

**MINUTES OF THE 2018 BIENNIAL GENERAL MEETING OF SPERA
HELD ON WEDNESDAY 7TH NOVEMBER 2018, 17:00 – 18:15 (AWST)
HELD AT THE UNIVERSITY OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA, PERTH, AUSTRALIA**

PRESENT: Pere Masque (Chair)
Tom Cresswell (Minutes Secretary)
Stephen Long
Jennifer Harrison
Steve Tims
Andrew Yule
Lisel Green
Ilonka Bokor
Megan Cook
Drew Watson
Brett Rowling
Atun Zawadzki
Peter Medley
Sarah Guy
Sangeeth Thiruvoth
Riley Van De Voorde
Alicea Gedz
Michael Corry
Tim Payne
Michaela Froehlich
Yanan Huang
Leena Hogan
Danielle Questiaux
Mick Stulkings
Mat Johansen
Stephen Marks
Michael Lechermann
(26 members, quorum reached)

APOLOGIES: Klaus Hermanspahn

1 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS BGM (8 SEPTEMBER 2016, BALI, INDONESIA)

Members to accept the minutes of the previous BGM as a true and correct record. ACCEPTED.

2 GENERAL BUSINESS

2.1 PRESIDENT'S REPORT

The last two years have been a period of change and modernisation for SPERA.

During the reporting period the committee faced an unexpected change in 2017 when president Emma Carey offered her resignation after moving to Vienna to start a position with the Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty Organisation. Work on the committee was very smooth while she chaired the meetings and I would like to thank her for her contribution to SPERA.

As a result of Emma's departure the committee reshaped itself with myself taking on the presidency and Jennifer Harrison joining the committee. At that time the committee also appointed Andrew Yule as a communications officer responsible for website upgrade.

The trend for sitting presidents to join CTBTO has continued, which is the reason I cannot be with you today. While I always welcome familiar faces in Vienna I hope that the committee will be stable for the next two years. As in any reporting period SPERA's main focus is the biennial conference and I hope that you will have fond memories of SPERA 2018 in years to come.

We have continued to seek increased engagement and cooperation within SPERA (eg. project on purchasing reference material) and with other researchers within the South Pacific (RACI, SPREP) and with global organisations (IUR, IFERA). We have increased our efforts to hold workshops. The latest of which was here in Perth earlier this week. For 2019 we have started discussions with SETAC on holding a workshop together with RACI.

We have completed an update to our logo. The old logo has been in use since the founding of SPERA and it was time to bring it into this millennium. An update to website design and hosting of the website is currently underway. Andrew has identified two companies that can deliver a design meeting our requirements on functionality (such as pay-pal payments of membership fees).

We have started to draft a policy on gender equality, which will be presented later at this meeting. Overall these seem to have been fairly busy two years and I wish SPERA all the best for the coming years. I want to thank all committee members for the excellent work during the last two years and fully endorse every member standing for re-election for committee.

Hope to see you all at the next SPERA conference.

Klaus Hermanspahn, President

2.2 SECRETARY'S REPORT

New SPERA Website

1. A new SPERA website is currently being developed, with oversight of the process being undertaken by Andrew Yule. The website will be used to host documents (constitution, meeting minutes etc.) and should be able to be used for meeting registrations.

Member isotope database

2. A list of radioisotopes commonly purchased by SPERA members has been created and currently has 58 sources listed from 8 groups/institutions. The database is available from the SPERA secretary and is intended to facilitate the sharing of isotope purchases between members to reduce shipping and permit costs.

New SPERA logo

3. A graphic designer was engaged in February 2018 to redesign the SPERA logo. Several versions of the re-designed logo were presented to the SPERA Committee for review and the final version was chosen to represent the South Pacific, radioactivity and the terrestrial and aquatic environments.

Newsletter

4. SPERA has published four newsletters in 2018 (approximately one per quarter), which were distributed to the SPERA membership. The newsletter provides members an opportunity to share their news, recent outputs and outcomes and new additions to their group with the broader SPERA membership.

