



Modelling and Simulation Society of Australia and New Zealand

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING – MINUTES

6.00pm ACST, Tuesday 2 December 2025

Room E1, Adelaide Convention Centre, Adelaide, Australia

1 Attendance and apologies

In attendance: Available on request to the Secretary

Apologies: Biennial Medallist, Jason Evans

2 Minutes of previous Annual General Meeting

Tabling of minutes of 2024 AGM – as 2024 was a non-conference year, no decisions were made as there was no quorum.

Motion: “that the minutes of the 2024 Annual General Meeting held on 26 November 2024 be accepted as a true and correct record.”

Moved: Georgy Sofronov; Seconded: Susan Cuddy

ACCEPTED

3 President’s report

The AGM was opened by the President in the Chair, who welcomed everyone to the AGM and thanks them for their engagement in the Society’s activities.

Thanks to

- Committee members, congress co-convenors, stream and session organisers, student judges and members for their support
- Sponsors and exhibitors

Shout out to

- Julien Lerat for organising the Student judging
- the ECR/YP Committee for organising Friday workshop & mentor/mentee program (with Willem Verwoort)
- The Water Quality SIG for their build of the SIG
- Fellow Sandy Elliott for his design of the poster ‘The Road to a Special Interest Group (SIG)

Excited to have joining us

- The APSIM Initiative – running their conference in Stream B
- The Aust Society of Operations Research – Stream M
- The Open Modeling Foundation – Panel discussion Tuesday
- The International Environmental Modelling & Software Society (iEMSs)

MODSIM feedback survey will come online within the next few weeks.

4 Treasurer’s report

The 2024/25 audited financial year statements were presented by Treasurer, Georgy Sofronov.

Considerable discussion on investment of Sinking Fund (a term deposit with Commonwealth Bank of Australia that comes up for renewal next year), budgeting for conferences (why sponsors and state government tourist bureau support are so important to offset expenses).

Statements are available to members on request to the Treasurer.

ACTION: Future statements to include previous year's figures for comparison.

Motion: *"that the audited 2024/25 financial year statements be accepted."*

Moved: Willem Vervoort; Seconded: Wendy Merrit

ACCEPTED

5 Tabling of 2025 Early Career Research Excellence Awards

For 'emerging international profile and an impressive contribution to the advancement of modelling and simulation in research and/or industry; and attended at least 2 MODSIM congresses'

A round of applause was given for:

- Clare Stephens, Western Sydney University AU
- Andrew John, University of Melbourne AU
- Nevenka Bulovic, University of Queensland AU

Bios will be included in the January 2027 MSSANZ newsletter.

6 Tabling of 2025 Biennial Medallists

For 'exceptional research contributions to modelling and simulation, and for promoting the aims of the Society'

A round of applause was given for:

- Prof Kate O'Brien, University of Queensland AU
- Jason Sharples, The University of New South Wales AU
- Prof Min Chen, Nanjing Normal University, China.

Bios will be included in the January 2027 MSSANZ newsletter.

7 Management Committee nominations

Nominations were received prior to the AGM and all positions filled. * indicates returning members

Position	Nominee
Management Committee	
President	David Post*, CSIRO
Vice-President	Sondoss Elsawah*, UNSW Canberra
Treasurer	Georgy Sofronov*, Macquarie University
Association Secretary	Susan Cuddy*, CSIRO
Committee Secretary	Willem Vervoort*, Sydney University
Ordinary member (11)	Chia-Lin Chang*, NCHU Taiwan
	David Marlow*, DSTG AU
	Sandy Elliott*, NZ
	Linh Ho*, Lincoln Uni NZ
	Tony Weber*, Alluvium AU
	Val Snow*, Bioeconomy Science Institute NZ
	Barry Croke*, ANU
	Nevenka Bulovic, U Qld
	Sayed Hossein Hosseini, Syd Uni
	Shawn Laffan, UNSW
	Andrew John, U Melb

Position	Nominee
Awards Committee	
Members must be Fellows of the Society	Val Snow*, Ag Research Ltd, New Zealand
	Chia-Lin Chang*, Taiwan University
	Tony Weber*, Alluvium
	Tony Jakeman*, ANU
	Sondoss Elawah*, UNSW Canberra

Motion: "that the nominations for the Management Committee as tabled be endorsed."

