

CAA Australasia AGM 2023 Minutes

Meeting time and venue:

Tuesday, 28 March 2023

9:00 pm NZDT | 7:00 pm AEDT | 6:00 pm AEST | 6:30 pm ACDT | 5:30 pm ACST | 3:00 pm AWST

Held online via Zoom.

Present:

Matthew Barrett, Erik Champion, Joshua Emmitt, Thomas Keep, Kelsey Lowe, Aleks Michalewicz, Justin Morgan, Desley Pedrazzini, Patricia Pillay, Michael Rampe, Olivier Rochecouste, Simon Wyatt-Spratt

Apologies:

Emma Beckett, Scott L'Oste-Brown

MINUTES

1. Welcome

The Chair, Joshua Emmitt, opened the meeting at 7.05 pm AEDT.

2. Apologies

Apologies were received from Emma Beckett and Scott L'Oste-Brown.

3. Minutes of the previous AGM (online, 13 April 2022)

Motion to accept the minutes of the previous meeting was moved by Joshua Emmitt, and seconded by Aleks Michalewicz. Passed unanimously.

4. Business arising from previous minutes

No business arising from the previous minutes.

5. 2022 Reports

a. Chair's Report

Joshua Emmitt delivered the Chair's report. The main activity of the Australasia chapter over the last 12 months has been administrative work setting up the 2024 CAA International Conference in Auckland.

We have been active on social media, despite Twitter self-imploding, and thank you to Justin Morgan for doing a great job as Social Media Officer, especially for setting up the LinkedIn Group.

The Special Collection – Computer applications and quantitative methods in Australasian archaeology – came out in the Journal of Computer Applications in Archaeology. A total of 9 articles were in the collection which was edited by myself and Matthew Meredith-Williams. The CAAA book is coming along, and Olly will provide a more detailed update later on.

The 2024 Auckland conference will be in-person only. This will not be a popular decision, as the conference is almost exclusively held in the northern hemisphere and is attended almost exclusively by Europeans and North Americans. However a hybrid conference is not economically viable for a number of reasons. The aim of the conference is for local digital archaeologists to gather, with any attendees from the northern hemisphere an added bonus. The second aim of the conference is for the chapter to raise funds so that we can remain active for the next 10 years.

The conference will be held on 8 – 12 April 2024. The Call For Sessions will open in June. The Call For Papers in September. Registrations will also open in September.

It is looking like the price for early-bird registration for a full-member of CAA International will be \$600.00 New Zealand Dollars. For comparison, early-bird registration for a full-member of CAA International for the 2023 Amsterdam conference is \$950.00 New Zealand Dollars.

New Zealand Tourism is sponsoring a stand at the Amsterdam Conference which I'll be manning alongside between scheduled meetings with the help of a few other attendees from the southern hemisphere.

Motion to accept the Chair's report moved by Simon Wyatt-Spratt, and seconded by Olivier Rochecouste. Passed unanimously.

b. Treasurer's Report

Olivier Rochecouste delivered the Treasurer's Report.

The previous year was relatively quiet with only two outgoings. The first was the annual Service NSW administrative fee which as a registered corporation in NSW we are obliged to pay. The second was our sponsorship of the National Archaeology Student's Conference in Australia.

There was no income this past year.

Joshua Emmitt added that the lack of spending had been a conscious strategy, in order to have a reserve to cover the costs of hosting the 2024 conference.

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

c. Secretary's Report

Secretary's Report delivered by Simon Wyatt-Spratt.

In addition to supporting the events that Josh outlined earlier, as well as the usual secretarial duties of coordinating monthly meetings, distributing correspondence, and responding to enquiries.

Our website has been kept up-to-date with our events and the special issue, though we're still waiting on the templates for the new branding from International. Otherwise we've put the new branding into effect before any of the other local chapters.

We've set up an Eventbrite page for the chapter which worked really well, and which all our future events will be run through.

Our YouTube channel continues to grow, despite only uploading one additional this year. Over the last year we've had 3500 views (up 7% from the previous year) equating to 243 hours of viewing (up 29% from the previous year) and we've had 45 new subscribers.

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

d. Membership Secretary's Report

Matthew Barrett delivered the Membership Secretary's report.

