

Australian Map Circle Inc.
Minutes of the 2005 Annual General Meeting

2:30pm, Wednesday 9 February 2005, Graduate house, University of Melbourne, Melbourne.

1. Attendance & Apologies

Present: Frank Urban, Pamela Faragher, Les Isdale, Richard Miller, Dianne Rutherford, Teresa Donnellan, Don & Marjorie Somerville, John Spring, Greg Eccleston, Martin von Wyss, David Jones, Barbara Wojtkowski, Judy Scurfield, Chandra Jayasuriya, Anne Baxter, John Knight, Bill Stinson, Victor & Dorothy Prescott, Bernie Joyce, Amy Griffin, Gerry Clarke, Marie Morden, John Cain, Adella Edwards, Brendan Whyte.

Apologies: Michael Ross, Roger & Effie Rees, Maura O'Connor

2. Minutes of the previous AGM.

The minutes of the 2004 AGM were circulated with the AMC *Newsletter #91 March 2004* and were available at the meeting. Accepted (moved Victor Prescott, seconded John Knight).

3. Matters arising from the minutes.

None except as dealt with below.

4. President's Report (John Cain)

The executive met several times during the year, linking to Adella Edwards by telephone. Apart from this year's conference organisation, the main business was attempting to find future conference hosts.

5. Business Manager's Report (Marie Morden)

- After a \$2274.43 surplus in 2003, the AMC reported a \$893.61 deficit for 2004.

	<u>2003</u>	<u>2004</u>		<u>2003</u>	<u>2004</u>
Income	12,079.86	11,184.65	General Account	11,417	9,945
Expenditure	<u>9,805.43</u>	<u>12,078.26</u>	Term Deposit	<u>20,949</u>	<u>21,977</u>
Surplus (Deficit)	\$2,274.43	(\$893.61)	TOTAL ASSETS	\$32,366	\$31,922

- The accounts were audited by Law, Little and Associates.

- The accounts were accepted (moved Marie Morden, seconded John Spring)

- Marie Morden also asks that members write your credit card numbers carefully on your renewal and conference forms. Every year some are badly written and the AMC pays transaction costs attempting to process them.

Discussion:

The deficit for 2004 is partly due to a \$500 donation to the NZMS to help with the 2004 joint conference, and a decline in membership receipts. This decline is partly attributable to the fact that we send out invoices for each year around Dec/Jan, so that a year's subscriptions are not necessarily received in that calendar year: some 2005 subscriptions were received in 2004, and some for 2004 in 2003 etc. Nevertheless, the secretary is chasing up non financial members.

- It should be noted that printing and postage, over half our expenditure, covers the *Globe* and newsletters and other mail-outs to members. The two *Globe* issues sent in 2004 were fractionally over the 250g weight limit, so that postage for them was much more expensive than anticipated. The *Globe* committee are aware of this and endeavouring to keep issues below 250g.

- It was suggested by Greg Eccleston that membership fees might be raised having been static for many years, & by John Knight that a tickable donation box be added to annual invoices. The executive feels however that fees are adequate to cover our costs, and that as we are a non-profit organisation, this small deficit is no cause for panic after several surpluses. In addition to the current account, we retain over \$20,000 in term deposit

6. Publications Report (John Cain and Brendan Whyte)

Membership.

- Our membership list currently includes 201 members, hardly changing from last year. Invoices for 2005 were recently posted. About 20 members are not expected to renew in 2005. 85 members were paid up for 2005 as of Saturday 5 February.

The Globe.

- The Globe editorial committee consists of Victor Prescott, John Cain, Greg Eccleston and Brendan Whyte. *The Globe* #55, was posted out in late February. A second 2004 issue, #56, was posted in December, after some delay. We remind members that while we aim to produce two issues a year, 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.

- The Globe is now available via non-exclusive electronic subscription through APAIS (Australian Public Affairs Information Service) and InfoRMIT (RMIT publishing) based in Australia, and during 2004 the Globe committee agreed to sign up for similar agreements with two American publishers, H.W.Wilson of New York and Gale Thompson of Detroit. While RMIT are sent a digital copy of the Globe, the other publishers scan the paper version themselves.

- Bill Stinson suggested EBSCO's Australian and NZ Reference Centre be approached to publish the Globe electronically. Brendan Whyte noted that all electronic publication to date has been initiated by the publishers.

