



**Australasian Grain Science Association**  
**2021 Annual General Meeting – Minutes**  
16:00 – 17:20 AEDT, Tuesday 24 August 2021  
Teleconference via Microsoft Teams ([Meeting Link](#))

**Present:** 40 (see attached attendee list)

**Apologies:** Colin Wrigley (could not connect).

**Start:** 16:00 AEDT

1. **Welcome from AGSA Chair (Cassandra Walker, CW)**
  - CW welcomed all present. Colin Wrigley attempted to join the AGM but had connection issues, so was added as an apology.
  
2. **Minutes of previous (2020) AGM, and matters arising (CW)**
  - Minutes of the 2020 AGSA AGM had been made available on the AGSA website since September 2020, and a copy was distributed to members via email and newsletter.
  - Matters arising from the minutes – Nil.
  - **MOTION:** That the minutes of the 2020 AGSA AGM be accepted as presented. Moved: CW. Seconded: Philip Downie (PD). All in favour. Carried.
  
3. **AGSA Chair's report (CW)**
  - The 71<sup>st</sup> Australasian Grain Science conference is progressing well.
  - CW acknowledged that the Conference Organising Committee (Lindsay O'Brien, Bronwyn Elliott, Philip Downie, Mike Sissons, Angela Pattison, Jesse Beasley, Dan Mullan, and Chris Blanchard) has undertaken to put on such a great forum. Also, thank you to Evise (Jade, Kylie, Vicki) for audio visual support throughout the conference.
  - **MOTION:** That AGSA acknowledges the huge amount of work that Lindsay O'Brien and the organising committee have put into the conference, and congratulate them on a job well done. Moved: CW. Seconded: Jennifer Dang (JD). All in favour. Carried.
  - Thank you to Council members and AGSA Committees for all the hard work that they have put in to support this organisation. Activities that AGSA had undertaken throughout the year include:
    - Regular online council meetings to address any current or upcoming issues;
    - Connected our members through AGSA's regular newsletters;

- Started the Advisory Committee, which has defined AGSA's Vision and Mission statements. It is important that we stay relevant and support our student membership, who are the next generation of grain science researchers.
- Welcomed 115 AGSA members to our community for 2021-2022.
- Presented two FB Guthrie Grain Science medals, the AB Blakeney Early Career Development Scholarship, the Megazyme AGSA Service Award, and six Student Travel Awards. Congratulations to all awardees.
- Updated banking and payment arrangements to reflect transfer to new AGSA treasurer.
- Appointed a new Methods Convenor (Hugh Robertson), who has been busy ensuring that the AGSA methods are updated and relevant.
- Over the next 12 months we will be revisiting the operating terms for AGSA, including reviewing and defining the roles and responsibilities of the Executive and Council (including Servants to Council) to share workloads across the various positions.
- **MOTION:** That the AGSA Chair's report be accepted as presented. Moved: CW. Seconded: Russell Eastwood (RE). All in favour. Carried.

#### 4. **Conference Chair's report (Lindsay O'Brien, LOB)**

- The conference has been going well so far. We have 105 registrants (60 full and 45 students).
- Thank you to the Conference Organising Committee, especially Mike Sissons for putting together the scientific program, sorting through all the abstracts to form the session themes. It has been a rewarding experience to have such an experienced and capable team of people working behind the scenes to support the conference.
- Thank you to Eviser for the audio visual support, they have done a fantastic job and proceedings have run smoothly. Minor hiccups were resolved quickly.
- Thank you to all the sponsors who have supported us throughout the years and, in particular, through these last two difficult years.
- Despite all the issues with Covid restrictions and rapid change in conference format, AGSA will make a modest surplus, which is a positive outcome.
- Congratulations to all awardees, who were all deserving of their awards. One more award (Student/ECR Oral Presentation) to be handed out tomorrow.
- **MOTION:** That the Conference Chair's report be accepted as presented. Moved: LOB. Seconded: Bronwyn Elliott (BE). All in favour. Carried.

#### 5. **Treasurer's report (Philip Downie, PD)**

- AGSA has made a profit of \$5754.42 all up for the last financial year. Note this includes a few things from last year's report since it was reported up to the conference date (August 2020).
- We had an income of \$24373.28 for the 2020-21 financial year, with major sources being memberships (\$425.00), bank interest (\$1560.01) and registrations for the 2021 conference (\$20587.27).

