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**AEES Annual General Meeting**

**Wednesday 8 December, 2021**

**Zoom Online Meeting**

**6.00pm – 7.30pm AEST**

**MINUTES**

**In attendance:**

Trevor Allen, Sharon Anderson, Jordan Bartlett, Kaiming Bi, Bill Jordan, Kevin McCue, Scott Menegon, Lisa Moon, Jack Pappin, Adam Pascale, John Wilson, Peter McBean, Clive Collins, Nelson Lam, Dee Ninis

**Apologies:**

Jaroslav Vaculik, Michael Griffith, Wayne Peck, Elodie Borleis, Hong Hao, Andrew Wheeler

**Acceptance of 2020 Minutes**

Changes to 2020 draft Minutes:

* Add Peter McBean as having attended 2020 AGM
* Re Post Disaster Deployment Guidelines – change wording to read “Raised by Kevin McCue after the AEES-Oil Search reconnaissance mission with Gary Gibson.”

Minutes approved subject to above changes.

Moved: Adam Pascale Seconded: John Wilson

**President’s Report**

Trevor Allen presented the President’s Report. A copy of his report is attached as Appendix A.

Discussion re President’s Report:

Thanks to Cttee and to Sharon

Engagement with NZSEE and Indonesian Societies:

KM asked if Trevor had engaged with NZSEE during year or Indonesian Society. Important to maintain those relationship. Trevor advised that yes, there has been some correspondence with NZSEE – they reached out after Melbourne earthquake. During Covid very difficult to accept any assistance. They did help by setting up EERI learning from earthquake portal.

Charles Bubb Student Grant:

PMc – no applications submitted for Student Award is concerning. What attempt did we make to promote the award and connect with students? Something we can do better next year? NL said that, because of Covid, a lot of students went offshore. TA agreed, lack of submissions much to do with Covid.

SM – Is there an avenue to join with EA to promote Award? Draw on their social media etc?
LinkedIn? Could ask EA to post about it.

AP – LinkedIn AEES page doesn’t have a lot of reach and we don’t post much. EA
involvement could be very worthwhile.

TA – tried to promote amongst academic links as did other Cttee members. Did receive
some interest but they didn’t meet the criteria.

JB – International students – their studies can be a pathway to their citizenship. A lot of
people interested in earthquakes are internationals.

SM – Could it be opened up to Intls studying at an Aust Uni? With some weighting towards
local students.

AP – suggested Cttee review this and perhaps set up a sub-Cttee to discuss.

PM – doesn’t care who does the research, as long as it is relevant to Australian context and
useful to us and we all get to see it. JW agreed. Nearly ¾ of postgrads are Intl students and it is a pathway to permanent residency. Contemporary landscape has changed.

SM – targeting eathquake eng research for Australia.

General agreement with all these sentiments.

Cttee to re-work criteria for 2022.

KM – Charles stated objective was that the money be used to benefit eq eng/eng seis in Australia. He specified it be by an Aust Uni and by and Australian student. So asked that his intentions be respected.

TM - Membership to be consulted once it has been discussed.

SM – Specifically run past exec mship of the time it was instigated. KM to be final arbiter.

Virtual Hubs:

BJ – suggested providing virtual hubs should we need to go virtual again in 2022.

**Update to 1170.4 – John Wilson**

Since last amendment in 2018 we have a number of updates.

Hazard map – when we did last edition GA had just published latest volume so we kept with Hazard Map that was published in 1993. Now we are in a better position to put that through. Particularly with the Seismology community to ensure good consensus around that. TA – GA would like opportunity to update what they have provided in the past also.

Ductility factors

Strengthen and clarify in parts of components

And a number of other smaller ones

Approached Standards Australia to get into next edition of National Construction Code. Next edition is in 2025 and for our standard to be called up would mean to be published by 30 April 2024. Has asked Standards Australia to get Committee re-activated – they are sending him details of what is required to get that happening.

Hoping first half of 2022 Committee will be active again.

