



## **MINUTES**

### **CHAFC General Meeting**

Adelaide, 25 – 26 May 2011  
South Australia Museum

#### **ITEM 1. ATTENDEES**

##### **1.1. PRESENT**

###### **Executive:**

John Hooper (JH) (Chair) Queensland Museum QM

Penny Barents (PB) (Vice Chair) Australian Museum AM

David Yeates (DY) (Public Officer) Australian National Insect Collection ANIC

Leo Joseph (LJ) Australian National Wildlife Collection ANWC

###### **Members:**

Michael Preece (MP) Australian Biological Resources Study ABRS

Alastair Graham (AG) Australian National Fish Collection ANFC

John Jennings (JJ) CHAEC (Wednesday only)

Mark Norman (MN) Museum of Victoria MV

Steve Donnellan (SD) South Australian Museum SAM

Catherine Young (CY) Tasmanian Museum & Art Gallery TMAG

Di Jones (DJ) Western Australian Museum WAM

###### **Invitees:**

Baden Appleyard (BA) AusGOAL

Andy Lowe (AL) AusBASE

##### **1.2. APOLOGIES:**

Sarah Verschoore (SV) Secretary/Treasurer Queensland Museum QM

Chris Glasby (CG) Museum & Art Gallery of the Northern Territory MAGNT

Unspecified QVMAG (Director QVMAG Richard Mulvaney conveyed his apologies for not sending a representative to CHAFC because the Curator of Natural Sciences position remains a vacancy.

##### **1.3. UPDATE REGISTER OF MEMBERS**

Under the Incorporations Act (ACT) the list of members and their contact details are to be updated.

**ACTION: Register update completed**

**ITEM 2. ACTIONS FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS**

<b><i>Summary of Outstanding Actions from earlier meetings</i></b>		
<b>26/08/10</b> <b>Item 2</b>	Chair of CHAFC to correspond with the new Director of QVMAG (Richard Mulvaney), once he commences, to nominate an appropriate staff member as QVMAG representative on CHAFC	Action: JH <b>COMPLETED (remove from Action Items)</b>
<b>26/08/10</b> <b>Item 8</b>	PB to check with AQIS regarding the activity (or otherwise) of their biological consultative committee and CHAFC's representation on it.	Action: PB trying to contact AQIS. <b>NEW AGENDA ITEM #4</b>
<b>7/05/10</b> <b>Item 5</b>	Unresolved issues with Bush Blitz contracts/ uncertainties requiring resolution with ABRS. JH to discuss these with Director of ABRS at the December Advisory Committee meeting.	Action: JH <b>COMPLETED (remove from Action items)</b> <b>NEW AGENDA ITEM #3.3</b>
<b>7/05/10</b> <b>Item 6</b>	Date of establishment of CHAFC was 1993. CHAFC website to be updated accordingly.	Action: FCIG (Beth) <b>COMPLETED (remove from Action items)</b>
<b>7/05/10</b> <b>Item 8</b>	CHAFC members to review copyright disclaimer on OZCAM website and advise Secretary, who will collate and advise FCIG accordingly.	Action. CHAFC Members and SV (by end of January 2010). <b>ONGOING, NEW AGENDA ITEM #7</b>
<b>7/05/10</b> <b>Item 12a</b>	Once approved by members the minutes of the CHAFC AGM to be circulated to CAMD.	Action: SV <b>COMPLETED (remove from Action items)</b>
<b>7/05/10</b> <b>Item 12b</b>	Minor corrections proposed to OZCAM MOU. Chair of CHAFC to send covering	Action: JH <b>READY TO GO. Updated institutional CEO contact details.</b>

	letter with new MOU to relevant CEOs/ Directors for signing, together with a copy of the CHAFC AGM.	<b>JH to post to CEOs</b>
<b>2010 AGM Item 3A</b>	Chair to complete appropriate form and submit this with statement to the ACT Office of Regulatory Services. Completed (DY to post documents from Canberra).	Action: JH & DY <b>COMPLETED (remove from Action items)</b>
<b>Item 3B</b>	Shopping around for a better deal for auditor's costs & public liability insurance; and checking with ACT Incorporations Act & website for any ongoing annual fees associated with Incorporation	Action: SV <b>ONGOING. SV acquired quotation of \$1700 PL insurance from Aon Risk. PL insurance expired 1 May 2011</b>
<b>Item 4</b>	Chair to notify ACT Office of Regulatory Services of current CHAFC executive committee.	Action: JH <b>COMPLETED (remove from Action items)</b>
<b>Item 5A</b>	Members to send reports for 09-10 to Secretary for incorporation into Minutes of AGM	Action: CHAFC members, SV to collate <b>COMPLETED (remove from Action items)</b>
<b>Item 5B</b>	CHAFC Capability statement. Members to send organization structures/ staffing to JH to assemble into a draft document	Action: CHAFC members to send to JH <b>ONGOING (yet to receive information from MV, SAMA, WAM)</b>
<b>Item 6</b>	CHAFC to request FCIG to clarify, and if necessary obtain advice from ALA regarding appropriate creative commons licenses to reduce risk of commercial use of institutional specimen data. ALA has used the Creative Commons with Attribution license, whereas some institutions might wish to supply data to ALA with	Action: FCIG (Ely) <b>ONGOING, NEW AGENDA ITEM #9</b>

