Minutes of the MESA Annual General Meeting 2003, Hobart, Tasmania 14 September

Chair: Mark Rodrigue, President, opened meeting 8.40 am

Present
Peter Hoskin, Bob Winters, Graeme Baxter, Alex Giannuzz, Tim Hoile, Bob Moffatt, Melinda Wild, Barbara Jensen, Angela, Colliver, Pam Elliott, Jacqui Foster, Karen Fisher, Jody Plecas, Karen Domotor, Simone Baker, Jennifer, Preran, Mark Williams, Mark Heran, Mike Cawthorn, Coen Smit, Andrea Gerrard, Neville Hodson, Steph Finn, Caroline Hayes, Stephen Knowles, Ingrid Albion, Anna Cooke, Tania Stadler, Mike Halpin, Mike Sugden, Barry Peters, Peter Biro and Mark Rodrigue.

Apologies
Roanna O Neil, Jenny Burden, Rebecca Solah, Harry Breidahl and Jim Grant

Items raised to clarify and add to the agenda
Peter Biro would raise some matters about the rules before the election.
Moved Pam Elliott, seconded Jacqui Foster: Membership changed from a calendar year to 12 months from the time of joining.

President’s Report
The following is a summary of the President’s report:
• Membership fees could be reduced because the newsletter is posted on the web. Membership has since gone up. There is a new category of Associate Member.
• Bob Moffatt was thanked for his help with Sea Week 2003. Sponsors included Wet Paper and Gould League.
• The theme for Sea Week 2004 is Discover Me in the Sea. It will explore marine life and capitalise on the movie Finding Nemo.
• Peter Biro was thanked for his work in developing an excellent website. The site has had rapid growth and is a primary source of information. Members are encouraged to use the website.
• Congratulations to Barbara Jensen on the production of the newsletter that is now available on the MESA website.
• Council meets four times each year via a teleconference.
• Jody Plecas is leading the organisation of a marine conference with the USA counterpart in Hawaii.
• The president has been asked by the President, Korean Association for Environmental Education, Yun, Sung Gye. A letter of agreement has been signed between the two organisations.
  We undertake:
  To seek out opportunities to work together for mutual benefit
  Share resources and experience
  Work together to secure resources and funding for joint projects
  Promote participation in programs of each organisation
  Provide active links to each organisation’s websites
• Barry Peters has been supported with the production of a music CD for younger children.
• A number of changes to the MESA Rules of Incorporation have been identified. Most of these changes are due to changes in technology that results in MESA doing things differently.
• Mark thanks members for their support over the past 12 months as well as the past 10 years.

Treasure’s Report
Peter Hoskin tabled a financial report for the 2002 to 2003 period. Peter thanked Jody Plecas for her assistance in handing over the books. Mark Rodrigue moved and Tim Hoile seconded that the financial statement be accepted. Passed. Mark Rodrigue thanked Peter for his efforts over the past 12 months.

Newsletter Report
Barbara Jensen would like feedback on the newsletter. Most of the web issues have been sorted out. Members are encouraged to send through materials for the newsletter. Mark Rodrigue thanked Barbara on behalf of the society.
Web Report
Peter Biro explained how much traffic was occurring on the MESA website. Over 200,000 visitors have already visited the site this year. Members are encouraged to use the facilities on the website like the Forums.

Hawaii Conference
Jody Plecas explained some of the background to this conference.
It will be a world first.
It will have a cultural perspective looking at the Pacific region.
It will focus on cutting edge marine education.
Members are encouraged to put in a workshop.

Constitution
Peter Biro explained that the Rules of Incorporation needed to be changed to reflect:
MESA now has a national council meeting over teleconferences where in the past the council was state based.
MESA now uses email instead of posting MESA materials. (Constitution refers to post)
MESA council needs to be increased by two members to make it more representative.
The pervious motion referring to the rules has been included.
The new Rules have been matched to the standard Victorian Rules of Incorporation to make sure there is consistency.
Moved Mark Rodrigue. Seconded Peter Biro, carried.

Public Officer
The registered Public Officer is Mark Rodrigue.

Auditor
MESA continue with the same Auditor
Moved Bob Moffatt, seconded Mark Rodrigue, carried

Elections
There were two nominations for president. A show of hands elected Angela Colliver.
President – Angela Colliver, Vice President – Jenni Burdon, Victoria rep – Brook Connor
Tasmania rep – Pam Elliott, WA rep – Melinda Wild, NSW rep – Will Jones, assisted by Jenni Prerau
& Kym Blazey, SA rep – Alex Gaut, QLD rep – Bob Moffatt, ACT rep – vacant, NT rep - vacant
Treasure – Peter Hoskin until Dec assisted by Barbara Jensen, Editor – vacant assisted by Barbara Jensen, Secretary – no nominations, Mark Rodrigue to fill in, assisted by Barbara Jensen

Erratum
Due to cost effectiveness we have sort and found another auditor (Mr Correy, Adelaide) that will greatly reduce our expenditure.
In relation to the position of Public Officer, Jody Plecas will remain in that role.
Jacqui Foster honorary Treasurer and Andrea Gerrards honorary Secretary, both assisted by Barbara Jensen and Bob Moffatt (treasury). With the signatories of the MESA account to be Barbara Jensen, Bob Moffatt, Angela Colliver and Alex Gaut.

General Councilor – Peter Biro, Jacqui Foster, Andrea Gerrard, Ingrid Albion.

Meeting Closed: 9.45 am

Did you get my emails: Membership now due?
MESA values your support through membership. Please respond to my emails with payment or notification of non-renewal Hbjensen@nor.com.au

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