- Expenditure for the 2020-21 financial year was \$18618.86, with main items being bank fees (659.59), website maintenance (2868.95), awards for 2020 conference (\$760.00), NZ conference spends (\$5496.19), 2018 AB Blakeney award reimbursement (\$5000.00), and 5x Student Travel Awards for 2021 conference (\$3000.00).
- AGSA has three accounts, with total assets (at 30<sup>th</sup> June 2021) of \$393007.33:
  - Term deposits at \$150000.00
  - Cash management at \$72284.33
  - Cheque at \$170696.13
- We have set up a new debit card for online transactions. The debit card was preferred over credit for security reasons. We are working on adjusting our PayPal account with updated information of current Treasurer and Chair/Secretary.
- Future expenses will include major modifications to the website to automate payments, simplifying the online registration form to make it more user-friendly, and sorting out cloud storage for AGSA documents.
- **MOTION:** That the Treasurer's report be accepted as presented. Moved: PD. Seconded: Frank Bekes (FB). All in favour. Carried.

#### 6. **2022 Conference Update (Crispin Howitt, CH)**

- Assuming a face-to-face conference is possible, the plan is to have it in Canberra in 2022.
- Tentative conference dates are 24-26 August 2022, this is scheduled to fit between the Barley Technical Symposium (deferred from 2020) earlier in the week and before the Wheat Breeders' Assembly the following week.
- The venue is the Rydges Capitol Hill, pending confirmation that they are still available.
- CH will shortly be looking for volunteers to be on the conference committee.
- CW urged members to please contact CH if they would like to volunteer.
- **MOTION:** That the 2022 Conference Chair's report be accepted as presented. Moved: CH. Seconded: Larisa Cato (LC). All in favour. Carried.

#### 7. **Advisory Committee Report (Mike Gidley, MG)**

- Last year AGSA Council set up an Advisory Committee to provide it with advice on:
  - AGSA's strategic direction including the development of vision and mission statements;
  - Achieving the Association's goals; and
  - External matters that may affect AGSA operations.
- The Advisory Committee was to lead the development of a 10-year plan for grain science in Australasia and the role of AGSA.
- The Committee now has 11 members, representing a broad selection across geographical employment, career stage, gender, and age:
  - Frank Bekes – consultant
  - Rewati Bhattarai – Curtin University
  - Chris Blanchard – Charles Sturt University

- Mike Gidley – University of Queensland - Chair
- Kate Howell – University of Melbourne
- Jixun Luo – CSIRO (Canberra)
- Angela Pattison – University of Sydney (Narrabri)
- Emily Salkeld – Small World Bakery
- Mike Sissons – NSW DPI
- Daniel Skylas – Australian Export Grains Innovation Centre (Sydney)
- Cassandra Walker - Agriculture Victoria – AGSA Chair
- The following Vision and Mission statements (following comments from AGSA members) have been approved by AGSA Council:
  - **Vision:** *A vibrant Australasian grain science community delivering positive impact to industry and society*
  - **Mission:** *AGSA will foster innovative grain science and promote a sustainable grains industry with positive impacts on society. We will connect grain scientists, support career development, curate grain science methods, facilitate discussion on emerging science, industry and society issues, and be a voice for the Australasian grain science community nationally and internationally.*
- The Committee is currently addressing the action areas identified in the Mission statement for proposed ways forward under three headings:
  - Supporting career development and connecting grain scientists;
  - Curating grain science methods; and
  - Being a voice for the Australasian grain science community nationally and internationally (including facilitating discussion on emerging science, industry and society issues).
- **MOTION:** That the Advisory Committee report be accepted as presented. Moved: MG. Seconded: Bob Cracknell (BC). All in favour. Carried.
- Frank Bekes (FB): It is sad that there is no conference proceedings, or publication of the slides that were presented at the conference. FB volunteered to be an editor for the proceedings.
- CW: The conference proceedings is quite a task to undertake (including chasing papers and cost). It had been difficult to get a team together and publication of the proceedings tend to be delayed. Members had been reluctant to publish in the proceedings because that would jeopardise publication in other journals.
- Les Copeland (LC) confirmed that the publication issue is real. Cereal Chemistry had rejected papers as they had previously been published word-for-word at conferences. Suggested that presentations be recorded and made available to members.
- CW: AGSA has made the conference handbook available on the website for members in the last five years. The handbook includes abstracts and posters, and some authors had also submitted conference papers as well. The recording of last year's conference is available for members to access from the website. We are aiming to make this year's conference recording available as well, pending permission from the presenters.