ICRP 'Free the Annals' campaign

5. A poll was held during October that invited SPERA members to vote on whether SPERA should contribute \$1,000 to the 'Free the Annals' campaign. 21 members voted with 20 votes in the affirmative and 1 in the negative. The motion passed in the affirmative.

Tom Cresswell, Secretary

2.3 TREASURER'S REPORT

Steven reflected on the FY18 financials (Attachment 1). The closing balance is \$19,019.71. The SPERA logo will be included on the ICRP website. The new SPERA website would be approximately \$1000 to set up then \$500 per year. Discussion around presence of non-financial members (currently have 62 non-financial members and 49 financial).

The Secretary was asked to add reminder to newsletter to pay dues and for the Treasurer to consider sending an email saying "would you like me to not keep remind you for membership". **Action on Secretary and Treasurer.**

By having increased member dues, we could be providing more support for workshops or students. Members are able to set up an annual PayPal reminder/repeat payment.

Stephen Long, Treasurer.

2.4 ISSUES ON NOTICE

2.4.1 SPERA's Equality and Equity Initiative (Jennifer Harrison).

The policy is attached (Attachment 2). The Committee has endorsed and we will circulate with the minutes of the BGM.

Motion 1

Megan Clark proposed that the initiative be endorsed by members. Steve Long seconded. The motion was passed by an overwhelming majority of member votes and the policy was endorsed by members.

2.4.2 Potential for increasing the frequency of Radiochemistry/Radioecology symposia or sessions at other conferences e.g. SETAC AU in 7-10th July 2019 Darwin (Tom Cresswell).

Tom discussed the potential for organising a session/special program for inclusion in the Society of Environmental Toxicology and Chemistry Australasia (SETAC AU) conference in Darwin in 2019.

From the SETAC-AU President (Andrew Harford, ERRISS):

The Society of Environmental Toxicology and Chemistry – Australasia is working to strengthen our relationships with societies that have overlapping interests. For our next SETAC-AU conference in 2019 we thought that it would be great to increase our collaboration across disciplines and we are inviting different societies to join us to create special sessions that are attractive to their members as well as our own. SPERA certainly has overlapping interests in the environmental risk of contaminants.

I am proposing that SPERA collaborators create a special session and find speakers for a topic that intersects with the interests of SETAC. At the session we would advertise SPERA, display banners and hand out join-up forms to increase your membership. We would also offer membership registration rates for SPERA members at the conference. We have been asking for sponsorship of \$2000 for the session but I am negotiable on the source of this, i.e. if SPERA can get another entity to fund on your behalf. It may be worth working with RACI Radiochemistry division on holding a joint session at SETAC-AU, similar to the model at the SPERA 2018 conference (albeit shorter). RACI may be willing to be a joint-sponsor or sponsor the session on the behalf of SPERA.

The SETAC-AU conference will be in Darwin 7-10 July and I can keep you updated on our progress.

Discussion from the members was to potentially have a 2-2.5 day symposia at a combined meeting, there will be a lot of overlap between analytical chemists and radioecologists and SETAC members. Rather than a single session, we will try to get involved in 1.5-2 day parallel sessions. It would be possible for RACI Radiochemistry to contribute

\$2,000 to \$3,000 to support such a session. Steve Tims mentioned that we could potentially use money to send SPERA students to the SETAC AU conference.

Motion 2

Tom Cresswell proposed that the new SPERA committee enter discussions with SETAC AU and RACI Radiochemistry to organise a joint session at the SETAC AU conference in July 2019. Stephen Long seconded. Motion passed by majority of members.

2.4.3 Proposition for SPERA to join Science and Technology Australia (STA) (Tom Cresswell).

STA overview

Science & Technology Australia (STA) is Australia's peak body in science and technology. They represent approximately 70,000 Australian scientists and technologists working across all scientific disciplines. STA is a respected and influential contributor to debate on public policy, providing a strong voice for those we represent.