	CC Attribution Non-commercial licenses.	
<b>Item 7A</b>	Scheduling of trips. Request that proposed schedule for Bush Blitz trips be made available again to members	Action: (ABRS) BB team to forward BB schedule to Secretary or to place it on BB website <b>COMPLETED (remove from Action items)</b>
<b>Item 7B</b>	Reporting proforma, databasing and curation funds. Chair to meet with Director of ABRS to discuss possible models, and report back to CHAFC	Action: JH & PB to meet (or teleconference) with Director ABRS to discuss and resolve these last few outstanding issues <b>COMPLETED (remove from Action items)</b>
<b>Item 9</b>	ALA & CHAFC Rapid digitization proposal (AM & SAMA). Chair to contact Chair of CHAH to see whether they have an administration fee. Chair to subsequently contact Peter Doherty at ALA to emend the costing of the draft proposal to include a CHAFC fee.	Actions: JH to contract CHAH and ALA <b>COMPLETED (remove from Action items)</b>
<b>Item 10</b>	'Cinderella collections'. JH to inform CHAFC of any further progress with the fate of the UQIC.	Action: JH to inform CHAFC of forthcoming developments with UQIC <b>COMPLETED JH summarized fate of UQIC currently being transferred to QM South Bank collections</b>
<b>Item 11</b>	Collection auditing, verification and valuation issues. PB requested any auditing procedures from other CHAFC members.	Action: CHAFC members to send any relevant documentation to PB <b>ONGOING. PB outlined AM tactic to address audit issues including risk and categorizing collections. DJ also outlined WAM situation re: types, valuation, auditing etc. JH also updated QM situation and auditors concerns about the unregistered part of collection</b> <b>ACTION. PB, DJ &amp; JH to send documents to SV to circulate to CHAFC</b>

<b>Item 12</b>	National Tissue Collection gap analysis through consultancy	Actions: LJ to explore concept further. FCIG to ensure that if a “tissue sample field” is included in individual museum databases then these should be exported to OZCAM and be displayed <b>ONGOING, NEW AGENDA ITEM #11</b>
<b>Item 12B</b>	Impacts of Nagoya Convention on Biological Resources on access to and movements of faunal collections worldwide	Action: JH to meet with Ben Phillips’ team at Dept of Environment <b>ONGOING, BP unable to attend CHAFC but will brief delegates at the forthcoming 2<sup>nd</sup> National Biodiscovery Forum in Adelaide 4-5 August</b>
<b>Item 13</b>	Values of Australia’s biological collections	Action: CHAFC members urged to go online and complete questionnaire. <b>COMPLETED (remove from Action items)</b>
<b>ITEM 14</b>	Developing a CHAFC logo to replace the “flower” logo on the website.	Action: SV to draft some logos (symbol (e.g. urchin) + microtext “CHAFC” underneath it, and circulate to members of CHAFC and FCIG for their input) <b>COMPLETED (remove from Action items)</b>

### **ITEM 3. UPDATE CHAFC ON ABRS AND BUSH BLITZ ACTIVITIES UNDERTAKEN SINCE DECEMBER 2010.**

#### **3.1. ABRS**

##### **3.1.1. Staffing:**

- The ABRS is currently undertaking recruitment processes for three staff at the APS6 level. These are all existing positions:
  - Grants and Business Officer
  - Bush Blitz Senior Project Officer
  - Taxonomy Advisor

We expect these processes to be finalised prior to the end of the current Financial Year.

##### **3.1.2. Budget:**

- The ABRS budget for 2011-12 is currently undergoing a budget build. This is where the Department allocates funds to the ABRS for its general appropriation and outside funding, such as BHP Billiton and ALA funds.

This should be completed within the next month.

### **3.1.3. Churchill Fellowships:**

The 2011 round of ABRS Churchill Fellowships was advertised in early November 2010. Applications closed on 28 February 2011.

The ABRS Advisory Committee has reviewed the shortlist provided by the Churchill Trust and their recommendations have been forwarded to the Minister for consideration. We expect advice on this shortly.

### **3.1.4. Publications:**

- The Australian Echinoderm volume, which was expected to be with CSIRO Publishing early in 2011, has been slightly delayed and the revised date is not until the new Financial Year.

### **3.1.5. Grants administration:**

Since December 2010, all Bush Blitz Research and Capacity-Building grants for rounds 1 and 2 recommended by the Advisory Committee have been approved by the Minister. Applicants were notified and grant funding agreements sent out in early April. Almost all agreements and invoices have been received. Invoices for the first round of funding are being paid as they come in.

