

MODELLING AND SIMULATION SOCIETY OF AUSTRALIA AND NEW ZEALAND INC.



ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

5.10pm, 15 July 2003

Ballroom 2, Jupiters Casino, Townsville, Queensland, Australia

Present:

Tony Jakeman, Michael McAleer, David White, Lachlan Newham, Rebecca Letcher, John Norton, Susan Cuddy, Andre Zerger, Tomita Totsuo, Steve Wealands, Lou Caccetta, Toshio Nakanishi, Klaus Bongarlz, Wolfgang Flugel, Wynand Verwoerd, Don Kulasiri, Alan McIhinne, Pat Pepper, Susan Kelo, Barry Croke, Felix Andrews, Bob Cechet, Sergei Schreider, V Tumi Bjornsson, Hari Koemarno, Harry Pumomo, Vince Bidwell, David Mayer, Mark Howden, Suhejia Hoti, Clinton Watkins, Baiding Hu, Kiaz Ahareef, Les Oxley, Lee Kiam Lim, Christine Lim, Ric Herbert, William Chivers, Dora Marinova, John Kennedy, Neil Viney, Bruce Lewis, David Wilson, Renate Sitte, Tony Dekker, Tom Chapman, Robert Argent.

1. **Apologies**
Nil

2. **Minutes of the 2002 AGM** held on 5 December 2002 at the Australian National University were approved

Moved: Susan Cuddy; Seconded Lachlan Newham
Motion Carried

Business from the Minutes
Discussed under General Business.

3. **President's Report**

The President, Tony Jakeman, gave a verbal report.

Firstly, congratulations to David Post for his wonderful organisation of MODSIM 2003. The meeting recorded its appreciation of David's efforts by applause. Secondly, preparation for MODSIM 2005 is going well with 2 convenors appointed - Andre Zerger as Scientific Program convener and Robert Argent as Chair of the Local Organising Committee.

Would also like to record the Society's appreciation to Andrea Rizzoli for the WCMT tool, used for paper submission and registration. Any feedback on the tool's performance would be appreciated - to the MSSANZ Committee and/or Andrea. A small investment by MSSANZ (and tens of thousands of dollars of in-kind) have produced a wonderful conference tool which is also being used by the International Environmental Modelling & Software Society (iEMSs) to give some efficiency.

A journal that is unofficially associated with MSSANZ and iEMSs is Environmental Modelling and Software. Its 9 Board members were present at MODSIM and held a meeting yesterday. Would like to report to members that that journal is moving to 12 issues per year. The Process of producing Special Issues from conference papers is under Other Business.

Would also like to record appreciation to those people involved in the MSSANZ office over last 2 years, especially to Sue Kelo who runs day-to-day business, Sue Cuddy as Secretary and Lachlan Newham as Treasurer.

4. Vice-President's Report

The Vice-President, Michael McAleer, discussed the role of students in the Society. The presence of a large number of students at this Conference is extremely desirable and of great value and interest to all 75 students being assessed for awards. For gender balance, do need to encourage greater percentage of female participants.

In terms of prizes, Michael encouraged members to nominate people who are worthy of being Fellows and Biennial Medallists. Usually people are too modest to nominate their friends. Not too much difficulty in filling 3 slots - but would like to have names to be considered for future medallist and fellowships.

5. Treasurer's Report

The Treasurer distributed statements of income & expenditures, and balance sheet, for the financial year 1 July 2002 - 30 June 2003 was tabled. Accounts have been prepared on an accrual basis so that any anticipated expenses have been taken into account. The statements use limited documentation from MODSIM 2003 conference because waiting on invoice from CSIRO. Anticipate a modest profit from the conference.

For the first time, accounts have been audited by chartered accountant, Kay Giffin, as directed at last AGM.

Motion: "that the financial statements be accepted."

Moved - Susan Cuddy, Seconded - David White.

Motion Carried

6. Election of Office Bearers

Most nominations were received prior to the meeting in accordance with the Constitution. These nominations plus two additional Committee member nominations from the floor, were endorsed by the meeting.

President:	Tony Jakeman
Vice President:	Michael McAleer
Secretary:	Susan Cuddy
Treasurer:	Lachlan Newham
Public Officer:	Robert Argent
Committee:	Les Oxley
	Andre Zerger
	Christine Lim
	A David McDonald
	Vince Bidwell
	David Post
	Dora Marinova
	Les Oxley
	Mark Howden
	Don Kulasiri

7. Election of Committees

7.1 Awards Committee

The President notified members of the formation of an Awards Committee which would be a regular Committee of the Society. The purpose of the committee is to manage the nomination and selection process for fellowships, biennial medals and early career research excellence prizes.

It was ratified by the meeting that the Committee be formed with membership of Tony Jakeman (Chair) and Fellows Dora Marinova and Les Oxley. This composition gives a geographical and theme (natural, general, economic) coverage.

7.2 Student Prize Committee

At this MODSIM, Vince Bidwell had agreed to chair this Committee - which is established on the run, depending on who is attending the Conference.

