



16th Biennial Business Meeting – 22nd November, 2015

IMAS Building, Waterfront, Hobart, Tasmania

1. Opening

The President, Professor Gabrielle McMullen, opened the meeting at 12.45 pm and welcomed members and non-members, along with Dr Katrin Amian representing the Alexander von Humboldt-Stiftung.

2. Roll Call and Apologies

Member Attendance List:

Kathy Andrews (KA)	(QLD)
Hans Bachor (HB)	(ACT)
Thomas Baumgartl	(QLD)
Allan Bretag	(SA)
Juan Cooper	(QLD)
Kay Double	(NSW)
Trevor Finlayson (TF)	(VIC)
David Glynn	(SA)
George Gream (GG)	(SA)
Rosanne Guijt	(TAS)
Roger Hillman	(ACT)
Peter Jarvis (PJ)	(TAS)
Nathan Kilah	(TAS)
Jeff Malpas (JM)	(TAS)
Gabrielle McMullen (GM)	(VIC)
Ian Nicholls (IN)	(VIC)
Roger Read (RRe)	(NSW)
Judith Reinhard (JR)	(QLD)
Robert Robson (RRo)	(QLD)
Dehong Yu	(NSW)
Wim Wouts	(WA)
Shaowu Zhang	(NSW)

Apologies:

Ivan Bertoncello	(VIC)
David Black	(NSW)
Walter Bloom	(WA)
Gary Bryant	(VIC)
Mary Campbell	(NSW)
Stewart Campbell	(ACT)
Andrew Cheetham	(NSW)
Jared Cole	(VIC)
Timothy Devinney	(NSW)
Ralf Dietzgen	(QLD)
Michael Fellows	(NT)

Julienne Harnett	(NSW)
Keith King	(SA)
Russell Korsch	(ANU)
Ian Lambert	(NSW)
Paul Lennox	(NSW)
Peter Morgan	(NSW)
Paul Mulvaney	(VIC)
Laura Parry	(VIC)
Patsie Polly	(NSW)
John Randles	(SA)
Catherine (Kate) Rigby	(VIC)
Roger Seymour	(SA)
David Teakle	(QLD)
Judith Thompson-Hofer	(NSW)
Walter Veit	(VIC)
Nico Voelker	(SA)

Also in attendance:

Katrin Amian (AvHF, Bonn)

3. Minutes of the Previous Meeting

The minutes of the previous meeting, held on 19th October, 2013 at the Mecure Hotel, Sydney, N.S.W., were ratified by a motion to this effect (Moved: IN; Seconded: JM; and carried).

4. Matters Arising from the Minutes

4.1 Mentoring programme with DAAD and RAMP Meeting

KD reported on the success of the RAMP Meeting which had been held on Thursday/Friday, 19th/20th November, and expressed her appreciation to those AvH Fellows who have become involved with the mentoring programme and to all Fellows who attended and participated in the Friday sessions of presentations. Kay indicated that she would be preparing a full report on the RAMP Meeting which would be made available to the AAvHFs.

IN raised concerns about the lack of information which had been received prior to the RAMP Meeting. He felt the cooperation between our Association and the DAAD, offered an important link to Germany, a sentiment supported by HB. KD indicated that with the employment of Kerry Thornton, which had been possible recently, using some of the funds available as a result of the Humboldt Prize to KD for the RAMP programme, this cooperation and communication should improve.

KD indicated she would be providing a full report of the RAMP Meeting.

Action: KD Report to TF for distribution

4.2 Von Mueller fellowship

JM summarised the previous efforts by the Association which included the visit to Canberra by GM, JM and TF in March, 2013. Unfortunately, much of this effort had come to nothing with the change of Government. JM suggested that a renewed effort should be mounted in 2016 with renewed approaches to both Aidan Byrne (in his capacity as CEO of the ARC) and key politicians. GM indicated that she had spoken with Aidan Byrne during the current weekend. JR indicated that there had been discussions within the Embassy and a most positive prospect for the future was the Innovation Statement, shortly to be released, which had been mentioned by Ambassador Mueller in his remarks during the reception on the previous evening.

(It is noted that the innovation statement, which includes most encouraging Australian – German collaborative interactions, has since appeared.)

It was moved RRe and seconded RRo and carried, “that the Association continue to negotiate for a reinstatement of the von Mueller Fellowship.”

Action: GM, JM & TF

4.3 Humboldt Lecture Series

RRO expressed his concern that the title “Humboldt Lecture Series” does not seem to be working. However, GM indicated that the Leichhardt Symposium in Brisbane and the Joint Symposium (Humboldt Kolleg) with The Royal Society of Victoria in October, 2014, seemed to her to fulfill the aims of the Humboldt Lecture idea. Both had involved significant inputs and efforts for Association members and will be summarized in the next two agenda items. RRO went on to suggest that the name “Lecture Series” be changed to “Symposium.”