Moved: Stefan Reis; Seconded: Melanie Roberts

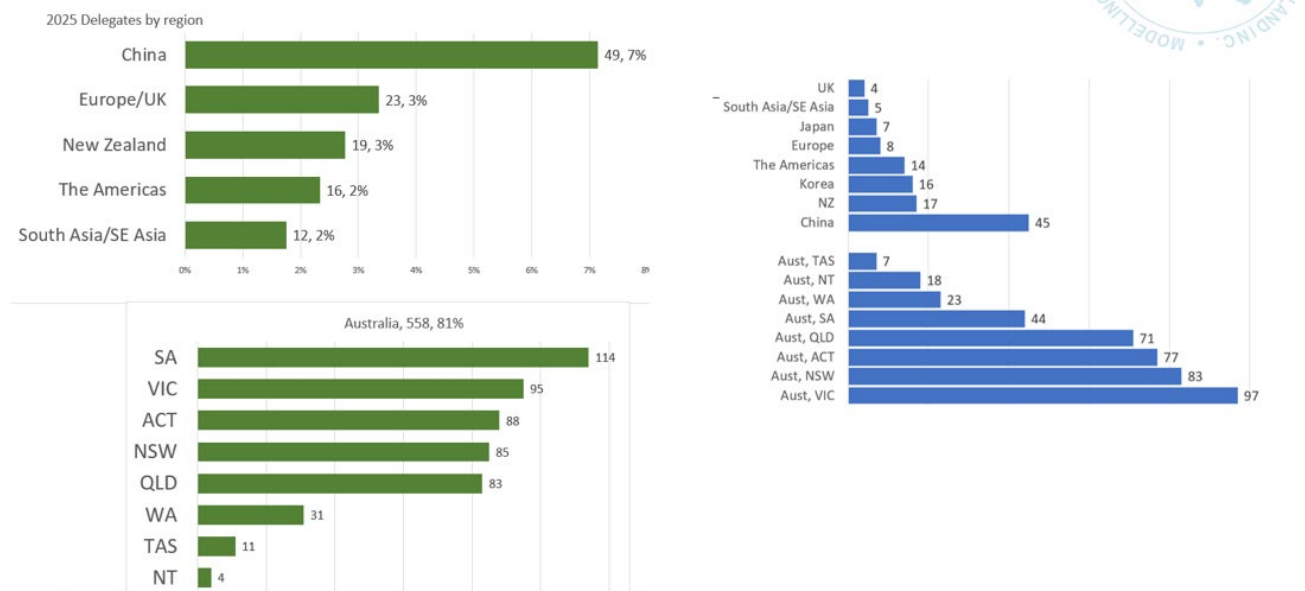
ACCEPTED

Motion: "that the nominations for the Awards Committee as tabled be endorsed."

Moved: Freeman Cook; Seconded: Wendy Merritt

ACCEPTED

8 MODSIM2025 statistics



A: Maths; B Biological; C Computer Science/Engineering; D Economics/Finance; E Energy/urban planning; F Env/Eco; G Global change/natural hazards; H Health/Biosecurity; I Social systems; J Water Res; K Hydroclimate; L Water quality; M ASOR (Australian Society for Operations Research)/DORS (DSTG led Defence Operations Research Symposium)

	2025			2023			2021			2019			2017		
	Orals	Posters	# sessions	Orals	Posters	# sessions	Orals/posters	# sessions		Orals/posters	# sessions		Orals/posters	# sessions	
A	31	5	5	21	5	4	26	3		39			39		
B	61	10	9	44	4	6	47	8		32			55		
C	26	1	6	38	3	5	21	4		25			71		
D	22	2	5	13	2	2	0	0		18			19		
E	28	5	5	19	1	3	10	2		18			20		
F	76	11	11	30	1	4	25	4		58			45		
G	55	3	7	51	3	7	38	6		103			79		
H	21	1	5	22	1	4	13	2		14			20		
I	10	2	4	32	2	5	27	3		41			44		
J	91	6	11	88	10	8	90	10		90			203		
K	55	3	8	52	3	6	77	10							
L	31	8	4	29	6	3	38	4							
M	24	1	3	29	1	4	85	9		65			39		
N							7	1							
	531	58	83	468	42	61	570	66		645	87		634		
No. delegates		692			537		719			788					
No. students		136			123		64 49 virtual			190					
No. student judges		95													
No. assessments		408													
		Full papers	95		Full papers	103	Full papers	143		Full papers	173				
		Abstracts	494		Abstracts	406	Abstracts	386		Abstracts	472				
			589			509		529			645				

9 MODSIM2027 planning

The first set of co-convenors and location for MODSIM2027 were announced. Website <https://mssanz.org.au/modsim2027>

Boorloo/Perth, Western Australia



Boorloo is the Noongar name for Perth. The Traditional Owners of Boorloo are the Whadjuk, a clan that is part of a larger group of 13 or more tribes that formed the language group known as the Noongar, meaning 'the people'.