## 8. Awards Committee Report (LOB)

- This has been a big year for the Awards Committee.
- The AB Blakeney Early Career Development Scholarship was awarded to Dr Rebecca Thistlethwaite, Post-doctoral Research Associate at the University of Sydney, Plant Breeding Institute in Narrabri, NSW, who gave us a great overview of her research on Monday.
- Six Travel Scholarships were awarded to the following students, who all gave excellent presentations today:
  - S. Abdullah, PhD, Charles Sturt University, Wagga Wagga, NSW.
  - A. Herath, PhD, Swinburne University, Melbourne, Vic.
  - J. Johnson, M.Sc. Central Queensland University, Rockhampton, QLD.
  - C. Lawn, PhD, University of Queensland, St Lucia, QLD.
  - S. Shrestha, PhD, Monash University, Melbourne, Vic.
  - Y. Tao, PhD, University of Queensland, St Lucia, QLD.
- Two FB Guthrie medals, to Emeritus Professor Les Copeland and Dr Joe Panozzo, were awarded last year, and we heard their Guthrie addresses at this conference. We will present the Guthrie medals to Les and Joe in person at an appropriate time in the future when Covid restrictions have eased.
- After a hiatus last year, the AGSA Service Award, sponsored by Megazyme, was awarded to Associate Professor Vicky Solah from Murdoch University, WA. Thank you Vicky for your service to AGSA.
- Tomorrow at the closing ceremony, we will announce the winner of the Student/Early Career Oral Presentation.
- Next year nominations will be called, through the newsletter and on the website, for the prestigious E.E. Bond Award for Grain Science and Technology.
- Council did approve a formalisation of the role and responsibilities of the Chair of the Awards Committee, so LOB will ensure that the By-Laws and Policies and Procedures documents (kept by the AGSA Secretary) are updated.
- LOB's role as Awards Committee Chair is coming to an end. LOB has been involved with the boards of Committees of AGSA since 1984, and over that time, it has been one of the most rewarding roles to have. LOB expressed his appreciation to the association for the opportunity to serve in that role, and wished the next person all the best in the role.
- LOB thanked Committee members Mike Gidley and Philip Downie for their support.
- **MOTION:** That the Awards Committee report be accepted as presented. Moved: LOB. Seconded: Di Miskelly (DM). All in favour. Carried.
- **MOTION:** That AGSA acknowledges LOB's contribution to the AGSA as Awards Committee Chair, Public Officer, 2021 Conference Chair and member of the various Committees over the many years. Moved: CW. Seconded: LC. All in favour. Carried.

## 9. Communications Committee Report (VB, HF, JB)

- The Communications Committee Report was presented by the Committee members: Vito Butardo Jr. (VB), Haelee Fenton (HF) and Jesse Beasley (JB).

### **Responsibilities and Branding (VB)**

- The role of the team is to communicate updates from AGSA to our members in a timely manner.
- We are involved in designing the conference brand, including the banner, social media post templates, newsletter template, Microsoft Office templates (PowerPoint and Word), email signature template, and Zoom virtual background. This is to ensure that the branding of AGSA in the conference theme is maintained throughout the year and especially during the conference.
- We maintain the AGSA website, release newsletters, post in our social media channels Twitter, Facebook, Instagram and LinkedIn.
- There were three revisions to the conference banner this year. The first was designed for a joint conference with the Wheat Breeders' Society, the second was just AGSA for the face-to-face conference in Narrabri, and the third was the modified banner to reflect the online format.

### **Newsletters (VB)**

- We have released 17 newsletters so far this year to an average of 780 email subscribers, with an average open rate of 30% and average click rate (click on available links) of 3%.
- We have made some improvements to the newsletters, using fewer text and more graphics, and providing PDF links to tables to shorten the newsletter.

### **Social Media (VB)**

#### Twitter

- We currently have 284 Twitter followers.
- Analytics for the month of August revealed around 5100 impressions (up by 427%), 564 profile visits (up 3.7%).
- The Committee actively promoted the conference since May, releasing 15 tweets which generated an average of 2000 impressions, 514 profile visits, 2 mentions and 8 new followers.