STA organise national events such as Science Meets Parliament, Science Meets Policy Makers and Science Meets Business. They also offer a range of workshops, programs, and events which empower the members and staff of their member organisations. This includes [Superstars of STEM](#), designed to propel Australian women of STEM into the spotlight, and the [Super STEM Communicator Workshops](#).

Benefit to SPERA

As a member of STA, the combined voice of SPERA members and our position on important environmental radioactivity issues within the South Pacific, can be represented to the largest peak body of scientists and technologists in the region including to Australian policy makers. SPERA members would also have the opportunity to attend STA-organised events.

General members have full voting rights at general meetings, and their members are entitled to nominate and vote for office bearing positions on the STA Board or Executive.

Cost to SPERA

Fees are based on the number of full financial members of the society (not including students, retired or overseas members).

The 2018-19 annual fee is \$7.95 per head (indexed to CPI).

As of 7 November 2018, SPERA has 38 Financial members. We would therefore pay a fee of \$302.10 (will be updated post SPERA 2018 conference with new members).

Motion 3

Tom Cresswell proposed that SPERA join STA and Steve Long seconded. Vote taken and 19 votes of yes so motion carried.

Action on SPERA committee to nominate which cluster of STA to join and the new Secretary will organise for SPERA to join STA.

2.4.4 Proposition for SPERA2022 to be held in conjunction with ICRER in Cairns, sometime between September and November 2022 (Stephen Long).

Proposition that SPERA 2022 to be held in conjunction with the International Conference of Radioecology and Environmental Radiation (ICRER). SPERA would assist in the organising but a PCO would be appointed. This would mean that there would be no specific SPERA conference that year. The conference in Cairns is currently only

proposed pending the decision on SPERA. We need to clarify exactly what the SPERA responsibilities would be for the conference (financial and time commitment).

Motion 4

Steven Long proposed that we continue with discussions with IUR to determine the responsibilities of SPERA; We need to know how many SPERA people would need to be involved. Tom Cresswell seconded. Motion passed by majority of member votes.

3 NOMINATIONS FOR SPERA 2020 CONFERENCE

Nomination from the Institute of Environmental Science and Research Limited (ESR), Christchurch, NZ to host SPERA 2020 (Michael Lechermann). No other nominations received so SPERA 2020 will be held in Christchurch, NZ.

4 ELECTION OF SPERA 2018 COMMITTEE

4.1 NOMINATIONS FOR PRESIDENT (PERE MASQUE NOMINEE).

No other nominations. Pere Masque elected President.

4.2 NOMINATIONS FOR VICE PRESIDENT (NOMINATED TO HOST THE SPERA 2020 CONFERENCE; ONLY NOMINATION FROM MICHAEL LECHERMANN).

Nominated by Stephen long and seconded by Steve Tims. Michael Lechermann elected Vice President.

4.3 NOMINATIONS FOR SECRETARY (TOM CRESSWELL NOMINEE).

No other nominations. Tom Cresswell elected Secretary.

4.4 NOMINATIONS FOR TREASURER (STEPHEN LONG NOMINEE).

No other nominations. Stephen Long elected Treasurer.

4.5 NOMINATIONS FOR COMMITTEE MEMBERS; 2 POSITIONS AVAILABLE (JENNIFER HARRISON AND MICHAELA FROEHLICH).

No other nominations. Jennifer Harrison and Michaela Froehlich elected Committee Members.

5 SPERA 2018 COMMITTEE APPOINTMENT OF COMMUNICATION OFFICER (ANDREW YULE NOMINEE)

The members were asked whether there were any members present interested in taking the position of Communication Officer. No other interest registered in the position. The SPERA 2018 Committee appointed Andrew Yule Communication Officer.