ABRS Capacity-Building Grant applicants for 2011-12 were notified in early February. Funding agreements were sent out early May. Some signed agreements are now being received.

Recommendations for ABRS Research Grants for 2011-12 are currently before the Minister for consideration. Successful applicants should be notified by the end of May with agreements being sent out early June.

### **3.1.6. Atlas of Living Australia (ALA)**

- Additional ALA funding of \$466,000 has recently been approved for further work to the faunal component of the ALA.
- The majority of the funding (\$365,000) will be to fund additional work on a number of groups (including Crustacea, Mollusca, and Earthworms) for which little pre-existing material is available or for which there is no dedicated specialist, and for parts of some other groups (such as Coleoptera) where unforeseen large monographic revisions have been recently published making the work required in these groups much more extensive than originally estimated and necessitating further funding to complete the names list.

The balance of funding (\$101,000) is for staff salary and associated computing costs which will enable the continuation of two ABRS staff until 30 June 2012.

### **3.1.7. Council of Australian Biological Collections (CABC)**

- Following a facilitated workshop in Canberra on 10 February 2011, at which there were participants from CHAH, CHAFC, CHAEC, ALA and the ABRS, it was agreed to establish a national 'Council of Australian Biological Collections.
- The purpose of the Council is to provide an authoritative, coordinated body to represent the interests of biological collections and taxonomy in Australia to government, industry and the broader community.
- The Council held its inaugural meeting by teleconference on 8 March 2011 at which draft Terms of Reference were discussed and, following subsequent revision and amendment, were agreed.
- The Council is currently Chaired by CHAH and secretariat services are provided by the ABRS.

### **3.2. Bush Blitz:**

#### **3.2.1. Staffing**

Anne Ferguson joined the Bush Blitz team as Acting Manager in late January 2011 while Jo Harding was on maternity leave. Jo Harding recently (16 May) returned to her position but Anne will continue with Bush Blitz until late June.

#### **3.2.2. Delays to survey schedule**

The widespread wet weather over much of eastern and northern Australia since late last year has caused the postponement of two surveys. The Central Queensland survey originally scheduled for December 2010 was rescheduled to March 2011, and has subsequently been rescheduled yet again to late 2011 or early 2012.

The Wongalara (SE Arnhem Land, NT) survey originally scheduled for June 2011 has been rescheduled to late 2012.

#### **3.2.3. Revised survey schedule**

A revised Bush Blitz survey schedule has been prepared in consultation with the National Reserve System, and the Indigenous Protected Area sections of the Department. The revised schedule provides greater short and medium-term flexibility by including alternative sites that can be selected should access to scheduled sites be unavailable.

The revised schedule has been circulated to CHAFC (and CHAH) to assist in coordinating Bush Blitz planning and participation by institutions and scientists. However, the revised schedule is nonetheless subject to revision depending on circumstances.

The next Bush Blitz survey is to Cane River in the WA Pilbara. The survey is scheduled for 20 June – 1 July 2011. Mark Harvey from the WA Museum and Steve Van Leeuwen from the WA Department of Environment and Conservation are providing considerable assistance to the Bush Blitz team in the planning for the survey.

#### **3.2.4. BHP Billiton volunteers**

An important aspect of Bush Blitz, and of the ABRS's obligations under the partnership agreement with BHP Billiton, is the involvement of BHP Billiton volunteers on a number of Bush Blitz surveys. The Bush Blitz revised survey schedule is currently being reviewed by BHP Billiton and Earthwatch to identify suitable opportunities for BHP Billiton volunteer participation.

We are keen to ensure that the Bush Blitz experience is a positive one for the BHP Billiton volunteers and that their participation in survey activities is constructive and satisfying. We will be working with Earthwatch and participating institutions and scientists to provide a more structured and effective framework under which these volunteers participate.

### **3.2.5. Recent survey – Lake Condah (Budj Bim)**

To date, nine Bush Blitz surveys have been undertaken. The most recent Bush Blitz survey, at Budj Bim National Heritage Landscape and Indigenous Protected Areas in SW Victoria, was conducted over the period 21 March to 1 April 2011. This was the first Bush Blitz survey in Victoria and the first undertaken on an Indigenous Protected Area.

The survey was most beneficial and productive, with a very high degree of engagement with the local Indigenous community, and enthusiastic participation by scientists. Around fifty scientists and community members participated in survey activities over the period.

Around thirty scientists from Museum Victoria participated. Mark Norman provided considerable assistance in coordinating the participation of MV scientists and liaising with the Bush Blitz team.

A number of new species, including fish and aquatic invertebrates, are expected to be described from the specimens collected.

The survey received good coverage in the local printed and radio media, and additional material was made available through MV and SEWPaC blogs.

