



Modelling and Simulation Society of Australia and New Zealand

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING - MINUTES

(5.00pm, Tuesday 26 November 2024)

Stellaria room in the Synergy Building, CSIRO Black Mountain and online

1 Attendance and apologies

Online: Linh Ho, Conrad Wasko, Leorey Marquez, Hazel Parry, David Marlow, Sandy Elliott, Stefan Reis, Fitsum Woldemeskel, Willem Vervoort, Travis Stenborg, Sondoss El Sawah, Georgy Sofronov, Val Snow, Jo Owens

In person: David Post, Susan Cuddy, Ivy Miao (Exec Officer), Barry Croke

Apologies: Jin Teng, Chia-Lin Chang, Emiliya Suprun, John Boland, Simon Dunstall

2 Welcome and opening remarks

The AGM was opened by the President in the Chair, who welcomed everyone and expressed gratitude for their involvement in the Society's activities.

3 Minutes of previous meeting

Draft https://mssanz.org.au/documents/minutes/MSSANZ_AGM2023_Minutes_DRAFT.pdf

Motion:

"that the minutes of the 2023 Annual General Meeting held on 11 July 2023 be accepted as a true and correct record."

Moved: Susan Cuddy; Seconded: Willem Vervoort
ACCEPTED

4 President's report

The President gave a short verbal report. One of the highlights of the year being the **50th Anniversary celebrations** in May when members gathered in various locations around Australia and China to celebrate together.

MODSIM2025

- **Paper submissions and full papers:** The Chair shared an update on the status of MODSIM 2025 paper submissions, noting a reduction in full paper submissions but reiterating the importance of retaining full papers for the community. Over 100 full papers were submitted last year, highlighting the need to maintain this option.
- **Potential new partner:** The APSIM (Agricultural Production Systems Simulator) Initiative has expressed interest in partnering with MODSIM 2025, to include a workshop the weekend prior to MODSIM and a dedicated session in the Biological Systems stream for presentations.

MEMBERS

- **Stream leadership changes:** The AGM acknowledged the contributions of those long-serving MODSIM stream leaders who have stood down this year, and welcomed the new stream leaders.
 - Retiring leaders are Malcolm McPhee (Biological systems), Behzad Rismanchi (Energy, integrated infrastructure and urban planning), Christoph Rudiger (Global change and natural hazards), Louise Freebairn (Health and biosecurity) and Melanie Ayre (ASOR) due to retirement or other reasons. The Chair thanked the outgoing stream leaders for their contributions.
 - New Stream leaders are Hazel Parry (Biological systems), Linh Ho and Felix Chan (Economics and finance), Lui Cirocco (Energy, integrated infrastructure and urban planning), Jason Sharples (Global change and natural hazards), Jens Froese (Health and biosecurity) and Hasan Turan (ASOR).
 - **ACTION:** The Chair proposed including a special acknowledgment of these individuals in the upcoming newsletter
 - **ACTION:** President to write to retiring and incoming Stream Leaders thanking them for their service to the Society.

- **Volunteer recognition:** The AGM recognised the importance of maintaining a volunteer-based culture within the Society. The President took the opportunity to thank the members of the **Management Committee** and **Awards Committee** for their hard work. He also welcomed Ivy Miao as our new **Executive Officer**, replacing Karen Mobbs who had supported the Society since MODSIM2005.

MENTORING

The meeting discussed the proposal for MODSIM2025 (and the Society in general) of setting up Mentoring arrangement (informal). Especially encourage Fellows to mentor younger and/or new members, specially at MODSIM congresses.

5 Treasurer's report

- The Treasurer Georgy Sofronov reported that the society continues to be in good financial health. The net result from MODSIM2023 was a positive balance, 100% due to the financial incentive the Society received from the Northern Territory government for bringing people to the Territory. This indicates the critical role that sponsors play in managing the financial aspects of the conference.
- The 2022/23 financial year audited statements were presented by the Treasurer

Motion

"that the audited 2023/24 financial year statement be accepted."