SPERA 2018 Committee

President: Pere Masque

Vice-President: Michael Lechermann

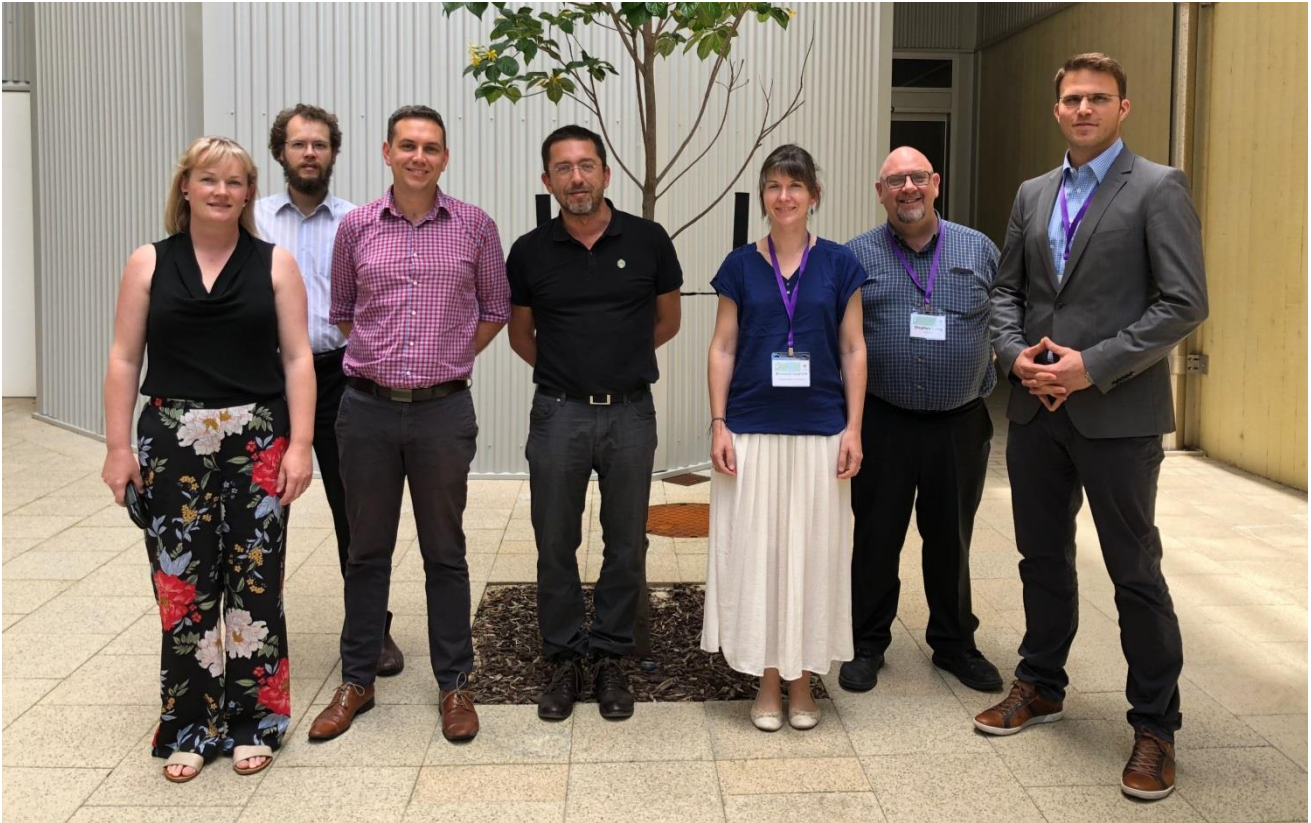
Secretary: Tom Cresswell

Treasurer: Stephen Long

Members: Jennifer Harrison and Michaela Froehlich

SPERA 2018 Officers

Communication Officer: Andrew Yule



SPERA 2018 Committee (left to right): Jennifer Harrison, Andrew Yule, Tom Cresswell, Pere Masque, Michaela Froehlich, Stephen Long, and Michael Lechermann

6 AMENDMENTS TO THE SPERA CONSTITUTION (KLAUS HERMANSPAHN)

The 2018 Committee will conduct a review of the SPERA Constitution and will circulate proposed amendments to the SPERA membership. Article 27(b) requires a 'duly announced general meeting of SPERA' to change the constitution. However, the Committee propose to conduct an online poll to confirm the amendments then hold a teleconference 'general meeting' to agree on the results of the online poll (need 20 members for a quorum). Andrew Johnston in SA will need to be informed of any changes due to SPERA being incorporated in SA.