### **3.2.6. CHAFC Curation and data delivery**

A successful ABRS sponsored workshop was held in Canberra in March 2011 to resolve the issue of CHAFC Bush Blitz funding for curation and data collection. As a result, there is now an agreed framework and set of principles to guide the allocation and payment of funding to CHAFC and, through CHAFC, to CHAFC member institutions and scientists participating in Bush Blitz surveys.

The framework includes protocols to address the participation of non-CHAFC member institution scientists. This framework will form the basis for a new funding agreement with CHAFC to be developed in the current Financial Year.

## **ACTIONS.**

- **MP to recirculate TORs of CABC to CHAFC members**
- **Chair to finalise minor changes in documentation and complete exchange of contract with ABRS before 30 June 2011, including (a) confirmation of**



**breakdown of Bush Blitz curation and databasing funds for existing and future BBs, and (b) written agreement on CHAFCs ability to utilise any remaining funds upon completion of the current Bush Blitz project.**

#### **ITEM 4. AQIS**

An on-going issue: need dialogue with AQIS (in particular with their gateway officers at airports and mail centres) regarding the importation of biological (both fresh and preserved) material.

- what is happening with the AQIS Biological Consultative Group? Refer to AGM November 2010 - Item 2: Actions Outstanding from General Meeting 26 Aug 2010 - Item 8: AQIS.
- museum specimens (including specimens being returned to their home institution) are regularly being seized by AQIS
- import permit not required for preserved material, however it is often requested by AQIS before seized material is released

PB unable to contact known officers within AQIS, and unsure if committee still exists. Yet there is continuing issues arising from specimen imports and even repatriation of Australian specimens back to custodians of collections. Suggested that part of the problem is the rigid interpretation of legislation by AQIS Officers, but this is inconsistent, haphazard, and there is a regular turnover of AQIS frontline staff . There are also inconsistencies in AQIS procedures in terms of dealing with invertebrates versus vertebrates. There is clear need for engagement with AQIS, despite current apparent difficulties to do so.

**ACTION. PB to provide LJ the names of AQIS staff she has contacted. LJ will ask Rob Palmer to start dialogue. AG will assist if required.**

#### **ITEM 5. ILLEGAL COLLECTING & SMUGGLING (JJ)**

An on-going issue: how and who should tackle the problem of Australian insects (butterflies and beetles mainly) that are for sale on-line in places such as Japan. I doubt these have been legally collected and/or exported.

See for example:

<http://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100001687086135#!/album.php?fbid=130277257042226&id=100001798566288&aid=24427>

<http://www.kayakuya.com/catalog/default.php/language/en>

What Australian authorit(ies) are responsible?

Perhaps CHAFC could discuss in a wider context – bird and reptile smuggling??

JJ tabled communications with Greg Haywood and Victoria Bartlett at DSEWPAC Wildlife Trade Compliance, which related mostly to compliance with Australia's obligations under the EPBC Act and CITES, but he also expressed concern that the

states were also interested in non-CITES issues, including non-CITES listed invertebrates, that maybe “falling between the cracks” in the legislation.

JJ indicated that judging by the availability of sales of Australian invertebrate faunas online (e.g. OZ Beetles) it is highly likely that illegal collection and export is happening, including possibility of illegal collections in National Parks. CHAEC expressed concern to DSEWPAC but their responses did not indicate any ability (or willingness) to investigate this further, apart from their recommendation to report alleged breaches of part 13A of the EPBC Act directly to them.

CHAFC meeting noted this concern but was unable to suggest any actions given the apparent lack of legislation for non-CITES listed species, or referral to state wildlife regulatory and permitting authorities.

**ACTION. Nil [??? Was this correct ? My notes are deficient]**

#### **ITEM 6. AUSBASE (AL)**

Andy Lowe (Professor of Plant Conservation Biology at the University of Adelaide and Head of Science at Adelaide Botanic Gardens and State Herbarium), gave a presentation on AusBASE V10.0 – potential evolution of the Australian Barcoding Network.

The proposal is being developed as a longer term strategy for the new DIISR Research Infrastructure Roadmap, or other future sources of funding, and CHAFC noted that the proposal needs to be more highly integrated with existing or proposed collections and informatics networks, such as ALA. It was noted that there was potential for AusBASE to integrate eResearch capabilities across all DIISR capabilities. There was common agreement on changing the language of the proposal to make it less apparently competitive and more collaborative across the collections communities, and as such perhaps more visionary and developed in collaboration with any new iteration of the ALA under the new roadmap.

**ACTION. CHAFC to provide a working group, including SD and DY (and any others interested) to work with CHAH (Kevin Thiele) and ALA to contribute to develop the AusBASE proposal as a nationally collaborative infrastructure.**

#### **ITEM 7. CHARGING FOR DATA (SD)**

SD tabled a discussion paper on the issue for charging for data by institutions or conglomerates of agencies. In general most agencies charge for data supplied from their collections management systems where there was a clear commercial use for these data (, particularly for things like environmental impact studies), but many institutions did not charge for data that only had a clear public benefit outcome. Nevertheless, this policy was highly inconsistent amongst the agencies, and SD sought a CHAFC position on this (e.g. SAMA and DENR have now agreed to make data generated by government freely available without charge, in line with the SA State Strategic Plan).

