



Australian Regolith Geoscientists Association (ARGA)

Committee teleconference 8 April 2019

Minutes

Meeting opened 1505 AEST, 1425 ACST, 1305 AWST.

Present: Carmen Krapf (President), Leah Moore (Past President), John Keeling (Public Officer and Treasurer), Ian Roach (Secretary and Webmaster), Savannah McGuirk (Committee Member), Nadir de Souza Kovacs (Committee Member)

- 1. Apologies:** Anna Petts (Committee Member), Nacho (Committee Member). Ian apologised for not understanding the differences between Australia's time zones and misunderstanding daylight savings altogether.

Carmen asked Ian to lead the meeting.

- 2. Previous minutes:** Nadir accepted the minutes of the previous meeting (4 July 2018), Carmen seconded.

3. Discussion:

a. Proposed merger of ARGA as a Specialist Group of the Geological Society of Australia (GSA)

- Ian asked the Committee for their thoughts on the GSA-drafted 'Memorandum of Understanding (MOU)' provided by Sue Fletcher (GSA).
- Carmen started by stating that she had read the draft MOU and thought it was simple and straightforward. The document needed a couple of words added here and there for clarity. The draft MOU addresses the main concerns of the proposed merger with respect to an exit strategy of ARGA from the GSA should the merger not succeed. Some concerns were raised regarding ARGA needing to cancel its ABN but Carmen was assured by John that ARGA does not actually have an ABN, so this is not necessary. Carmen thought that the proposed merger should proceed OK, but just needed ratification by the GSA Council.
- Ian made comments on specifics of the draft MOU, particularly the Event Risk Matrix needed by the GSA's insurers for out-of-the-ordinary activities.
- Carmen commented that Rian Dutch (Geological Survey of South Australia) is currently organising an SGTSG (Specialist Group in Tectonics and Structural Geology) conference with field trips and did not comment on any restrictions due to the Event Risk Matrix. ARGA needs to see a copy of the Event Risk Matrix.

- Ian commented that having access to the GSA's ecommerce facility was a good thing.
- John agreed, commenting that this was one of many reasons for proposing the merger.
- Ian commented that the GSA's need for advanced warning before spending large sums of money seemed a little strict.
- John and Carmen commented that this was necessary because the GSA spends money on the specialist groups out of the same account and needs forewarning, and that ARGA usually is well aware of large upcoming expenses.
- Ian noted that ARGA would be allowed to keep its own website, which is an advantage. John agreed.
- Ian noted that, under the terms of the draft MOU, ARGA was free to hold its own symposium/conference no less than 6 months before or after the GSA national conference.
- The Committee noted that the draft MOU stated that ARGA would be allowed to keep its own funds should ARGA and the GSA decide to go their separate ways in the future. This was viewed positively.
- The Committee's view on the draft MOU document is favourable overall.

b. Timing of the merger

- The Committee discussed the timing of the next steps towards the merger of ARGA and the GSA. The Committee's understanding is that once the MOU has been settled and signed by ARGA, then this would need to go before the GSA Council for a vote. The GSA Council meets quarterly, so this could be ratified potentially by the end of 2019. This should be followed up with Sue Fletcher.
- The Committee discussed the timing of the next ARGA event and agreed that it should be held in conjunction with the Australian Geoscience Council Conference (AGCC), to be held in Tasmania in 2020 (this needs to be confirmed by Sue Fletcher). ARGA would host a symposium within the AGCC, and possibly a workshop and/or field trip.

c. ARGA name change

- The Committee acknowledged that the draft MOU states that ARGA would no longer be allowed to use the word "Association" in its name according to Australian corporation law.
- The Committee discussed whether to change the name of ARGA to something completely new.
- The Committee decided that the abbreviation "ARGA" was well-recognised and well-established and too important a brand to lose.
- Ian suggested using the word "Alliance" instead of "Association" and this was accepted by the Committee.
- Hence, ARGA would be known as the "Australian Regolith Geoscientists Alliance" under the proposed merger with the GSA.
- It was discussed if this new naming should be put out to ARGA members for a vote with the next group email that will also include the recent minutes.

4. ARGA Bank accounts 8 April 2019:

John gave the financial report.

Account Balance as at 8 April 2019

Westpac Community Solutions Cash Reserve	\$27,439.43
Westpac Deposit Bearing Interest	\$2,140.61
TOTAL	\$29,580.04

Bills Paid

08 February 2019	PO Box account	\$205.00
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5. Any other business

- The Committee discussed the timing and location of the next ARGA event and agreed that it should be an ARGA symposium at the AGCC 2020, perhaps with a regolith workshop and field trip.
- The Committee agreed that the next ARGA field conference should be held in 2021, potentially in Western Australia at a regional centre near a major airport, and should involve Critical Zone researchers from around Australia.
- Nadir agreed to look at venues and other researchers/organisations especially involved with Critical Zone research with help from Anna.

Ian summarised the meeting with actions:

- Carmen and Ian to ask Sue Fletcher (GSA) for a copy of the Event Risk Matrix for consideration.
- Ian, Carmen and John to work on updates to the draft MOU and return to Sue Fletcher at GSA.
- Committee to check with Sue Fletcher about the process of accepting the MOU and what happens afterwards.
- Nadir and Anna to develop plans for an ARGA field symposium for 2021, possibly in Western Australia, involving Critical Zone researchers.
- Ian to forward key points and minutes to the Members.

Meeting closed at 1550 AEST, 1520 ACST, 1350 AWST.