Vince spoke about difficulties at MODSIM 2003 which had a much larger number of students than in previous conferences. Previous judging procedures haven't worked as well for so many papers. In addition, the papers were distributed rather unevenly across the categories. This was of concern to students as it meant that, in different categories, students have markedly different opportunity to earn prizes. Further, it was recognised in the past that the quality of the written paper is important in the assessment and this was OK when a small number of papers. This year, most attendees have opted to get CDs so many judges haven't had access to written papers. This could be easily fixed next time, eg the session chair could mark the written paper before the session. Oral presentations have improved dramatically and now need written criteria which differentiates. Despite these difficulties, Vince felt confident that the Committee will be able to make a just decision at this Conference.

The meeting thanked Vince for his work.

8. Any Other Business

8.1 Newsletter

The president requested input from members on the future of the Society's newsletter, generally produced once or twice a year (last one in June 2002). These require a fair effort to produce and their purpose is partly usurped by the website. However, it is good to have hard copy and be able to report at more length on award winners, and their biographies. An issue costs about \$1,000 plus people's time to produce. We would be happy to have an issue this year which would report on the awards from this conference. Do people want to continue?

The members agreed on the following

An email twice a year or so, to coincide with updates to the website.
In addition, a hard copy newsletter which could be sent out with conference mailout (postage costs then covered). 2nd call for papers would be September 2004

- (1) an email newsletter in a few months which reported on this conference
- (2) a printed one next year (A4) to go out with brochure and poster (postage costs then covered). Timing would be about September 2004 when 2nd call for papers would go out.

The members confirmed that sending out glossy version of brochure and poster important because people can't often print out pdfs. Many good reasons to distribute hard copy.

- (3) Emails every so often, to coincide with updates to the website and other news.

8.2 Services to Members

Distribution of Brochures - Some members would like poster and brochures to put up in Uni departments and take to other conferences as they saw enormous value in MODSIM, especially for students. The President responded that the Society used to send out brochures to all relevant Departments in Australia and would resurrect the practice. Also need to expand the recruitment of session organisers because that expands the range of disciplines presenting at the conference.

Supporting Students - The President discussed that the Society is actively looking at what services it can provide to students - the future generation of researchers. A meeting for students to be held on Thursday morning for students to tell the Society what they want out of the society.

Code of Behaviour - President expressed concern at condescending nature of how some people question students and floated the concept of needing a small code of conduct. In

fact, the students are probably doing more of the model testing and giving better presentations.

Access to membership list? - President reported that the society already had a mailing list which could be used to contact other members. This is managed by Andrea Rizzoli. For general information on the list, go to <http://www.iemss.org/mailman/listinfo/mssanz>

WebSite - The website has moved to its official address of <http://mssanz.org.au>. The website is presently under redesign. Currently sorting out how the MODSIM2005 website will be accessed.

8.3 Publication of Conference Papers in Journals

The President reported that the Board of "Environmental Modelling and Software" journal intend to set aside about 2-3 special issues each year for papers from MODSIM and iEMSS. This is rather less than at present.

A special issue can be a double issue, ie about 200 pages, 20 x 10 page papers. How to select papers? At present papers are selected by Special Issue editors. Agreed that editors could ask for recommendations from session chairs.

Timing. It takes 12-18 months to get a special issue through to journal, with a further 5 months for publication. Special Issues must be out before next conference (a longer period this time, nearly 2.5 years)

The meeting agreed that special issues should contain some student papers, some keynotes, and recommendations from session chairs. Everyone is of course welcome to submit their papers directly to the journal.

Michael McAleer informed meeting that there are other outlets, eg *MatCom* (ed Les Oxley) and *Applied Numerical Mathematics* (ed Michael McAleer). In fact, Michael finds it difficult to fill a special issue of the latter. If interested, please contact Tony, Michael, or Les Oxley. Need about 10 papers and usually get only about 6 every 2 years.

8.4 Student Prizes

The President reported that in the past the Society had given a substantial cash prize of \$500 to each of three winners. This year this has been changed to a two year subscription to EMS. This was a case of crossed wires (did not meet last year's AGM decision). The issue is the appropriate remuneration, not what the Society can afford.

After considerable discussion, it was agreed that student prizes would be **\$500 plus EMS subscription**.

8.5 MODSIM 2005

Dates: 12-15 December 2005.

Venue: Probably Uni of Melbourne.

Website: Will be <http://mssanz.org.au/modsim05> (not yet available)

8.6 AWARDS

Awards were announced on 23 June. Student prizes to be announced at conclusion of the Conference.

2003 Biennial Medallists

Professor Peter Phillips, Yale University (Socioeconomic Systems)

Professor Hugh Possingham, University of Queensland (General Systems)

Dr Myriam Bormans, CSIRO Land and Water (Natural Systems)

2003 Early Career Research Excellence

Dr Jackie Robinson, University of Queensland (Socioeconomics)

Dr Shiqing Ling, Hong Kong University of Science and Technology
(Socioeconomics)
Dr Grace Mitchell, CSIRO Manufacturing and Infrastructure Technology (General)
Dr Andre Zerger, CSIRO Sustainable Ecosystems (General)
Dr John Gallant, CSIRO Land and Water (Natural)
Dr Hua Lu, CSIRO Land and Water (Natural)

Meeting closed 6.30pm.

UNCONFIRMED