With the emergence of all CHAFC member agencies delivering data freely to OZCAM, and thence to ALA etc (e.g. under a Creative Commons with attribution arrangement) there is growing agreement amongst jurisdictions that publically funded data should be made available freely, and SD suggests that CHAFC adopts an agreed approach to the delivery and availability of digital content.

SD provided the **Recommendation** that CHAFC endorse the following principles:

- **All** fauna data generated by CHAFC member institutions may be freely accessed via the OZCAM-ALA portal. [this was emended at the meeting to delete the word “**All**”]
- Where searches are directed to individual institutions because they require detail not currently available online, are unusually large or complex **or require detailed analysis or interpretation** etc, a fee may be charged in accordance with individual institutional policy [this was emended at the meeting to include the additional words “**or require detailed analysis or interpretation**”]
- Where searches of a commercial nature are directed to individual institutions, fees may be charged in accordance with individual institutional policy.
- All CHAFC members have the right to waive fees.

SD added the **Note** that these principles apply to individual institutional data sets, but where data searches span multiple institutions, such as those data managed by OZCAM-ALA, a different model would need to be applied, and that the ALA sensitive data service and collaborators were currently looking into this.

CHAFC had substantial discussion of this issue, and agreed that data users were encountering inconsistencies in access to data (charged or not), and that further discussion with FCIG was necessary about appropriate statements required to accompany the data delivered on OZCAM or OZCAM-ALA hub. In general, however, CHAFC largely saw this as responsibility of individual agencies, even though most (or possibly all) agencies accepted these proposed principles even if not explicit on their websites or embedded within their policies).

Subsequent to discussion of this agenda item, and following the address by Baden Appleyard on AusGOAL (see Item 7 below), it became clear that the whole issue of data access, attribution and charging has now substantially changed with the various state and commonwealth Right to Information Acts, and that all individual agencies within the jurisdictions where these Acts exist, and the portals that deliver multi-agency data, need to be re-evaluated.

**ACTION. That all members agree on the Principles (as emended above), but have the right to charge or provide data free according to their own institutional policies, and that these agreed Principles may help to guide any future changes to institutional policies.**

**ACTION. All members communicate to their Chief Executives the need for re-evaluation of institutional data access and Creative Commons licensing**

**with attribution (CCBY) as recommended by AusGOAL (at least in those states and territories where a Right to Information Act exists).**

## **ITEM 8. GOVERNMENTS OPEN ACCESS AND LICENSING FRAMEWORK - AUSGOAL (BADEN APPELYARD)**

AusGOAL is a project funded by all of Australia's Chief Information Officers, and now also includes the Australian National Data Service (<http://ands.org.au/guides/ausgoal.html>). Baden is a Barrister located within the Queensland Department of Public Works and the National Programme Director of the Australian Governments Open Access and Licensing Framework.

BA presented to CHAFC on issues associated with data and IP that are not solely copyright questions but are more in the genre of a 'business' decisions that carry copyright and open access consequences, within the context of the Governments Open Access and Licensing Framework (AusGOAL).

A copy of the presentation has been offered to CHAFC and will be made available on the CHAFC website (<http://www.chafc.org.au/>).

On the basis of the overarching importance of this issue to the core business of all CHAFC agencies, more detailed notes on the presentation are provided here.

**Copyright.** One of a suite of IP rights, embodied only in the Commonwealth, not by the States, under the Constitution. Protects expression, not ideas. Copyright is for 50 years, vested in the Crown (states are within the Crown), but universities are outside the crown and copyright is for 75 years. Authorship, originality and creative elements are a requirement for copyright. Fair use rights are applicable, but all other rights are reserved subject to agreement. It can be assigned and/or licensed. Licenses establish conditions of use, limit liability, establish contract elements such as price.

**GILF.** Originally a Queensland initiative, established cross-jurisdictional licensing framework for geospatial and related data. Established 6 Creative Commons licenses and 1 least restrictive license ([www.gilf.gov.au](http://www.gilf.gov.au)). Now moving onto a national GILF.

**AusGOAL.** New brand with international alignment. Nationally endorsed framework, and supported by sectoral organisations e.g. ANDS. Creative Commons Version 3 licenses under review. Increased focus on open access and open formats, especially in the geospatial area.

**OPEN:** Access-available free or at cost. Redistribution. No discrimination.

**Right to Information.** AusGOAL is an enabler of RTI (Qld, Tas, NSW, Commonwealth) – Vic following soon. Freedom of Information (FOI) now exists under RTI laws. Contains rules for interpretation and application.

