

Australian Map Circle Inc. Minutes of the 2004 Annual General Meeting

Wednesday 11 February 2004, Waikato University, Hamilton, New Zealand

Meeting opened: 3:10pm

1. Attendance:

President John Cain, Vice-President Adella Edwards, Secretary Brendan Whyte,

Members: Greg Eccleston, Denis Shephard, Maura O'Connor, Chandra Jayasuriya, Richard Miller, Bill Stinson, Glenys Oxlee, Les Isdale, Judith Scurfield, Barbara Wojtkowski, Victor & Dorothy Prescott, Frank Urban and Roger & Effie Rees.

Apologies:

Business Manager Marie Morden and members Michael Ross, David Hancox, David Jones, John and Nancy Stone, John Robson and Robert Clancy.

2. Minutes of the previous AGM.

The Minutes of the 2003 AGM were accepted as true and correct, after amending item 2 to read "Marjorie Somerville" instead of "Marjorie Stone"

3. Matters arising from the minutes.

3.1 Motion re Placenames: Frank Urban's resolution, commending the Australian Place Names Survey, was sent on 18 Feb. to Mr Warwick Watkins, Head of DITM [NSW Department of Information Technology and Management], Surveyor General of NSW, and Chairman of the Geographic Names Board, and also to Mr David Blair, Director of the Australian Place Names Survey. Replies were received from Watkins 14 March and Blair 29 March, thanking AMC for its support.

3.2 1:100,000 mapping: Letters were sent 4 July to: the PM Rt Hon John Howard; Minister for Industry, Tourism & Resources Hon Ian MacFarlane; GA CEO Dr Neil Williams; Natmap head Mr Peter Holland; & GA Director of Product Development Mr Daniel Jaksa. The letters gave congratulations on the upcoming completion of the 1:250,000 revision; requested funding be made available for revision of the 1:100,000 series; & suggested a local 1:250,000 map be distributed to each Year 7 child in the country (à la UK's OS which gave out 1:25,000 maps upon series completion). Replies were received from Mr Joe Hockey MP acting for MacFarlane 1 August; PM's office 8 August; & Dr Williams 13 August. The general response was that there was no money available to give away maps, or to revise the 1:100,000 map series, but that it was hoped to include 1:100,000 data in the 1:250,000 database.

Letters were also sent on 4 July to Mapping Sciences Institute of Australia secretary Keith Smith; Spatial Sciences Coalition chair Graham Baker; & ASIBA chair David Hocking, suggesting ways to lobby for 1:100,000 series revision. A reply was received from David Hocking, suggesting only economic arguments would have any impact with the government.

3.3 Australian Standard for bibliographic elements on maps: Adella Edwards has agreed to take over coordination of our response to this, and will be consulting with Maura O'Connor, Dorothy Prescott and Daniel Jaksa in the near future.

3.4 Roger Rees enquired why Geoscience Australia was unrepresented at the present conference, given that Mr Ian O'Donnell, Director of Mapping and Maritime Boundaries, National Mapping Division, GA, had said in 2002 that the AMC should approach himself or Mr Peter Holland, the head of Natmap, to ensure GA representation at future AMC conferences. John Cain replied that the executive had not approached GA this year, partly because they had overlooked this issue, and partly because it was not so vital to have GA representation at a conference outside Australia. However, a list of suggested Australian speakers had been sent to the 2004 conference organiser, John Robson. An invitation will be made to Mr Holland to send a speaker to the 2005 conference and all future Australian conferences.

4. President's Report (John Cain)

The President reported that the executive had met several times in the previous year, in Melbourne, with a phone link to Vice-President Adella Edwards in Townsville.

5. Business Manager's Report (meeting chairman on behalf of Marie Morden)

The audited 2003 financial statement was distributed at the meeting. John Cain spoke to the report on behalf of Marie Morden.

"In presenting the financial report for 2003, there are several points which may need some explanation.

