CAA Australasia AGM 2025 Minutes

Meeting time and venue:
Tuesday, 29 April 2025
9:00 pm NZT | 7:00 pm AEST | 6:30 pm ACST | 6:00 pm JST | 5:00 pm AWST
Held online via Zoom.

Present:
Joshua Emmitt, Calum Farrar, Frederick Hardtke, Andrea Jalandoni, Thomas Keep, James Frances Loftus, John McCarthy, Aleks Michalewicz, Corey Noxon, Michael Rampe, Olivier Rochecouste, Emily Tour, Kat Watson, Simon Wyatt-Spratt

AGENDA

1. **Welcome**

   The Chair, Dr Joshua Emmitt, opened the meeting at 7.07 pm AEST.

2. **Apologies**

   No apologies received

3. **Minutes of the previous AGM (online, 11 June 2024)**

   Motion to accept the minutes of the previous meeting was moved by Aleks Michalewicz, seconded by Olivier Rochecouste. Passed unanimously.

4. **Business arising from previous minutes**

   No business arising from the previous minutes.

5. 2025 Reports
   a. Chair's Report

      Joshua Emmitt delivered the Chair's report. Josh reflected on his time since becoming Chair. His goals were to grow the members, put the chapter in a secure financial position, and to hold a second conference in the southern hemisphere. All three goals have been achieved. We are now in fact the largest and most active regional chapter of CAA. Josh thanked all members of the committee past and present, and paid special tribute to outgoing members. Finally, Josh announced that he would be stepping down as Chair of CAAA and he will be taking up the Chair of CAA International at the upcoming conference in Athens in May.

Motion to accept the Chair's report moved by Michael Rampe, seconded by Corey Noxon. Passed unanimously.

b. Treasurer's Report

Olivier Rochecouste delivered the Chair's report. 2024-25 has had the biggest income for the chapter, courtesy of the profit made from the Auckland conference. After reviewing different options, we have decided to go with a term deposit account with the Commonwealth Bank to secure a regular source of income to the chapter's activities. The only other expenses were for the annual registration fees to Services NSW. The full breakdown of figures is available here.

Motion to accept the Treasurer's report moved by James Loftus, seconded by Thomas Keep. Passed unanimously.

c. Members' Secretary

Thomas Keep delivered the Members' Secretary's report. Since the previous AGM we have seen 36 new members, 26 from Australia, 3 from New Zealand, 2 from India, and one each from French Polynesia, India, Hungary, Morocco and Russia. The majority of members are from tertiary institutions but 8 are from professional organisations. Membership growth is clearly driven by events. Overall, we have 282 members.

Motion to accept the Members' Secretary report moved by Josh Emmitt, seconded by Emily Tour. Passed unanimously.

d. Secretary's Report

Simon Wyatt-Spratt delivered the Secretary's report. The major work of the Secretary since the last AGM was to make sure the constitutional amendments passed at the last AGM were given to the Office of Fair Trading. The amended constitution was given to them on the 26 June and accepted on the 28 June. We continued to grow our YouTube numbers with some very popular uploads and have started creating a bibliography of Australasian digital archaeology. Simon thanked Emily Tour for all her hard work in her role as Social Media Officer, particularly in building the Discord and the move from Twitter to Bluesky.

Motion to accept the Members' Secretary report moved by Olivier Rochescouste, seconded by Michael Rampe. Passed unanimously.

6. Update on CAAA book

   Olivier and Aleks gave an update on the CAA Australasia book. All chapters have been reviewed and Aleks and Olly are working on the final chapter when it can then be submitted to Sydney University Press. The SUP review process will take a maximum of five months, which hopefully means we can have the book launch in October.

7. Election of Committee

   The following positions were vacant.

   a. Chair

      Aleksandra Michalewicz nominated. Josh Emmitt seconded nomination. No other nominations were received. Aleks was elected unopposed.

   b. Treasurer

      Emily Tour nominated. Michael Rample seconded nomination. No other nominations were received. Emily was elected unopposed.

   c. New Zealand representative

      Katherine Watson nominated. Josh Emmitt seconded nomination. No other nominations were received. Katherine was elected unopposed.

   d. General Committee Member

      Frederick Hardtke, Andrea Jalandoni, Marcel Julliard and John McCarthy nominated. Aleks Michalewicz seconded the nominations. All were elected unanimously.

8. Future plans for the chapter

   Aleks led a discussion on future plans for the chapter. This included discussion on the types of events CAAA holds, their frequency and their format. Details about the planned upcoming CAAA Online Conference were given, including the aim to focus on graduate researchers given the difficulty of attending CAA International conferences when they are not in the region.

A discussion was held about the geographic scope of the chapter and if there are areas we could expand to or areas that we need to concentrate on. Josh noted that there is still a lot of work to be done in recruiting and engaging with archaeologists living and working in the Pacific. Frederick added that he has had similar experiences trying to network with regional bodies with his work at Simulation Australasia. John added that similarly Australasian Institute of Maritime Archaeology has had issues with being Australia-centric despite its stated goals. James and Corey added that at the moment CAA Australasia is the closest regional chapter for digital archaeologists working in Japan, but they were in discussion about setting a specific CAA Japan chapter. Josh added that non-Western countries are very underrepresented at CAA at the international level.

9. Other business

Olivier raised that we will need a new Public Officer now that he is stepping down. Michael said that he was happy to do it.

John asked if there were any plans to do something at the combined Australian Archaeology/AIMA in Fremantle in December. Andrea answered that she had submitted a digital archaeology session.

10. Close of meeting