Moved: Georgy Sofronov; Seconded: Tony Weber

ACCEPTED

6 Tabling of 2023 Student awards

- **Best student oral presentation**
 - Sarah Vollert, Queensland University of Technology
Unlocking ensemble ecosystem modelling for simulation of high-dimensional networks: From days to minutes
 - Tanvir Mahmud Saurav, University of New South Wales, Canberra
A computational framework for phenomenological modelling of ember storms at the wildland-urban interface
- **Commendation for student oral presentation**
 - Caroline Rosello, Australian National University
Identifying factors influencing water planning: Benefits of a capability approach?
 - Gabrielle Burns, The University of Melbourne
A practical approach to assessing climate change impacts on snow cover and streamflow in southeast Australia
- **Commendation for student poster**
 - Luca Trotter, The University of Melbourne
Variable storage capacity in hydrological models to enhance performance under contrasting climates

7 Tabling of 2024 MSSANZ Fellows Awards

For 'unselfish dedication to promoting the aims of the Society, and for significant contributions to modelling and simulation'

- **Professor Min Chen, Nanjing Normal University, Nanjing, China**
- **Dr Sandy Elliott, NIWA, New Zealand**
- **Dr Jin Teng, CSIRO Environment, Australia**

The Awards Committee noted the high calibre of all nominees and encouraged those who were not successful in this round to resubmit next round. They also thanked those members who took the time to nominate their colleagues.

8 Election of Management and Award Committees

Both Committees have diverse membership (Australia & New Zealand, academia, industry and research organisations). The Management Committee meets every 3 months and plays a key role in supporting the

Executive in progressing Society activities and keeping the Society fresh and relevant to members. The Awards Committee meets as needed to evaluate nominations for Fellows (in even years) and Biennial Medallists and Early Career Researcher Award Recipients (in odd years).

The current **Management Committee** members are:

- **Executive**
 - President – David Post
 - Vice-President – Sondoss Elsawah
 - Association Secretary – Susan Cuddy
 - Treasurer – Georgy Sofronov
 - Committee Secretary – Willem Vervoort
- **(Normal) Committee members**
- Chia-Lin Chang (National Chung Hsing University, Taiwan), Barry Croke (Australian National University), Sandy Elliott (NIWA, New Zealand), Amir Gandomi (University of Technology Sydney, Australia), Maryam Ghodrat (University of New South Wales, Australia), Linh Ho (Lincoln University, New Zealand), David Marlow (DST Group, Australia), Jo Owens (University of Southern Queensland, Australia), Stefan Reis (DLR-PT, Germany), Val Snow (AgResearch Ltd, New Zealand), Emiliya Suprun (University of New South Wales, Canberra), Tony Weber (Alluvium, Australia), Fitsum Woldemeskel (Bureau of Meteorology, Australia)

Motion:

“that the current members of the Management Committee serve until the 2025 AGM”

Moved: Hazel Parry; Seconded: Leorey Marquez
ACCEPTED

The current **Awards Committee** are Society Fellows – Val Snow (chair), Francis Chiew, Chia-Lin Chang, Sondoss Elsawah, Tony Jakeman, Tony Weber.

Motion:

“that the current members of the Awards Committee serve until the 2025 AGM”

Moved: Leorey Marquez; Seconded: Susan Cuddy
ACCEPTED

9 General business

Publishing MODSIM Papers in Journals

- The issue of publishing MODSIM papers post-conference was raised. The Chair noted that while some journals have published MODSIM papers in the past, there are significant challenges in ensuring papers are substantially revised before publication. The society will continue exploring options with journals for 2025.
- The possibility of sharing DOIs directly to the public was also discussed as an alternative to traditional journal publication.
- The Chair reminded attendees that a call for session organizers would be going out soon and encouraged members to get involved.
- The meeting was closed, with thanks extended to all who participated in the AGM and the ongoing work of the society.

Authorised by

Susan Cuddy

MSSANZ Committee Secretary

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Minutes accepted as a true record by members at the 2025 AGM. Moved Georgy Sofronov, seconded Susan Cuddy.