#### Facebook and Instagram

- We had 129 page likes for the AGSA FB page and 213 followers for Instagram.
- Most of our followers for these two channels are from NSW and VIC, 44% women and 56% men, with the majority in the 25-34 years age bracket, followed by 35-44 then 45-54, so we are catering to the younger demographics for our social media account.
- The average audience reach is 17-32 per post, with 1-3 likes and 2 link clicks per post. The page reach for FB and Instagram is 77 and 47, respectively.
- Highest engagements were in the months of July (announcement of online conference) and August (provision of details of the AGM and AGSA conference).
- Most of our FB followers are from Australia, but also some from Pakistan, Canada, Philippines, United States, Bangladesh, Malaysia, Germany, India and Peru.

- Similarly, the majority of our Instagram followers are from Australia, but we also have followers from Pakistan, Brazil, India and Mexico.

#### LinkedIn

- This is AGSA's most recent account, starting from last year.
- Analytics in August revealed 45 followers, including 3 new followers. Of those 45, there were 7 unique visitors and 137 post impressions.

#### **Website (HF)**

- A lot goes on behind the scenes for the website, and these are mainly handled by our external website provider Spring Digital, and our Webmaster Ian Wesley. Over the past year, they have been addressing mainly our membership issues and upgrades to the website software just to make sure it runs smoothly.
- This year we added a "Who are we?" section to the website and that has started to include aspects such as AGSA's Vision and Mission statements.
- After the 2020 conference, routing of generic emails (such as [treasurer@ausgrainscience.org.au](mailto:treasurer@ausgrainscience.org.au)) were updated to reflect new Council members. The list of Council members for 2020-2021 was updated on the website. Links to the 2020 conference handbook and recording were made available for member access.
- We had a few issues at the end of last year's conference around access membership. This was mainly a glitch due to the free membership for the conference, which did not automatically give people access to the website for the year. This was resolved late last year.
- This year prior to the 2021 conference, we made updates to the program, registration, sponsors and awards, and 2021 AGM pages on the website.
- Post this conference, we expect to be adding the conference handbook and recording of the presentations to the website shortly.
- So what's next for the website? In the short term, we will need to address our domain name, which is valid until November 2021. We need to confirm whether it is still appropriate to use the organisation (.org) website domain, or if we need to move to an association namespace (.asn). Registration will last for two years.
- We still need to resolve our online storage solution for AGSA documents for continuity as AGSA roles change from year to year.
- We are in the process of sorting out PayPal issues to accept our new debit card. That should be resolved shortly.
- We need to do a review of our current registration form and process, to make it easier for members to register for conferences, and more automated in terms of maintenance.
- We should also look at trying to improve our presence in online searches and how we can promote AGSA through other professional organisations.
- Our thanks and appreciation to Ian Wesley for all his hard work in managing the AGSA website content. It is a role that he is happy to be involved with behind the

scenes. He likes to work on the website and address its challenges, and is looking forward to doing a big review with us post this successful conference.

### **Student and early career researcher network (JB)**

- JB acknowledged the work that VB puts into the role as Chair of Communications Committee.
- Our student membership is growing, we had a real push in student registrations over the last few days before the conference, and ended up with 47 students for this conference.
- We currently have 106 unique members on our student mailing list, and have a golden opportunity to connect the students and develop their careers. For this conference, we have a large contingent from the University of Melbourne, which is a non-traditional AGSA organisation, so it is great to see them come on board.
- Student activities were disrupted this year due to Covid restrictions. The AGSA Summer Student Workshop 'Encouraging the future of the Australasian Grains industry' at The University of Melbourne did not run as planned on 25-26 February 2021 due to ongoing lockdowns in Victoria. This Workshop is now scheduled to run in February 2022 (final date to be determined). We would like to run this as a face-to-face event if possible, but will look into virtual options as well.
- Any students who are interested in joining the organising committee for this event, please contact us at [students@ausgrainscience.org.au](mailto:students@ausgrainscience.org.au).
- We are planning some extra student-focused events throughout 2022, so there is more to come in this space.
- VB thanked HF and JB for their contributions to the Communications Committee.
- BE: When will the 2022 conference banners be ready because communications for 2022 conference cannot start until the banners have been redesigned. Templates such as email signatures should be distributed to conference volunteers. The PowerPoint template does not have the AGSA branding on every slide.
- VB: In the design phase we look at the theme and come up with 5-10 designs for Council to vote on. Once the 2022 Conference Organising Committee decides on a theme, the design process will begin. We will keep in mind to distribute email signatures and templates to our conference volunteers. The PowerPoint template was a stylistic decision to have the AGSA logo on the title page but not on every page. We will take BE's comment into consideration when designing the 2022 templates.
- Joe Panozzo (JP): JP has a copy of a paper that was presented at the first Cereal Chemistry conference, by EJ O'Brien. We need to scan this and keep as archive.
- BE: AGSA must be the guardian of its history, and store important archival documents.
- CW: We are in the process of organising more cloud storage for this type of documents and AGSA legal and related documents.
- Anne Bridges (AB): Cereals and Grains is currently holding a student video competition for their annual conference, and is open to all AGSA students. Competition details can be accessed from the CGA website.
- JB: Thanked AB for alerting AGSA to the competition. We will forward the information to our student members with sufficient time to respond before the closing date.

