



CHAFC General Meeting 3-4 May 2012
MINUTES – Australian Museum, Sydney

DAY ONE – JOINT MEETING WITH FCIG

CHAFC ATTENDEES:

Member agency	Representative
Queensland Museum (QM)	John Hooper (JH) (Chair)
Australian Museum	Penny Berents
Tasmanian Museum and Art Gallery	Catherine Young
South Australian Museum	Steve Donnellan
ANWC	Leo Joseph
ANFC	Alastair Graham (on behalf of Peter Last)
Museum Victoria	Dermot Henry (on behalf of Mark Norman)
WA Museum	Di Jones
ANIC	David Yeates
ABRS	Alice Wells (on behalf of Michael Preece)
CHAEC	Beth Mantle (on behalf of John Jennings)

FCIG ATTENDEES for Day 1 only:

Australian Museum	Paul Flemons
ANIC	Beth Mantle
ANWC	Margaret Cawsey
MAGNT	Gavin Dally
Museum Victoria	Ely Wallis
South Australian Museum	Robert Morris
Tasmanian MAG	Alexis Tindall
Western Australian Museum	Clifford Davy
	Morgan Strong

GUEST ATTENDEES:

ALA	John La Salle
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APOLOGIES:

Museum Victoria	Dermot Hendry
Queensland Museum	Sarah Verschoore
MAGNT	Chris Glasby
TVMAG	

ITEM 1 – Chair opened the meeting.

Dermot Henry (MV) was an apology for day 1.

CONTACT DETAILS -

Chair, Council of Heads of Australian Faunal Collections Inc. (Incorporation No. A04986)
Queensland Museum PO Box 3300, South Brisbane, QLD 4101
(Attn. Secretary -Treasurer, Ms Sarah Verschoore) E CHAFC@qm.qld.gov.au W www.chafc.org.au

ITEM 2 – FCIG Report – delivered by Ely Wallis (MV)

- Robert Morris (SAM) will be the new Chair for FCIG.
Technical Manager (running OZCAM etc.): Paul Flemons (AM)
Content Manager: Morgan Strong (WAM)
News Manager: Alexis Tindall (SAM)
1. ALA switches from Bio Maps visualisation tool to the ALA tool, which is now up and running and being well received. HISCOM is also switching over but is still in progress.
 - Dawin Core: FCIG, still concerned about data mobilisation. Alexis has developed descriptions about geo-referencing. CHAFC funds held by MV will be available to FCIG to travel. Bryn Kingsford's main focus is to deliver specimen occurrence records to ALA.
 - Imaging equipment funded by ALA: Concerns over image delivery to the ALA, the Morphbank problem has been solved! Beta version of Morphbank will be available around June, should institutions wish to choose this method. The problems of metadata have also been resolved with the use of Vernon/KEMU specimen data links.
 - ALA roadshow to WAM and SAM.
 - OZCAM development: Parasitology host data, genetic data, tissue samples Palaeontological data. GBIF to serve tissue data.
 - Prioritisation of data for delivery – an issue for discussion. Identify data from collection events (eg Bush Blitz) – currently unable search on collection event, vocabulary of common expeditions? CHAFC also needs to consider priorities if NCRIS doesn't happen. In terms of priority groups/surrogate taxa etc.
 - 'Basis of record' (for example: specimen, tissue sample, observation etc) a priority to sort out as an FCIG item.
 2. ALA priorities:
 - programming,
 - distributing the system,
 - documenting the system and architecture – after June workshop.
 - Capacity of institutions to assist.
 - Focus on a strong technical capability.
 - Disaster planning for the worst outcome (ie. A two year hiatus and not just one year 13-14).
 - Discussion paper from ALA on what will continue and what are the lower priorities. Paper to be released within a couple of weeks and feedback from CHAFC/FCIG requested (eg no communication role to be supported, digitisation activity, new datasets).

- CHAFC/FCIG priority to database tissue samples as a priority and deliver to the ALA.
- BHL discussion – support from MV for scanning and delivering online. Priorities in terms of scanning: Royal Societies, Naturalist journals and the state journals.
- There is a pressing need to involve the state environment agencies (eg Qld) getting datasets - as there is no national body to represent these agencies.
- ALA Update: Brief update on discussion paper and overview of next year.
- A new business plan to be submitted to DIISRTE for 2012-13. Big push by Commonwealth government to work with other data providers as a team (eg. TERN, IMOS etc) to deliver data nationally.
- John La Salle requested a discussion around citation of ALA to promote its use and recognition as research support eg. Same as WoRMS citation requirements, Google scholar also noted.