In the INCOME section, the Cairns Conference is the \$2540.99 which is shown, the Macquarie Conference whilst almost completed, will be shown in the 2004 statement.

There is a pleasing increase in membership, but not quite to the extent shown. Some members had already paid for 2004 before Christmas 2003.

The EXPENDITURE shown is including the membership fees paid in 2003 for the present Hamilton Conference which have since been paid across.

Our CASH at Bank also contains this amount.

I make a please that members paying by credit cards be extremely careful to form their numbers carefully as I get too many coming back from the bank as wrong numbers.

The auditor suggested that the expense of the audit is a lot for such a small society. Does anyone have a tame auditor who might do the job for a lesser fee?

On the whole we continue to operate smoothly, and hold steady our reserves.

I request that the meeting accept the statement and the audited report.”

The statement and report were accepted unanimously. The executive is happy to continue to use Law Little & Associates for the present, to ensure the finances are visibly above board, despite no legal requirement for the audit due to the AMC's small turnover.

The balance of the AMC accounts at 31 Dec 2003 was \$32,366 (2002: \$30,092) comprising \$11,417 cash at bank and \$20,949 term deposit NAB. This represents a surplus for the year of \$2274.43 (2002: \$2493.00 *deficit*). The 2003 accounts were audited by Mr Douglas McQualter of Law Little & Associates, CPA, and cost \$450.

Roger Rees asked why the 2003 minutes recorded the 2002 accounts as costing \$425 to audit, while the 2003 (and comparative 2002) statements distributed in the current meeting showed a figure of \$450. Brendan Whyte was asked to follow this up with the Business Manager.

[Marie Morden's response is that the \$425 is a misprint, and the cost of auditing for the last several years has been \$450]

6. Publications Report

The following report was presented by John Cain and Brendan Whyte

“6.1 *The Globe* The *Globe* editorial committee consists of Victor Prescott, John Cain, Greg Eccleston and Brendan Whyte.

The Globe #53, dated 2002, was somewhat delayed, coming back from the printers just before the 2003 conference in Sydney and copies were distributed to attendees, with the remainder mailed out the following week. *The Globe* #54, our only issue dated 2003, was posted out just after the middle of 2003.

The Globe #55, dated 2004, is now at the printers and will be posted out in early March. We hope to get a second 2004 issue out later this year, including papers from the 2004 conference and the last contributions from the 2003 conference.

We remind members that while we would like to produce two issues a year, we state that publication frequency is one or two issues a year, due to the work involved for the Editorial Committee, and the somewhat erratic number and timing of contributions.

During 2003, the Secretary obtained DEST-approved status for *The Globe*, this means that *The Globe* is recognised by the Australian Federal Department of Education, Science and Training as publishing peer-reviewed papers, and publication in *The Globe* earns academic authors appropriate points for their departments with DEST's Higher Education Research Data Collection scheme. Further information on this scheme is online at <http://www.dest.gov.au/highered/research/herdc.htm>

The list of recognised refereed journals, (*The Globe* is listed under T, not G) is at <http://www.dest.gov.au/highered/research/documents/register.pdf>

6.2 *Newsletter* The Secretary, Brendan Whyte, prepares the *Newsletter*. Three issues were produced in 2003: #88 in February, #89 in June and #90 in December. Back issues are available on the AMC website. Members are encouraged to contribute items for the *Newsletter*.

6.3 amcircle@yahoogroups.com The AMCircle email list continues to prove an excellent way to redistribute surplus maps between libraries and individuals, as well as to communicate events and news items of interest, and to help map librarians obtain answers to patron queries. Traffic remains steady at about 40 messages per month. At 31 January 2004 we had 99 members. The moderators are Adella Edwards, John Cain and Brendan Whyte.

6.3 australianmapcircle.org.au The AMC website also remains popular, with conference details and back issues of the *Newsletter* available. The Secretary and President receive a small but steady number of enquiries about the group and maps in general from around the world as a result of the site. The website is maintained by John Cain.”