Irrelevant factors not to be taken into account: embarrassment to government, misinterpretation of documents, mischievous conduct by applicant, seniority of author in agency, or result in confusion or unnecessary debate. These are deemed irrelevant factors. E.g. issue of inappropriate decision by data holder beyond their authority to judge the applicant's intention for data use.

Relevant factors: interpreted with an Access Bias: (i) disclosure of information – enhance govt's accountability; (ii) reveal information was incorrect, out of date, misleading, gratuitous, unfairly subjective, irrelevant; (iii) expected to contribute

protection to the environment; (iv) expected to contribute to innovation and facilitation of research.

Parallel Privacy Act – but only protects private information.

Cannot use data collected for one purpose for another purpose (e.g. threat of regulatory agencies prosecuting data holding agencies or collectors of data for not complying with collection permit conditions is irrelevant and inadmissible under law).

**Creative Commons Licenses:** 6 flavours. Not applicable within digital rights management protocol. Not applicable to software. Limitation of liability and warranty clauses. Now sufficiently established as a defacto international standard for licensing electronic information.

CC-BY (license with attribution) is the default claim for all information. Moral rights protected. Treat whatever you are dealing with that information has some form of copyright – whether there is or not. More restrictive non-commercial use licence (CC-BY-NC) very difficult to define what is commercial (e.g. captures not for profit incorporated organisations that have membership fees), and commercial companies that give away free information that is of public benefit, etc.

**Purpose of AusGOAL.** Value of RTI is in its innovative re-use. Assist in decisions for re-use. Reduce legal risk by identifying and protecting personal and confidential information. Promoting an understanding of its lawful use. Promoting searchable and accessible information. Curate data properly, sound data management principles.

AusGOAL is an enabler of the RTI Act.

**Uncertainties.** Secret and sacred objects information – protection would have to be sought under the Acts somewhere, but it is not currently immediate or obvious.

Unpublished research information – only if it is in a form that is claimable and searchable.

Museum records of known pests and diseases (dots on maps) where there are quarantine risks – difficult to protect this sort of information, probably require litigation.

Baden is willing to visit institutions and discuss these issues, or contact your state/territory Commissioner of Information. His contact email is:

baden.appleyard@publicworks.qld.gov.au

**ACTION. Chair to write to Baden to thank him for presenting, and to obtain a copy and permissions to deliver the presentation on the CHAFC website (with appropriate CCBY attributions of course !)**

## **ITEM 9. FCIG REPORT TO CHAFC**

FCIG provided a detailed verbal report of the issues they discussed, with only some of the details summarised here. More detailed minutes are available from the Chair of FCIG.

**Georeferencing:** need to send messages back to the collection managers about accuracy of georeferencing data and its export to OZCAM.

**Websites:** ongoing resourcing about maintenance of websites, currently technically managed by AM (but in WordPress), need to ask ALA to fix errors/ install updates.

Hosting given to CSIRO but FCIG with administrative rights.

**ACTION. CHAFC to provide in principle support for periodic maintenance funding of ~\$2000-\$3000 per year for FCIG/ CHAFC/ OZCAM websites.**

**GBIF:** Regional node manager support – most national regional representatives are full time but currently part time, viz. Beth Mantle.

**TDWG:** representative and reporting also an issue, maybe should be referred to CABC for resolution, and also the issue of ongoing responsibility for GBIF engagement and subscription fees.

**OZCAM hub prototype:** Feedback received and communicated back to ALA, especially taxonomic names searches, mobilisation of data challenges). Recent change in mind by HISCOM/CHAH not to adopt hub approach but that ALA site should be the CHAH/AVH site. FCIG rejected this model, and both sites (OZCAM hub and ALA) have different audiences. Proposal to be sent back to ALA for “ALA Light” (OZCAM Hub) and ALA Full. OZCAM hub demonstration site to be put on hold or closed.

**Imaging:** several emerging issues: delivery of images/ multimedia not necessarily linked to a collection record; digitisation of specimens; delivery of images to ALA; digitisation strategy of institutions (vary greatly between agencies, and purposes, and phyla). FCIG developed list of purposes to help guide institutional priorities in developing databasing strategies:

- Type specimens and taxonomy
- Public engagement
- Biodiversity/ ecological
- Institutional strengths
- Size of collections
- Economic importance
- Iconic objects or classes of collections
- Cross-institutional priorities (e.g. pollinators)
- Extinct, rare and threatened species/ conservation status
- Regional/ endemic species

**Imaging workshop:** Proposal for an imaging workshop at the CHAFC AGM in Perth in October/ November.

**ACTION. [any more actions for CHAFC requested by FCIG ?]**

#### **ITEM 10. DATA PRIVACY / COPYRIGHT ISSUES (JH)**

FCIG to report on the summit between FCIG & HISCOM in Canberra, sponsored by ALA.

