



Australian Citizen Science Association

Annual General Meeting (AGM) Minutes

Date	21 November 2022
Time	AGM commence at 12:00 pm (AEDT) and ended at 12:43 pm (AEDT) (following a 20 minute talk by ACSA Patron Hugh Possingham that began at 11:40 AEST titled <i>Is science vs citizen science a dichotomy?</i>)
Place	Online via Zoom teleconference software

AGM Chair	Annie Lane, ACSA Chair, presented AGM information via a slidedeck		
Minute taker	Jessie Oliver, ACSA Executive Officer		
Online interactions	During the AGM, motions were passed by having individual people verbally stating their name aloud via Zoom teleconferencing software. People were also invited to raise their hands and ask questions via the chat function.		
Attendees (36 total)	Full name Abigail Hills Alan Chenoweth Amy Slocombe Annie Lane Belinda Booth Chris Timewell Darryl Ebenezer Elizabeth Irvine Ema Corro Emma Ginman Fiona Benyon Frank Grutzner	Full name Hannah Zurcher Heidi Tait Hugh Possingham James Chong James Ralph Jenn Loder Jessie Oliver Jock Mackenzie Joelle Mandzufas Julie Old Kathy Willis Leah Marks	Full name Lisa Evans Louise Morris Martin Rady Mary-Lou Gittins Maxwell Campbell Michelle Fisher Pat Bonney Peter Rugg Peter Runcie Robbi Luscombe-Newman Sarah Forsyth Stephanie von Gavel



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Item	Description		Responsible
1.0	Welcome, Acknowledgement of Country, and introductions. Annie noted this is the 8th AGM.		Annie Lane, Chair
2.0	Apologies & proxies		Annie Lane, Chair
2.1	Apologies: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Glen Bain • April Seymore • Mary-Anne Healy 		
2.2	Proxies: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Darryl Ebenezer is a proxy for Stephen Turton • Annie Lane is a proxy for Erin Roger • Jessie Oliver is a proxy for Michelle Neil & Stuart Harris 		
3.0	Review of actions from previous annual general meeting		Annie Lane, Chair
3.1	No actions arising from the previous meeting		
4.0	Acceptance of minutes of previous 2021 AGM		Annie Lane, Chair
4.1	Proposed motion	Moved by	
	Accept previous 2021 AGM minutes as true and correct	1st: Amy Slocombe 2nd: Stephanie von Gavel	
5.0	Chair's report		Annie Lane, Chair
5.1	Annie noted that: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • She is providing key points from the ACSA Annual report, which is not out yet but is in the publication stage and will go out to members as soon as possible. • It's been a great year for citizen science broadly, with much more recognition at national and international levels 		
5.2	ACSA has played a key follow with the following activities: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Leading and advocating for citizen science 		
5.3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strategic inputs, open science, national & international events. On this front, Libby Hepburn is recognised for her role advocating for citizen science internationally via the Citizen Science Global Partnership and advocating for citizen science in open science discussions via UNESCO and across Australia. 		



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5.4	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Running of the successful #CitSciOz21 conference with about 200 delegates and a wide variety of talks. Thanks is given to the entire volunteer conference committee, which was led by Lisa Evans.	
5.,5	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Regional chapters are an important part of one ACSA, and they have been incredibly involved providing opportunities for membership to engage with ACSA and also advocating for citizen science with regional governments.	
5.6	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Member support is an important role for ACSA. Annie described our involvement in supporting organizational members such as the Taronga Conservation Society's HATCH program. Two more ACSA SEED grants were also awarded to MYCommunity Applied Mycology and 2 Bent Rods.	
5.7	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Partnership growth: The Minderoo Foundation partnership exemplifies such growth, resulting from the 2019-20 bushfires. It is exploring bushfire recovery via activities on Kangaroo Island and bioblitzes in New South Wales.	
5.8	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● ACSA consultancy: This business branch of ACSA is in its infancy, the last AGM resolving to change the ACSA constitution to allow for the development of ACSA consulting business. The services we offer involve helping organizations and government design citizen science strategies, technologies, projects, and implementation planning. One example of such a project was developing a citizen science strategy with the New South Wales Biodiversity Conservation Trust. Another example involved engaging community members of the Redland City Council area with citizen science and collection of nature observations.	
5.9	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Changes in personnel: At the last AGM on 29 Oct 2021, Erin Roger stepped down from the ACSA MC after 5 years as chair, and Geoff Garrett too stepped down as ACSA patron. Thanks to both of them for their commitment to ACSA. Thanks also to the outgoing committee members, as their efforts are deeply appreciated as well. Amy Slocombe also left her role as ACSA National Coordinator in July 2022. Annie acknowledged Amy's unwavering commitment, wonderful efforts, and can-do attitude during her time with ACSA since Oct 2016.	