- **MOTION:** That the Communications Committee report be accepted as presented. Moved: VB. Seconded: JD. All in favour. Carried.
- **MOTION:** That AGSA acknowledges VB's hard work in the background, putting the newsletters together and social media templates and posts. Moved: CW. Seconded: LOB. All in favour. Carried.

#### 10. **Methods Committee Report (Hugh Robertson, HR)**

- HR thanked everyone who has made contributions to the methods over the last few years, especially Di Miskelly and Tas Westcott, but also Larisa Cato, Ken Quail, Kirsty Germaine and Joe Panozzo.
- Over the last 12 months, we had looked predominantly at end-product methods, in particular for baking and noodles, through the proficiency program.
- We have looked at every aspect of both the rapid and long fermentation baking methods, including the recipe, procedure and equipment. Work is still ongoing. The draft methods for long fermentation and rapid baking were issued at the start of the last proficiency round (about a month ago).
- For noodles, we are moving towards objective measurements, in particular texture, for better standardisation and repeatability. This also applies in the baking space and across the board for the methods.
- Some of the methods, especially those associated with measurement of rheological properties (such as the Farinograph and Extensograph), are quite dated. There are also issues with water addition, so we will need to address these.
- **MOTION:** That the Methods Committee report be accepted as presented. Moved: HR. Seconded: Thomas Roberts (TR). All in favour. Carried.

#### 11. **Nomination of office bearers (CW)**

- Nominations for AGSA Office Bearers for 2021-2022 were closed on 17 August 2021. As we received only one nomination for each of the vacancies on Council (which were accepted by each nominee), voting was not required. CW declared that the nominees were elected unopposed. Below is the list of Council positions and their incumbents after this year's AGM.

<b>Council Position</b>	<b>Nominee</b>
Ordinary Member 3	Esther Callcott
Ordinary Member 4 (ECR)	Jesse Beasley

#### 12. **Other business**

- No other matters.

#### 13. **Close**

- CW thanked everyone for taking the time to attend the AGM and contributing to discussions. With no other matters, CW closed the AGM at 17:20.

## 2021 AGSA Annual General Meeting - Attendees

Tuesday 24 August 4:00 pm

---

<b>Number</b>	<b>Full Name</b>
1	Cassandra K Walker
2	Joe F Panozzo
3	Sayedur Rahman
4	Russell Eastwood
5	Meiqin Lu
6	Lindsay O'Brien
7	Les Copeland
8	Di Miskelly
9	Tas Westcott
10	Larisa Cato
11	Dang, Jennifer
12	Haelee Fenton
13	Sushil Dhital
14	Bronwyn Elliott
15	Philip Downie
16	Rebecca Thistlethwaite
17	Mike Sissons
18	Siem Siah
19	Herath Mudiyansealage Achini Herath
20	Mark Dieters
21	Mike Gidley
22	Hugh Robertson
23	James Lee
24	Chris Blanchard
25	Esther Callcott
26	Howitt, Crispin
27	Sophie Nguyen
28	Michelle Toutounji
29	Vito Butardo
30	Anne Bridges
31	Jenny Wood
32	Jesse Beasley
33	Rachelle Ward
34	Rob Cracknell
35	Srinivasan, Devika
36	Frank Bekes
37	Anthony Connaughton
38	Thomas Roberts
39	Graham Crosbie
40	Markus Loens

---