The fact we updated the Commentary this year, with big thanks to Scott in particular, is good.

Going through the commentary process has highlighted some changes needed to the Standard.

JB – 1170.4 only? AS3826 – JW – that’s a bigger task and could be another great exercise for the Society to undertake. Jerry keen to participate on that Committee should that update kick in.

Technical Cttee to look at putting together a new offering for 3826 – seismic retrofit standard

SM -Technical Cttee put together – start to discuss early next year. Would be more than a 12 month process but would be good to get a Committee together and start the ball rolling. EOI could go out to Committee to see who is interested in participating. Keen to get this started next year.

PM – great initiative and long overdue. Bit of guidance in Commentary but it’s at best a stop gap and we need a better doc than the one published in 1998.

JW – agreed a great project for the Society.

TA – could some funding be put towards this working group.

JW – Scott will get the retrofit guideline moving.

**Treasurer’s Report**

Adam Pascale presented the Treasurer’s Report.

Audited report to come.

CBA hard to get info out of.

Access to balance of term deposit difficult as not shown online. Following up with CBA. Balance shouldn’t have changed much.

Last financial year we made a profit of almost $7,000. We do aim not to make a profit but we had a lot of pre-paid registrations for the conference in the last financial year. Will endeavour to review in April each year our profit and loss so we can avoid making a profit.

Term deposit – PMc asked where it is sitting and what sort of interest it is getting? Important to have some income from it. AP – $555,000 in the term deposit is currently earning low interest. Pretty unhappy with CBA responsiveness. Investment options are also quite limited. In 2022 will look for someone at the bank to help look at where best to invest it.

Income from Commentary sales. Next one won’t have income – 270 downloads to date.

TA moved a motion of thanks to Adam.

Moved: John Wilson

Seconded: Jordan Bartlett

**Secretary’s Report**

Lisa Moon had nothing to report. Thanked Trevor, Adam and Sharon for keeping things going in a difficult year.

**IAEE Representative’s Report**

Hong Hao was unable to attend but tabled a written report (see Appendix B) which TA read out.

World Conference – hybrid conference in Japan. Next conference in Milan in 2024, 18th World Conf.

Updates to Board of Directors and delegates to IAEE. President Elect is Farzad Naeim and nomination and approval for next VP is Prof Michele Calvi. New directors are listed in Appendix B.

Hong has indicated he would like to step down as the representative. And is looking to stand aside from this positon. Looking for a possible replacement. One criteria – should be able to attend the World Conference where a number of the meetings are held.

Possible nominations – AP suggested we put it out to our membership with criteria and what the role involves.

JW – was rep for 8 years and it is quite low key, mainly about attending the conference, not much to do between meetings.

KM – found it a huge educational experience. Nominated Scott Menegon. PMC supported as does JW. SM – happy to take it on. TA supportive as well. He may also be the president.

All in support. Unanimously voted in.

**Webmaster**

Downloads of AS Comm. Has added a fixture to gather information on who is downloading. Mainly engineers from engineering companies. Sometimes a dozen from one company. Will share the information once things slow down.

Raising profile of organisation.

Info from EERI website could be uploaded.

Conference papers to be uploaded soon.

**Election of Office Bearers**

All Committee happy to stand again.

State Reps

AP – had a request from Dion Weatherley to become State Rep for Qld. Has been thinking about what the role of State reps is, seems to have changed over time. Is it still relevant, do we still need State reps or should we open it up to general members to be part of the Committee?

BJ – has been NSW rep for some time. Only involved when conference was in Newcastle.

JW - Historically it was thought state rep would organise some local meetings. But never really took off. Supportive of what Adam said.

Move to dissolve State Reps and have more members involved in Cttee. Pleased to offer DW a position on the Cttee for 2022 and open it up to wider membership for anyone wanting to be involved. A manageable number needs to be accepted and have an odd number. Would still need to have 3 positions of Chair, Vice Chair, Past Chair as 3 official positions. Perhaps we move to that when we do elections next year and have another 4-6 general Cttee members.