Victor Prescott congratulated the editors on their efforts with publications.

Adella Edwards asked how many members would be happy to view or print the newsletter from the AMC website, rather than receive a hardcopy, in order to save printing/postage costs. About half of those present indicated a willingness to do so. The executive will look into implementing this option.

Greg Eccleston and Glenys Oxlee asked how many of the NZ Map Society members were aware/members of the amcircle email list, as it appears some at the conference were unaware of the list. Brendan Whyte will ask the NZ Map Society to notify their members of the facility.

7. Branch reports.

7.1 Sydney: Glenys Oxlee reported that David Woodward's talks in September 2003 were excellent. Chandra Jayasuriya has taped them if anyone wants a copy. Maura O'Connor was to have reported on the Canberra talk in depth, but has lost her notes, nevertheless, a brief summary was posted to amcircle.

7.2 Melbourne: John Cain reported that two events were held, a 'bring and brag', and the now-traditional Christmas dinner & quiz.

7.3 John Cain reminded the meeting that the executive encourages the formation of local branches and is happy to help with mailouts or seeding funds. Regarding this, Robert Clancy had written to the executive on 21 Jan. raising the possible incorporation into the AMC of his Sydney Map Group. The executive are more than happy for this to happen. We can do mailouts and publicity of SMG events, but would require any SMG members to be financial members of the AMC to receive mailouts themselves. We are also happy to provide 'tea money' for SMG meetings if they are to become official AMC events. However, any monies provided would need to be accounted for, and this requires a level of organisation of the SMG beyond its present one. Robert is reluctant to take on further administration of the SMG himself, so any willing volunteers should contact him directly.

8. Returning Officer's report

Brendan Whyte presented the report, noting that only one nomination was received for each position, and that the present executive was returned unopposed. The executive thus remains: John Cain – President, Adella Edwards- Vice President Marie Morden- Business Manager, Brendan Whyte- Secretary.

9. Future AMC Conferences: 2005 & 2006.

At the 2003 AGM Jim Bowden suggested a Brisbane conference & was to give contact names to Marie Morden. However, neither were present at the meeting, and the executive were unaware of whether this had been done.

2005: While the State Library of SA would be available as a venue, there has been no favourable response from SA members to organise a conference in Adelaide for next year. Little response has been received from WA members for a Perth conference either. This leaves two options: the Melbourne-based executive (or its nominees) to organise the conference in Adelaide, or to organise it in Melbourne. As the latter will be easiest organisationally, and given that this year's conference was in NZ, the executive has decided to go with a Melbourne conference for 2005, and hopes that non-executive Melbourne members will be willing to organise it, with backroom support by the executive. The executive feels that one conference in two should be held in the Melbourne-Canberra-Sydney corridor, with alternate years' conferences being held further afield: Qld, Tas, SA, WA, NZ etc.

2006: An informal proposal had been received from the NZ Map Society for another joint conference, on Norfolk Island. Brendan Whyte to investigate this. Other options include Adelaide or Perth, neither of which has hosted a conference for almost 15-20 years, but the difficulty is getting an organising committee together.

10. Other Business

10.1 Judith Scurfield raised the upcoming 400th anniversary of the discovery of Australia, and the activities of the organising committee for "Australia on the Map: 1606-2006". Brendan Whyte replied that that committee had been in contact with the executive, that we had offered to theme our 2006 conference accordingly, and had offered to publish relevant papers in the Globe or advertise events via our newsletter and email list. An invitation to a meeting of the Melbourne steering committee had had to be declined as it was scheduled for today, Wed 11 Feb., and the executive were all in Hamilton at the AMC's AGM!

10.2 Dorothy Prescott noted that the second edition of *Cartographic Materials: A Manual of Interpretation for AACR2* was published in November 2003, and asked if anyone had seen it yet. There were no affirmative replies. [John Cain has subsequently received his at the University of Melbourne]

Meeting closed: 4:20 pm