We've had 28 new members join since the last AGM. These have been predominantly from Australia, and are primarily associated with universities, however there are some linked with consultancy companies. We have also had one new member from New Zealand, Brazil and India. In total the society has 319 members.

I would also note that membership to the chapter continues to be free.

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

6. Update of CAA International 2024 conference

Joshua Emmitt provided an update on preparation for the CAA International 2024 conference in Auckland. All aspects of the conference are being run through University of Auckland event services.

The conference and the workshops will be hosted at the University of Auckland. The conference dinner will be held in the New Zealand Maritime Museum in Auckland. The conference ice-breaker will be held in the new Social Sciences building at the university,

and will be one of the first public functions held there. The proposed post-conference events will be a combined boat tour around Auckland Harbour, and a bus tour to the nearby volcanic cones.

Josh remarked that it is both terrifying and exciting that the conference is only 12 months away. Thanked to Rebecca Phillips, Patricia Pillay and Matthew Barrett for their work on the University of Auckland conference committee.

7. Update on CAAA book

Olivier Rochecoste provided an update on the progress of the CAAA book on behalf of the editors. There have been some hiccups with some of the reviews and chapters, however we are expecting the final manuscript to be finished and submitted to Sydney University Press by June this year.

We have received some last minute case studies, excitingly including one from the Traditional Owners of Budj Bim.

The book will be officially launched at CAA 2024. It will be primarily distributed digitally, and will be open access. There will be a limited number of printed copies made available for sale at the conference. We may consider print-on-demand orders at the conference too.

Olly extended his thanks to the editorial work of Kelsey Lowe, Aleks Michalewicz, Claire Reeler and Kath Thomas for their ongoing editorial work. He also thanked Michael Rampe for his assistance with the cover art.

8. Election of Committee

a. Chair

Simon Wyatt-Spratt nominated Joshua Emmitt for the position. Seconded by Aleks Michalewicz. Elected unopposed.

b. Treasurer

Joshua Emmitt nominated Olivier Rochecoste for the position. Seconded by Michael Rampe. Elected unopposed.

c. Secretary

Joshua Emmitt nominated Simon Wyatt-Spratt for the position. Seconded by Thomas Keep. Elected unopposed.

d. Membership Secretary

Joshua Emmitt nominated Thomas Keep for the position. Seconded by Simon Wyatt-Spratt. Elected unopposed.

e. Social Media Officer

Joshua Emmitt nominated Justin Morgan for the position. Seconded by Michael Rampe. Elected unopposed.

f. General Committee (3 positions)

Kelsey Lowe, Aleks Michalewicz, Michael Rampe, and Melanie Ward stood for the three General Committee positions.

Kelsey Lower nominated herself and was seconded by Joshua Emmitt, Aleks Michalewicz nominated herself and was seconded by Simon Wyatt-Spratt, Michael Rampe nominated himself and was seconded by Thomas Keep. Melanie Ward had informed the committee that she wished to stand for General Committee position and was formally nominated by Joshua Emmitt and seconded by Simon Wyatt-Spratt.

Voting was conducted by show of hands. Twelve votes were recorded each for Kelsey Lowe, Aleks Michalewicz, and Michael Rampe. No votes were recorded for Melanie Ward.

Kelsey Lowe, Aleks Michalewicz, and Michael Rampe were elected as General Committee Members.

g. Public Officer

Joshua Emmitt nominated Olivier Rochcouste for the position. Seconded by Aleks Michalewicz. Elected unopposed.

h. Conference Liaison Officer

Joshua Emmitt nominated for the position. Seconded by Simon Wyatt-Spratt. Elected unopposed.

Josh thanked the outgoing committee members Matthew Barrett and Katherine Thomas for their hard work and enthusiasm for the years they've been on the committee.

9. Other business

Thomas Keep provided an update on the upcoming online panel on Tuesday 9 May. Timed to land between the Australian and New Zealand Archaeology Weeks. Confirmed panelists: Katherine Thomas, Andrew Wilkinson, and Andrew Yip. Moderator to be confirmed.

Erik Champion asked if the 2024 conference website could be made clearer by making it explicit what CAA stood for. Simon responded that we can easily update the Wordpress site, and that he would do so ASAP.

Aleks Michalewicz thanked Josh for all his hard work as Chair this year.

No other business arising.

10. Close of meeting

Meeting closed at 7.37 pm AEDT.