PMc - makes good sense. Not sure if we need to change the titles of Exec. As per EA. We do also need a Treasurer and Secretary, even if not in Constitution they can still be documented. In favour of State reps being closed down. Important to have State reps of where Cttee is being held plus other sub Cttees.

Move we scrap State reps and open up for nominations for Cttee positions for 2022 to all members. Email all members to nominate for 2022 Cttee. Current Cttee will make a selection from nominations. Carried.

SM – how many in total – AP – 9. Pres, VP, Immediate Past President, Secretary, Treasurer & 4 general members.

**Other business:**

Building Monitoring

TA – Costs were prohibitive to progressing this this year using AEES funds.

TA has looked at other sources of funding and found there is money out there if we are able to apply for it.

Natural Hazards Research Australia – 85mil into natural hazards available.

Natural Disaster Resilience Program – Up to approx $200k.

JB – could we work with Wind Association?

SM – Towards start of 2020 he investigated some options re costing of instrumenting buildings and for a very simple set up it was from 40-80k so quite prohibitive. This was why leveraging another funding source was thought important.

AP – confirmed costing was beyond AEES but we could start using some of our yearly profit towards this perhaps. Accessing funding sources TA mentioned though would be great.

Bushfire Natural Hazards CRC – JW felt we may not be high on their list of priorities. Unlikely but could certainly apply.

JW – A number of new Universities being built – have been instrumented (eg UTS). Could explore what has been instrumented in Uni sector. AP Said Monash have also, but good to get a different range of building types. PMc had no luck getting Royal Adelaide Hospital instrumented.

JP – Wind Association may be a better driver for this type of thing.

**Revised Constitution**

SM asked if this is still progressing.

TA - Still a work in progress. Andrew Wheeler took on this task, but is an apology from this meeting. He has some contacts with EA. He will get back to looking at it.

From EA perspective what they proposed to us is our Constitution. We have drafted some amendments to that and are hoping we can have those changes made.

**Succession Planning**

JB asked if we have a plan to engage younger, future members.

AP said it comes back down to promotion and engagement of students and to broaden the member base. Eg. theme for 2022 conference that might encourage a different member base. Has been difficult due to Covid.

PMc thanked TA for all his work with the conference and running the Assoc. AP and JW seconded this.

TA thanked Cttee and Secretariat.

Meeting closed 7.30pm

**Appendix A**

**2021 President's Report**

2021 has marked yet another challenging year for many members within the society as we have gone through rolling and extended lockdowns. As we approach 2022, there is renewed hope that the society will recover and soon return to COVID-normal – and that we will all be able to meet again in person.

The 22 September M5.9 Woods Point earthquake in the Victorian Highlands was a good reminder of the risks faced by Australian communities from earthquakes. The earthquake was felt extensively throughout SE Australia. It was the largest earthquake to have occurred in Victoria since European settlement and was likely the earthquake that was felt by the largest number of Australians ever. We were very fortunate that the event occurred in a remote location far from major population centres. This meant that the damage resulting from the earthquake was limited. However, structural failures in our metropolitan and regional areas demonstrate the need to prepare for and mitigate against the consequences of earthquakes in Australia and elsewhere. This reinforces the mission of the Australian Earthquake Engineering Society (AEES) and reminds us of the importance of our work.

Shortly after the earthquake, we were contacted by colleagues from across the ditch who were keen to chip in and lend a hand. Fortunately, there was little need – and even many of us in Australia across state lines were unable to chip in as we would have liked. As this was such a significant event, Jason Ingham & Ken Elwood suggested setting up a clearing house on the EERI/“learning from earthquakes” page for the Woods Point event. They made contact with the EERI to make it happen. Adam Pascale has sent a link through to members and there has been some photos and a preliminary report contributed by Mark Quigley. If you do have something to contribute, please pass on to Adam or myself as the administrators for this event page.