6.0	Treasurer’s report and financial statements	
6.1	<p>Financial Position: Note that amounts shared by Peter verbally at the AGM were rounded, but verbatim amounts are minuted below, as written in the Treasurer’s report. ACSA had \$183,154 in net assets (comprising assets and liabilities) as of 30 June 2022. Assets primarily consist of cash - \$140,702 and receivables owing - \$47,234. Cash increased from \$103,390 in the previous year. Retained earnings were \$183,154.</p>	
6.2	<p>Financial Performance:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● For 2021-2022 financial year, ACSA achieved a net surplus of \$80,166 – a 67% increase over the previous year. The improved financial performance was primarily due to increased consulting revenue and income from the online CitSciOz21 conference held 27 – 29 October, 2021. ● After a decline last year, membership fees and donations bounced back by 32% (from \$15,802 to \$20,855) to now exceed pre-pandemic levels (\$16,624 in the 2019-20 financial year). ● As with the previous year, ACSA received welcome government financial assistance via a JobSaver payment to help deal with the effects of COVID-19. ● Although wage-related expenses decreased moderately there was an overall increase in expenditure mainly due to costs associated with paying consultants to deliver services. 	Peter Runcie, Treasurer
6.3	<p>The Future:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Measures implemented in the previous year to reduce website-related expenses have paid off and we continue to explore ways to reduce non-staffing related operational costs. ● For the 2022-2023 financial year, we will continue to focus on income supporting the ongoing sustainability of the organisation, to add value to our members and Australian citizen science more broadly. If our application for Deductible Gift Recipient status is successful, we expect to actively focus on growing donation revenues. 	



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6.4	On behalf of the ACSA Management Committee, I extend our gratitude to our staff, members, funding bodies, and clients for their essential support.		
7.0	Questions to Management Committee members - No questions raised.		Annie Lane, Chair
8.0	Acceptance of Chair's report		
8.1	Proposed motion	Moved by	Annie Lane, Chair
	Accept the Chair's report	1st: Peter Runcie 2nd: MaryLou Gittins	
9.0	Acceptance of Treasurer's report and financial statements		Annie Lane, Chair
9.1	Proposed motion	Moved by	
	Accept the Treasurer's report	1st: Amy Slocombe 2nd: Frank Grutzner	
	Accept the financial statements (note that financial statement acceptance was inadvertently skipped. However, Lisa Evan supplied a link to financial statements via the Zoom chat, and the motion to accept the financial statements was eventually passed as indicated above, upon completion of item 10.4 (i.e. Management committee introductions).	1st: Peter Runcie 2nd: Darryl Ebenezer Lisa Evans also noted her endorsement of the financial statements as the person working with the accountant most directly to prepare them.	
10.0	Farewell to outgoing MC members and election of new members		
10.1	People stepping down from the Management Committee: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Stephanie von Gavel (Vice President) - remaining the Public Officer for Access Canberra Peter Runcie (Treasurer) Bill Flynn (Secretary) Leigh Stitz (General Member) Lisa Evans (General Member) - became staff as Executive Support Officer staff Annie thanked all outgoing Management Committee members for their efforts in growing ACSA		Annie Lane, Chair



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10.2	Vacancies on the Management Committee (MC):																																	
	Initial Vacancies	Nominations Received	Revised Vacancies																															
	1 Vice Chair	1 (a current MC GM)	The Elections Subcommittee determined that 4 General member positions were vacant with given that 2 MC members were shifting into office bearing roles																															
	1 Secretary	1																																
	1 Treasurer	0 (a current GM is being appointed by the MC)																																
	2 General members (GM)	6																																
10.3	<p>Nominee details and election results. Office bearing positions of Vice Chair, Secretary, and Treasurer were not voted on being either unopposed or appointed by the Management Committee. The ACSA membership were asked to vote to select 4 of the 6 General Member nominees to join the ACSA Management Committee. Nineteen ACSA members cast a total of 72 votes for the nominees, resulting in the following election results:</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Positions</th> <th>Nominees</th> <th>Outcomes</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Vice Chair</td> <td>Steve Turton</td> <td>Unopposed</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Secretary</td> <td>Mary-Lou Gittens</td> <td>Unopposed</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Treasurer</td> <td>Darryl Ebenezer</td> <td>Appointed</td> </tr> <tr> <td>General Member</td> <td>Kathryn Willis</td> <td>Elected</td> </tr> <tr> <td>General Member</td> <td>Louise Morris</td> <td>Elected</td> </tr> <tr> <td>General Member</td> <td>Hannah Zurcher</td> <td>Elected</td> </tr> <tr> <td>General Member</td> <td>Robbi Luscombe-Newman</td> <td>Elected</td> </tr> <tr> <td>General Member</td> <td>Cherie Bushnell</td> <td>Not elected</td> </tr> <tr> <td>General Member</td> <td>Martin Rady</td> <td>Not elected</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>			Positions	Nominees	Outcomes	Vice Chair	Steve Turton	Unopposed	Secretary	Mary-Lou Gittens	Unopposed	Treasurer	Darryl Ebenezer	Appointed	General Member	Kathryn Willis	Elected	General Member	Louise Morris	Elected	General Member	Hannah Zurcher	Elected	General Member	Robbi Luscombe-Newman	Elected	General Member	Cherie Bushnell	Not elected	General Member	Martin Rady	Not elected	Annie Lane, Chair
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10.4	Management Committee introductions: Successful candidates were given the opportunity to introduce themselves.																																	
11.0	Meeting close			Annie Lane, Chair																														
11.1	See the Annual Report for ACSA activities more broadly																																	
11.2	Thanks to all MC members, volunteers, & staff for their efforts!																																	
11.3	Thanks to ACSA membership and supporters more broadly!																																	
11.4	Meeting adjourned: 12:43 pm AEDT.																																	