Newsletter

- Brendan Whyte, prepares the *Newsletter*. Two issues were produced in 2004: #91 in March and #92 in September. Back issues are available on the AMC website. Members are encouraged to contribute items for the *Newsletter*.

amcircle@yahogroups.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 just under 40 messages per month. At 5 February 2005 the list had 101 members, up two from last year, with an additional 13 whose email accounts are currently 'bouncing'. The moderators are Adella Edwards, John Cain and Brendan Whyte.

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.

7. Branch reports

Melbourne: hosted a Christmas dinner at Graduate House, and a trip to a volcano exhibition in the Baillieu Library at Melbourne University.

- John Cain reminded the meeting that the executive encourages the formation of local branches and is happy to help with mail outs or seeding funds, but the initiative and organisation for local groups must be local.

8. Returning Officer's report (David Jones)

The incumbent executive were returned unopposed: President John Cain, Vice-President Adella Edwards, Secretary Brendan Whyte, Business Manager Marie Morden. Dorothy Prescott noted that at only one previous AGM had a vote been necessary.

9. 2006 & 2007 AMC Conferences.

- No offers to host the 2006 or 2007 conferences had been received. The executive hope to have conferences in the near future in Adelaide and Perth, both cities where no conference has been held for over 15 years.

- 2006: Perth would be a good venue for 2006 to tie in with the VOC [Dutch East India Company] Society over there, the Batavia wreck in Fremantle, etc, all pertinent to the *Australia on the Map 1606-2006* celebrations. Adella Edwards also mentioned a possible MSIA-organised seminar in Darwin in mid-2006 to coincide with the proposed visit by the *Duyfken* replica. The only WA member who has offered to help with the conference is Kylie Smith at the WA State Library. Amy Griffin from ADFA kindly offered to coordinate the conference organisation, with support offered by the executive.

- 2007: Adelaide is a possible venue for 2007, as Ray Choate, librarian, of Adelaide Uni has contacted the AMC regarding a proposed map exhibition to be held there late 2006-early 2007. He suggested that conferences could tie in with it, as the Bibliographic Soc of Australia & NZ may do. Brendan Whyte will keep in touch with him regarding this. We have previously had offers of a venue (but no organisational assistance) from the SA State Library. Bill Stinson indicated willingness to help organise an Adelaide conference. [see *Upcoming Map Conferences column in this Newsletter*. -Ed.]

- Gerry Clarke asked if the conference could be held in school holidays, not outside, to make it easier for families with children to attend. John Cain replied that conferences held outside school holidays made venue, accommodation and transport bookings much easier and cheaper. Thus February was a good time because while schools were back, universities were not, so colleges were available as venues/accommodation, and university staff were more likely to be available. Brendan Whyte was asked to conduct a survey in the next newsletter as to members' preferences.

10. Other Business.

1. Automatic distribution of new maps to State libraries [Judith Scurfield]. This issue was partly answered by the conference speakers from Geoscience Australia and Victoria's DSE. GA will deposit only with the NLA, because it is legally required to. State libraries will have to buy material they require, even of their own state. But the occasional free CDs are not enough in quantity or quality for archival purposes. Perhaps the Council of State Librarians should write to GA requesting that material covering each state be deposited with state libraries, if national coverage is too excessive a demand.
2. Withdrawal of US aeronautical charts from sale [initially raised on AMCircle by Brendan Whyte]. While not directly affecting us, librarians and users of NGA maps such as JOGs, TPCs, ONCs, etc should submit feedback to the NGA. Brendan Whyte to report the feedback URL to AMCircle. [see *Maps in the News column in this Newsletter* - Ed.]
3. NLA report by Maura O'Connor [presented by Teresa Donnellan]: Reproduced above.
4. The meeting indicated strong support for a 'Maps Australia' concept of online digitized maps from many libraries, accessible from one search engine, similar in concept to the NLA's 'Pictures Australia'.
5. Poor state of Victorian parish plans etc. held by DSE - not catalogued, no plans to restore the ones in poor condition [Greg Eccleston]. Greg had seen many old maps in less than adequate storage in the DSE basement. He has spoken with the Phillippa Nelson of the Public Records Office of Victoria, who will liaise with the Surveyor General about having them deposited with the PROV. Greg will draft a letter for the AMC to send if required.
6. The meeting congratulated Assoc. Prof. Bernie Joyce on his recent promotion (Dec 2004).
7. John Spring suggested that topics such as those discussed above in 'Other Business' be kept as a hot topic list to give conference organisers ideas for speakers to invite.

Close of Meeting 3:40pm