online events have.

This will also be Josh's last year on the committee, and the proposed changes to the constitution will aim to create some more stability for the incoming committee in being able to plan and prepare for the future.

8. Update on CAAA book

Olivier Rochecoste provided an update on the progress of the CAAA book on behalf of the editors. An agreement has been reached. The book will be published in 2025 and the aim is to submit the final draft to Sydney University Press later this year.

Arianna Traviglia, one of the founders of the Australasian chapter, has generously agreed to write a preface for the book.

It will be primarily distributed digitally, and will be open access.

Olly extended his thanks to the editorial work of Kelsey Lowe, Aleks Michalewicz, Claire Reeler and Kath Thomas for their ongoing editorial work.

9. Voting on proposed changes to the CAA Australasia constitution

Simon Wyatt-Spratt and Joshua Emmitt outlined the proposed changes to the constitution that had been circulated with the AGM announcement. The key changes are:

- Updating the name of the organisation in the constitution
- Removing sexist language in the constitution
- Changing the committee positions to reflect how the association has actually been run. In addition to the Chair, Treasurer and Secretary there are now six General Committee Members.
- Defining a number of additional positions, including Vice-Chair and Social Media.
- Specifying at least one committee member is based in New Zealand.
- Changing the term length of committee positions from 2 years to 3 years to more closely reflect the practices of the international organisation and to allow for greater stability.
- Putting a two-term limit on committee positions. Committee members can serve more than two terms in different positions though.

Thomas Keep moved the special motion “Do you support all the proposed changes and additions to CAA Australasia constitution that was circulated with the AGM announcement?”. The special motion seconded by Olivier Rouchecouste. The special motion was passed unanimously.

10. Election of Committee

a. *Chair*

Joshua Emmitt nominated for the position. No other nominations were received. Seconded by Michael Rampe. Elected unopposed.

b. *Treasurer*

Olivier Rochecouste nominated for the position, seconded by Michael Rampe. Emily Tour nominated for the position, seconded by Joshua Emmitt.

Olivier received 10 votes, Emily received 1 vote. Olivier was elected to the position.

c. *Secretary*

Simon Wyatt-Spratt nominated for the position. Seconded by Joshua Emmitt. Thomas Keep nominated to the position, seconded by Joshua Emmitt.

Thomas received 1 vote, Simon received 9 votes. Simon was elected to the position.

d. *General Committee (6 positions)*

Thomas Keep, James Loftus, Aleksandra Michalewicz, Corey Noxon, Michael Rampe, and Emily Tour stood for the six General Committee positions. Joshua Emmitt seconded all nominations.

All were elected as General Committee Members.

Joshua Emmitt thanked the outgoing committee members Kelsey Lowe and Justin Morgan for their hard work and enthusiasm for the years they've been on the committee.

11. Other business

No other business arising.

12. Close of meeting

Meeting closed at 8.03 pm AEST.