The committee met four times via teleconference throughout the year. Again the teleconference platforms made it easier for the committee to interact. Meetings largely discussed the organisation of the annual conference as the community health situation around us evolved. To that end, we successfully arranged and held the 2nd virtual AEES conference. There were another five meetings for the Commentary working group, and these provided a great collaborative workspace for us to maintain the momentum.

I hope you would all agree that we saw many great presentations that demonstrated the great diversity in earthquake science and engineering in Australia and beyond. We had two great keynotes – incidentally, both Canadians – Ken Elwood (Assessment and retrofit of Hollow-core floors in earthquakes) and Mark Quigley (Environmental effects and the geomechanics of Australian earthquakes). I have formally sent letters of appreciation on behalf of the society.

It was a shame that we were unable to meet in person this year, as there were (and still are) plans to excavate a trench on the Willunga fault, and Mark’s keynote would have framed the field trip perfectly – this however, was not to be.

The special sessions were a great addition to this year’s program. Firstly, the Special Session on the updated commentary was very well received and provided some great background for and promotion to the extensive updates in the commentary. Then we held the special session on the 22 September M5.9 Woods Point earthquake, where we had a mix of invited and regular presentations. It was pleasing to see the data and information gathered on this important event in such a short period of time. I am grateful to all presenters for their contributions – in particular to all of our student presentations.

A special thanks to Nelson Lam who coordinated the reviews for the engineering themed papers. And we also thank the reviewers of the papers themselves – we recognise that members provide their time for free and we appreciate this contribution. Members should have all received a link to the full paper proceedings. We’ll aim to publish these online shortly.

One disappointing aspect of the conference from my perspective was the lack of female representation, with only one female presenter at the conference. Next year we would like to explore ways to improve this representation.

This year, Engineers Australia undertook a review of its brand strategy and determined that the EA brand must be the master brand. Given the similarity of the old AEES logo, the Society was requested by EA to stop using that logo and either provide an alternative or use the EA logo. In the end, the Committee saw this as an opportunity to rebrand the AEES. Adam used his design skills to excellent effect and came up with a fresh new look, whilst still retaining elements of the original logo. I hope that you would agree that that the new logo is faithful to the original, but is now uniquely Australian and captures the essence of the Society.

We also used this logo to revamp the paper template, which was looking a little dated. I’m still of two minds as to whether we used too much “red”, but would be grateful for any feedback on the style and its ease of use.

Some minor updates were also made to the paper review template which requires the authors to provide a written response, only if they chose not to adopt the reviewer comments. This was intended to make small steps to strengthen the review process to ensure a higher level of rigor and to maintain credibility as a professional society. It was intended to be a relatively light touch to the paper revision process, but we would be grateful for feedback from authors or reviewers.

In my capacity as President of the AEES, I have attended a couple of Engineers Australia online Engineering Practice Advisory Committee (EPAC) meetings over the course of the year. These meetings have focussed on EAs program for “advancing society through great engineering” through: supporting pathways into engineering; positioning the profession as vital for resolving societal challenges; and improving the impact of competency standards. Much of the discussion has been focussed on improved opportunities for CPD and review of Areas of Practice (AoP) model revision. EA are also very interested in positioning the organisation to be a crucial source of expertise for climate change abatement and adaptation

Circling back to the Commentary, the completion of the AS1170.4-2007 (2018) Commentary was a major achievement for the Society in 2021. Thanks to the technical committee: Scott Menegon, John Wilson, Nelson Lam, Peter McBean, Jerry Vaculik, Jordan Bartlett and Mike Griffith. Special thanks goes to Scott Menegon for taking charge of the process and driving it through to completion.

As noted above there were a number of meetings throughout the year and a lot of hard work went into pulling the document together. Enhancements to the Commentary are: recommendations for special studies of IL4 buildings; background for the inclusion of the minimum hazard design factor; new sub-sections on unreinforced masonry design and retrofit; non-linear time history analysis; additional background on parts and components.