Congress Convenors

Prof Feilx Chan, Curtin Uni
Dr Guobin Fu, CSIRO
Joel Hall, DWER, WA govt
Sally Thompson, UWA

Location

Perth Convention and Exhibition Centre (PCEC)

Dates

Congress 5-9 December 2027
Workshops 10 December 2027

Principal Sponsors

Business Events Perth

10 General business

10.1 Feedback on extended abstracts vs full papers

General consensus is to retain full papers as an option (see MODSIM2025 stats for numbers). Special Issues of journals are being prepared by Streams A (Applied and computational mathematics, Barry Croke & Georgy Sofronov), D (Economics and finance, Chia-Lin Chang, Felix Chan, & Linh Ho) and K (Hydroclimate, Yongqiang Zhang & Conrad Wasko).

10.2 Production of proceedings

Current process (agreed a few years ago) is that all papers (full and abstracts) are DOI-ed and made available as individual documents from mssanz.org.au. Previously abstracts were only available within a Book of Abstracts. We no longer compile as Proceedings (as the additional effort to do this was not rewarded by automatic inclusion in Web of Science's Conference Proceedings Citation Index (CPCI) database. Papers from 2019 onwards are DOI-ed. The move of the Society website to WordPress requires us to rebuild our workflows, which will delay publication. (Apology in advance).

10.3 Marketing and Society presence on LinkedIn

We paid for a LinkedIn campaign this year – return on investment is not yet known. However, it is clear that the Society needs a regular presence on LinkedIn and other platforms.

ACTION: Members interested in contributing, pls contact office@mssanz.org.au

10.4 Proposed new Society Award for recognition of modellers outside of research organisations

On request from the Executive, the Awards Committee has drafted criteria for an **Industry Award**. This will be socialised with members during 2026. Should the Award be agreed to, nominations will be opened at the same time as call for Biennial Medallists, i.e. in odd years.

10.5 Conference formatting

10.5.1 PROMOTING INDIGENOUS INCLUSION

- Jason Sharples, Fellow and 2025 Biennial Medallist, raised the issue of increasing Indigenous content and engagement. Jason suggested we consider an invited lecture, such as the Dr Yunupingu Lecture of the Aust. Mathematical Society (AustMS).
- David Post reported that an Indigenous session was included in MODSIM2025, but did not receive any papers. Freeman Cook suggested to 'advertise' more in NZ and Canada.
- Andrew Western reported that there was significant Indigenous content and participants at the Water Quality SIG Symposium in NZ, 2024. How to build on that?

- Kate Holland suggested an option of including Indigenous in invited panel speakers
- Fellow Simon Dunstall suggested that embracing Indigenous within current streams may be better than having a separate session, i.e. people may prefer to stay within their modelling community
- A relevant consideration is that the Society does not collect information from members on their gender or ethnicity or language spoken as they are not required for MODSIM programming (and would thus be in breach of the Privacy Act). Thus, we do not know how many of our members identify as First Nations/Indigenous etc. For further discussion?

10.5.2 PANEL SESSIONS INCLUSION

Fiona Johnson reported that panel sessions at the conference allowed for important cross-theme issues to be raised and discussed. Invitations to panel speakers needs to have guidelines put in place, such as needing to be registered.

ACTION: Pick up on lessons learnt and feedback from MODSIM2025 panel organisers and prepare guidelines for future conferences.

ACTION: Suggestions for panels for MODSIM2027 to be emailed to modsim2027@mssanz.org.au

10.6 Sister society, iEMSs

The 13th International Congress on Environmental Modelling and Software (iEMSs 2026) will be held at University College Dublin (UCD), 12-16 July 2026. The theme is *Environmental Modelling for a Resilient Future: Integrating Data, Systems, Stakeholders and Societal Systems*; <https://conference.iemss.org>

10.7 SIGs update

- WQ SIG working well and preparing their program for 2026 and 2027
- Sandy Elliott's design for poster on how to set up a SIG fantastic
 - o ACTION: Upload the poster to SIG area on Society website.
- Health SIG still getting its feet.
- Members are welcome to put forward ideas for further SIGs

Meeting closed 7.25pm

Authorised by

Susan Cuddy

MSSANZ Association Secretary

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