7 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

No other business. Meeting closed at 18.15.

Attachment 1

SPERA Treasurer's Report: 2017 - 2018

Overview

The SPERA finances are in good shape, with approximately \$3000 in income from membership and minimal on-going costs. This has enabled the association to provide substantial start-up funding for this year's conference. The association has also paid for the development of a professionally designed logo. SPERA has also contributed to the ICRP 'Free the Annals' campaign.

Financial Summaries

2017 – 2018 Financial Year:

Opening Balance	\$26,792.75
Income	\$ 3,040.00
<u>Expenses</u>	<u>\$10,775.04</u>
Closing Balance	\$19,019.71

Income comprises:

- 1 late 2017 subscriptions, at \$75
- 39 full annual subscriptions, at \$75 each, and 2 associate membership, at \$20 each

Expenses comprise:

- account fees on the main account (\$120)
- transaction fees on the PayPal account (2.4% + \$0.30 per payment = \$94.04)
- Deposit for the SPERA2018 conference organiser (\$2000)
- Seed funding for SPERA2018 (\$8000)
- Design of a new logo (\$580)

SPERA2018

The association has advanced \$10,000 to the conference organiser for this year's conference. Based on current registrations and sponsorships, there is a good chance that all of this advance will be returned to the association. The association has offered to provide financial assistance for scientists from the South Pacific region to attend the conference. At this stage, no requests for assistance have been made.

Financial Membership

SPERA has 41 financial members as at July 31. This is a 10% increase in financial membership compared with this time last year.

SPERA also has approximately 60 non-financial members in its database.

ICRP 'Free the Annals'

The members were asked to vote on a proposal to make a one-off donation to the ICRP to make all but its most recent publications free. The proposal was approved and a donation of \$1000 was made last Friday.

Subscription Fee

The 2016 BGM agreed to increase subscription fees to \$75 per annum (with the associate membership fee remaining at \$20). This has not resulted in a decrease in annual membership.

Stephen Long, Treasurer, 5/11/2018

Attachment 2**Equality and Equity Initiatives 2018****Mission**

The South Pacific Environmental Radioactivity Association (SPERA) is committed to establishing and maintaining an association in which equality and diversity is encouraged and where all members are respected and enjoy equitable opportunities.

Overview of SPERA

SPERA is a not for profit, apolitical forum that encourages and facilitates engagement and cooperation among scientists in the field of environmental radioactivity in the South Pacific region. Through SPERA, scientists from different disciplines and organisations from the South Pacific region, and countries world-wide, can discuss and debate the origins and behaviour of natural and anthropogenic radionuclides in the environment; their radiological consequences and the practices required to minimise these; and their application to the understanding of natural processes.

Equality and Equity Initiatives

SPERA is committed to promoting equality and diversity across its membership and elected roles as well as access to equal opportunities for all members. As such, the SPERA committee will ensure that equality and equity are considered across all its functions, including:

- Committee appointments, nominations and the voting process;
- The membership application and approval process;
- The selection of candidates for student awards and student travel support; and
- The selection of content for inclusion in the quarterly newsletter.

The SPERA committee requires both the conference committee and conference organiser to ensure that equality and equity are considered across their activities, including:

- Appointment of upcoming conference organiser;
- Appointment of conference committee members;
- The selection of invited conference speakers; and
- The selection of conference presentations.

Endorsement

On behalf of the SPERA membership, the 2016-2018 SPERA committee support and endorse these initiatives. This initiative statement will be presented to the SPERA membership at the forthcoming BGM in November 2018.

Klaus Hermanspahn, President
Pere Masque, Vice President
Tom Cresswell, Secretary

Stephen Long, Treasurer
Jennifer Harrison, Committee Member
Steve Tims, Committee Member