CHAFC to discuss copyright issues with data accessible on OZCAM website (i.e. “Attribution-Non-commercial CC BY-NC” rather than “Attribution CC-BY”)

**ACTION. It was agreed that these issues had been covered sufficiently by FCIG report (Item 8) and AusGOAL presentation (Item 7), and that there were no more actions than those already raised.**

**Minutes of the joint meeting between FCIG and HISCOM in March are available from the Chair of FCIG.**

#### **ITEM 11. ALA IMAGING FOR INSTITUTIONS.**

This item was tabled by Ely Wallace (and also CG who was not able to attend the meeting) related to current ALA funding for improving institutional imaging capability, and what if any strategy is in place to for capturing and delivering images for the ALA.

This related to a broader question of data provision to ALA generally. It was noted that ALA are currently funding the purchase of imaging infrastructure around the country, but with no apparent or obvious coordinated or strategic national approach. For example, image capture of vertebrate and land snail type specimens was a CHAFC project priority many years ago, and to a greater or lesser extent achieved by member agencies, but there is no obvious strategy this time around.

This item was deferred to the CHAFC – FCIG joint session, and subsequently deferred again to the proposed Imaging workshop to be held at the October-November AGM since it was not clear to FCIG or CHAFC what resources were being allocated nationally, and what these were being directed towards (e.g. other type specimen collections, particular taxa of economic/ ecological/ taxonomic importance etc).

**ACTION. FCIG to coordinate with HISCOM and ALA to organize an imaging workshop during the 2011 AGM, including developing an imaging strategy relevant to the major biodiversity collection agencies**

#### **ITEM 12. CONSORTIUM FOR THE BARCODE OF LIFE (CBOL)**

- Tissue mining (PB) includes lending material
- Vertebrates (SD)

NMNH protocol tabled as an example of preferred protocol for material exchange agreements for barcoding etc. Clarified to members that there were 2 initiatives: CBOL (Smithsonian Institution) and IBOL (University of Guelph).

ANFC already shipping tissue to Guelph. SAMA has 2 agreements (frogs and bats) with Guelph, including the repatriation of the DNA extract, and technical assistance to get terrestrial vertebrate tissues to Guelph. MoV has activity with Guelph for Cephalopods, and QM with Porifera and Octocoral specimens through the Ocean Genome Legacy (OGL) through the CReefs and MarBOL projects.

Noted that the forthcoming 4<sup>th</sup> International Conference on Barcoding of Life in December was an opportunity to obtain a better national coordination.

Need for lists of available material, and for agreements on the return of DNA extracts.

**ACTION. Watch this space regarding David Schindel's possible financing of Australian barcoding effort.**

#### **ITEM 13. THE NAGOYA PROTOCOL**

- Implications of the Nagoya Protocol to museum collections and the trade/ flow of specimens

MP noted that this issue would be discussed at the forthcoming 2<sup>nd</sup> National Biodiscovery Forum and Workshop at Flinders University in August, including special sessions on marine biotechnology and the Nagoya Protocol, and that some Forum presentations and Workshop notes were likely to be made available for wider distribution. See <http://www.flinders.edu.au/national-biodiscovery-forum/>

#### **ITEM 14. FUNDING FOR TREASURER/SECRETARY TO AGM.**

JH tabled a request for CHAFC to fund the travel costs for participation by the Secretary/ Treasurer, Sarah Verschoore, to participate in this role for the AGM in October/ November 2011. Agreed by the meeting.

**ACTION. CHAFC to reimburse the basic travel costs (airfare, accommodation, actual costs of meals) for attendance of the CHAFC Secretary/ Treasurer at the 2011 AGM in Perth.**

#### **ITEM 15. OZCAM FUNDS HELD BY MV & AM**

CHAFC requested by MV to apply for OZCAM funds held in trust by MV to be returned to CHAFC, now that it is an incorporated Association. CHAFC to also investigate OZCAM funds held in trust by AM.

**ACTION. CHAFC to invoice MV for \$18,468.91**

**ACTION. PB to investigate balance of OZCAM funds held by AM, and to advise CHAFC Secretary/ Treasurer accordingly**

#### **ITEM 16. CHAFC INPUT INTO DIISR ROADMAP RESPONSES**

JH noted input by CHAFC into several responses on the DIISR national scientific infrastructure road mapping process (through CHAFC, CABC, ALA Management Committee), all of which were reasonably well coordinated.

MP also noted that Amy Davison has been seconded to the ABRS secretariat to help coordinate CABC including timelines.

#### **ITEM 17. CURRENT BIG ISSUES IN THE INSTITUTIONS**

MN requested this item be included as a standard agenda item at General Meetings (in addition to member agency reports), to identify major emerging issues that might not be included in those reports, and appropriately addressed at 6 month intervals, rather than only annually.