A decision was made to publish the commentary under a creative commons licence, which allows the information to be used in any way, as long as appropriate attribution is provided to the AEES. The CC-BY licence also states that this information is provided warranty free, so provides the society indemnity. At last count, the commentary had been downloaded nearly 200 times! This is certainly a positive step. Let’s hope this leads to improved uptake and awareness in earthquake engineering practice.

Finally, I would like to thank the Executive Committee and regular committee members for their support through this uncertain year. I would also like to thank Sharon for her ongoing role, which enables the society to function.

Trevor Allen

**AEES PRESIDENT**

**Appendix B**

**Australian National Delegate on IAEE – Communications and Activities in 2021**

Hong Hao

One of the primary duties of National Delegate (ND) is to select the venue for next WCEE. This was down online in late 2020. The 18WCEE will be in Milan, Italy. the proposed dates are June 30th to July 5th 2024. Normal registration fee will be Euro 600. For students and delegates from developing countries, it will be Euro 360, and for delegates choose to participate remotely online, it will be Euro 150.

In 2021, the main communications and activities are listed below:

1. On 7 July, IAEE Secretary, Prof. K. Kusunoki sent an email informing that the executive committee held a few meetings to discuss how to hold the general assembly, i.e., involving both the executive committee and NDs. Although the 17WCEE would be a hybrid conference, the executive committee decided to hold general assembly as usual during the conference as it had been before the pandemic. The agenda of the general assembly are:
2. President report
3. Secretary-general report
4. Selection of new officers
5. Selection of new directors
6. Approval of new honorary members
7. Selection of the venue for the next WCEE (already completed)
8. On 14 July from IAEE Secretary
9. The central office of IAEE will prepare a voting page on the internet by using SurveyMonkey in the beginning of August for NDs to vote for IAEE officers and directors, who are nominated by the executive committee, including President, Executive Vice President and Eight Directors.
10. According to article 12 of the statutes, the executive committee nominates six candidates for new honorary members. The nomination needs be confirmed by the General Assembly. The names of the nominated candidates for honorary members will be available in early August, NDs can choose “Approval” or “Disapproval” for the nomination (not individual candidate, but all of them as a whole).
11. On 6 August from IAEE Secretary
12. Since some NDs cannot come to Japan due to the pandemic situation, the General Assembly will be held online.
13. Through SurveyMonkey,
14. Approval of New Honorary Members: The Executive Committee nominates new honorary members. NDs can Approve/Disapprove it.
15. Approval of New Officers: The Executive Committee nominates President-Elect, and Executive Vice President. NDs can Approve/Disapprove it.
16. Voting for New Directors: vote for 8 directors from 10 candidates.
17. Approval of GA Reports: NDs can Approve/Disapprove it.
18. We will inform you of URL for voting separately from info@iaee.or.jp later.
19. On 5 Sept 2021 from IAEE Secretary

Informing National Delegates of IAEE, current directors and officers the voting outcome

1. Number of Attendees: 45 national delegates out of 60 voted. It was confirmed that the quorum was satisfied.
2. Nomination of the Honorary Members is approved.
3. Nomination of the New President is unanimously approved. Dr. Farzad Naeim is the President-elect.
4. Nomination of the New Executive Vice President is unanimously approved. Prof. Michele Calvi is the Executive Vice President.
5. The Vice President is selected from the organizing committee for the next WCEE. The National Delegate from Italy (Prof. Gianfranco De Matteis) is asked to inform the central office of the name and contact information of the New Vice President.
6. New Eight Directors:

Professor Sergio M. Alcocer, Mexico

Professor Ken Elwood, New Zealand

Dr. Svetlana Brzev, Serbia

Professor Dina D'Ayala, U.K.

Professor Ellen M. Rathje, U.S.A.

Professor Sinan Akkar, Turkey

Dr. Otton Lara, Ecuador

Professor Stavroula (Voula) Pantazopoulou, Greece

1. Both the President Report and Report from the Secretary-General are approved.