2.4 ALA mobile phone app (mala.org.au) – more mobile phone friendly screen setup than standard web version.

2.5 ALA/OZCAM collection codes issue – Some preliminary discussions on this issue and ‘ologies’. (for example: fish vs ichthyology, mammal vs mammology, bird vs ornithology)

ACTION: FCIG to discuss and report back to CHAFC members.

ITEM 3 – ALA update from John La Salle

Verbal update from John La Salle on the ALA and topics to be covered in the discussion paper and business plan.

Outlier data and erroneous data issues – potential solution to:

- a) filter particular datasets by recommendation from CHAFC or masked or
- b) different coloured dots, (specific technique left to ALA).

It is important to leave outliers in the dataset, but we will need to differentiate them from eg. specimen-based records.

Possibly use different coloured dots to show specimen versus observation records, rather than excluding one or other these data types from the search results.

ACTION: Leo to present a supported case for bird datasets that are consistently erroneous to be differentiated/filtered from other data (ie as the default).

Also discussed, was the Inspiring Australia grant to MI with development of regional field guides (like Biodiversity snapshots) – regional guides or larger national guides.

Discussed the NECTAR proposal for data-storage (ANDS) and the Virtual laboratory proposal as part of research bids.

ITEM 4: ABRS report supplied by Alice Wells. (Separate document).

ITEM 5: ARC Discovery grants issue.

SD outlined background and JH to send Suzanne Miller list of grants. Noted that there is an emerging issue with Linkage grants looming which will impact on Museums/Herbaria as to eligibility as Linkage partners ('industry').

ITEM 6: CABC Meeting update.

JH & PB summarised topics raised at CABC, such as Chair CABC having seat at ALA Management committee/Steering committee (reporting to all collection agencies, not just forum or floor etc.), following Donald's suggestions. CSIRO not in favour as CABC not seen to represent or speak on behalf of all collections also superfluous to CHAFC/CHAH/AMRIN etc representation.

Does CABC need a website to provide a profile?

Global Genome Biodiversity Network background and membership. Leo Joseph was nominated by CSIRO as the representative but CHAFC would hope he could represent the Australian tissue collections.

End of day one.

Day two – Dinner at the Tilbury Hotel, Woolloomooloo

DAY 2: Friday, 4 May 2012

ITEM 7: Updates for outstanding actions (see table, link here)

ITEM 8: Accounts

MV to cover for travelling technicians (ALA)
Insurance: Go with cheapest quote for public liability (AON)

ITEM 9: OZCAM MOU (See agenda)

New contact for QVMAG: David Maynard, Marine ecologist from Australian National Maritime College.

ACTION: CY to send JH contact details for new rep at TVMAG.

ACTION: JH - CHAFC to contact him with welcome.

ITEM 10: CHAEC update

John Jennings illness, Beth Mantle to ascertain reinvigoration of CHAEC.

Graham, Alastair (CM..., 24/8/12 1:00 PM

Comment: I thought that the comment was along the lines of: "CABC feels that the community (rather than just the museums/herbaria) is not properly represented in ALA matters. CSIRO does not recognize CABC, whereas it does recognize CHAFC, CHAH and CHAEC in relation to ALA governance." Well at least that is the way I recorded this in my notes.

Possibility of developing a CHAEC hub. Some funding from ALA to develop a front page and project (Cicadas and bees) as a pilot project towards an embryonic CHAEC hub.

JH outlined UQ Collection issues (loss of 50% of collection managers) and possibility of hosting UQIC data in a CHAEC hub. Expected to happen by June.

ITEM 11: DAFF Biological Consultative Groups

Nothing much happening at present.

LJ requests information of issues eg. Seizures of specimens etc.

ACTION: Members to send LJ AQIS issues for the September meeting with 'BCG' in the subject line.

ITEM 12: Big issues in institutions. – Confidential.

New ITEM 13 – CHAFC succession planning

CHAFC succession planning and opportunities for the future post ALA/CReefs/Bush Blitz era. A possible example: Proposal to ALA II to support training and accreditation of biological collection management via exchange/scholarship of applicants travelling to reciprocal institutions.

- Next meeting before Nov/December at MV.