**MV:** A new Assets Manager appointed, communicating that MV was “effectively broke” with a \$10m black hole for unfunded building repairs. Tutankhamun expecting about 1 million visitors. Carpark cost increases were a significant revenue raiser during the Tutankhamun exhibition. Hazardous chemical issues emerging (arsenic and mercury) from the old taxidermy methods, up until about 1950s, with materials conservator on staff to assess densities of chemicals (WAM also noted detection of these chemicals including their loans kits). Especially prominent in European mammals specimens, requiring XRF equipment to detect concentrations (not just false positives through presence/ absence). Robert Walker, Canadian Museum of Natural History, delivered collection risk analysis workshops (damage, destruction etc), and highly recommended.

**ANWC:** Merger of CSIRO divisions into Ecosystem Services, with ANWC now down to four staff, potentially moving to Black Mountain site and detached from collections until new infrastructure can be built to house the ANWC material.

**ANFC:** The divisions housing ANIC and ANWC have merged (as per the ANWC report above). ANFC is still within the division of Marine and Atmospheric Research. Now the three collections (but not their research) are financially managed centrally under



CSIRO's new matrix structure. Our photographer is taking leave-without-pay for the next year, so we are now looking for a replacement for this period.

**ANIC:** Highly successful DNA barcoding exercise of 10,000 species (28,000 specimens) of Lepidoptera. Images mirrored to ALA. Extending project to other particular families.

**QM:** Outline of current plans for major building modifications at QM South Bank and moderate to major overhauls of exhibitions at the Brisbane site, with new resources from government and Board for both infrastructure modifications and exhibitions. Major international exhibition planned for 2012 (but still commercial in confidence). Current change management planning being attempted to improve QM's ability to "rapidly translate discovery into public experience". Current challenges with Queensland Audit Office and recognition and accountabilities of the State and Research collections as major state assets. Overview of the flood impacts and subsequent recovery, and lessons learned regarding frozen specimens collections in particular. UQ Insect Collection amalgamation with QM South Bank Entomology collections, funded by UQ, but QM collection now near full capacity. Appointment of new Head of Geosciences Program from TMAG (with apologies to TMAG for alleged poaching).

**AM:** New mega-department. Potential for some small funding for gallery rejuvenation. Kermadec Island expedition funded from bequest. Usual budget challenges, and collection management and audit issues. Temporary staff appointments and looking at branch structures.

**TMAG:** Major budget cuts. Retirement of Curator of Marine Invertebrates. Resignations of Deputy Director of Collections and Research, and Botanist. Redevelopment continuing.

**WAM:** Change management, current reviews and push for commercialisation being undertaken. Staff being replaced by contract employees and therefore losing the ability to recruit quality staff. Restructure completed. Multi-campus fragmentation amongst staff. Plan to strengthen relationships with universities. Planning for new building in Perth. Great success with funding from Woodside for marine field work in the Kimberley's. New molecular lab funded by Rio Tinto to be located within existing building.

**SAMA:** Steven D offering to give a presentation on molecular barcoding at the next CHAFC meeting. Usual budget constraints, especially salaries versus total budget. Audit becoming a challenge. New MOU with Flinders University and renewal with University of Adelaide, and greater opportunities for grant funding. Education Infrastructure Fund is funding new molecular labs at University of Adelaide with SAMA staff moving into these, and existing labs now under-utilised. Centralisation of whole of government IT.

**ACTION. Members to update these notes in telegraphic style if incomplete  
ACTION. This item to remain on the agenda for future GM and AGMs.**

## **ITEM 18. ISSUE OF PRIVATE FOSSIL COLLECTORS ATTEMPTING TO SELL TO MUSEUMS**

PB tabled issue of Warren Sommerville's commercial fossil trade, and conflicting historical close association with AM fossil collections in Bathurst, and PB canvassing

other museums to gauge level of his commercialisation nationally. JH & MN noted approaches by Warren to their institutions, offering the sale of fossils purchased from third parties some of whom have dubious claim to ownership of these specimens (e.g. leasehold vs freehold land, differing state legislations governing fossil ownership, and provenance issues related to international sale of specimens etc). JH noted that QM response has been along the lines of “QM does not purchase fossil specimens but can arrange for donations under the cultural gifts program etc”

**ACTION. Members to send PB details of interactions with or approaches by this person, and how institutions have dealt with these.**

### **ITEM 19. QUALITY OF ATLAS OF LIVING AUSTRALIA DATA**

LJ raised the issue of the data quality of some of the observations or specimen records being delivered by the ALA, in particular records that cannot be verified by links to specimen objects. E.g. His experiences have shown some massive discrepancies in alleged distributional data for particular species which cannot be verified, and hence diminish the value of this tool as a reliable and verifiable source of information.

CHAFC noted that it is the onus of the ALA to filter erroneous data through the differentiation of data sets as e.g. “purely observational” versus “verifiable and underpinned by a collection object”.

**ACTION. LJ to follow up with FCIG and ALA [Leo please emend if I have recorded this poorly]**

**NEXT MEETING. JOINT CHAFC – CHAH, AND FCIG – HISCOM MEETING IN PERTH, OCTOBER OR NOVEMBER (TBA BY KEVIN THIELE)**