GM brought discussion of this matter to a close by suggesting that State Representatives on the incoming National Committee might foster some appropriate lectures in the coming two years. The Association could offer some financial support for such events.

Action: State Reps

RRO then moved a motion (seconded IN) “That the Humboldt Lecture Series be renamed “Humboldt Colloquium” (carried unanimously).

4.4 Leichhardt Symposium

JR gave a verbal report on the Leichhardt Symposium which had been held in Brisbane in October, 2013. 150 attendees were present for a reception at the Brisbane German Club on the night of 22 October, 2013, which was followed, on 23 October, the anniversary of the birth date of Ludwig Leichhardt, by a most successful symposium at the University of Queensland entitled, “The Leichhardt Symposium on Biodiversity and Conservation.” A report on this event is available on the Association website (www.humboldtaustralia.org.au) under the link “AAvHF Events – QLD Events.” JR indicated that it had been resolved to hold the next Biodiversity Symposium in Germany.

4.5 AAvHF/Royal Society of Victoria Symposium

TF indicated that this event entitled “Celebration of German Contributions to Australian Science and Victorian Scientific Institutions – Past and Present,” which had involved a considerable amount of work for our Association, had been most successful. Amongst the 80 full registrants for the Symposium there were 25 Humboldtians (22 Australians and three New Zealanders). The two and one-half-day programme, consisted of 45 presentations, of which 17 had been given by Humboldtians. Those manuscripts which were submitted and successfully peer-reviewed, have been published as follows: *Proceedings of The Royal Society of Victoria*, Vol. 127 (Part 1), ISSN 0035-9211 (CSIRO Publishing, 2015).

GM recorded the gratitude of our Association to the Foundation for the award of a Humboldt Kolleg for this Joint Symposium. A full report on the Symposium can be read on the Association website (www.humboldtaustralia.org.au) under the link “AAvHF Events – VIC Events.”

5. Awards Subcommittee Report

JM who had chaired the 2015 Awards Subcommittee thanked the other two members, KA and RRe, for their inputs to the work of Subcommittee for this year. He made the point that the members of the Subcommittee had deliberated on how to judge the relative weightings of “Scholarly Contributions” and “Association Contributions” for both Awards and that this was one matter which the incoming National Committee might consider during the coming two-year period. He also suggested that he should like to see more publicity given to these Association awards, particularly to the Peter Schwerdtfeger Award. JM suggested that an early notice could be brought to the attention of the State Representatives on the National Committee and that these members should then encourage nominations.

Action: Honorary Secretary and State Reps

GM thanked the Subcommittee members for their work and expressed congratulations again to the award winners (Distinguished Fellow Awards (Rob Robson and David Black); Peter Schwerdtfeger Award (Jared Cole)) and suggested that the incoming NSW Representative should make arrangements for the presentation to be made to David Black who had been unable to attend the Biennial Meeting in Hobart.

Action: NSW State Rep

6. President’s Report

A preliminary version of the President’s Report had been circulated prior to the Meeting and several copies were available for perusal. GM made specific mention of the death of Dr George Bornemissza OAM on 10 April 2014 in Hobart. She explained that George had been a long-standing member of the Australian Association and was awarded inaugural Distinguished Fellow status in 2011. He was an internationally-recognised entomologist and ecologist – his most famous work was on the Australian Dung Beetle Project at CSIRO’s Division of Entomology. On behalf of the Australian Association of von Humboldt Fellows, GM added that she had offered condolences to Dr Bornemissza’s wife, Jo, and his family.

GM also expressed her thanks to the State Representatives for their work during the past two years and particularly thanked the members of the Executive, Vice-President, Jeff Malpas, Honorary Secretary, Trevor Finlayson and Honorary Treasurer, Gary Bryant.

In the interests of saving time, given the departure of the ferry to Mona, GM suggested that the other items covered in her report should be taken “as read” and moved that her report be accepted, (seconded TF and carried unanimously). The file (President’s Report 2015 22-9-15.pdf) is also attached to these minutes.

7. Secretary’s Report

TF tabled a report (File: Secretary’s Report 2015.pdf (attached)) in which he summarized in “dot-point” form, the activities in which he had been involved on behalf of the Association during the last two-year period. Also in the interests of saving time, he recommended that this document be taken “as read.”

RRO put a question in regards to the ongoing history of the Association, particularly in relation to its biennial meetings, and suggested that such information should be summarized on the Association website. TF also indicated that GG had given him some newspaper cuttings concerning our Foundation President, Peter Schwerdtfeger. TF and RRe offered to take on this task and it was moved (RRO) and seconded (JM) and carried that TF and RRe be authorized to bring this history together and add it to an appropriate section of our website.

Action: TF and RRe

8. Treasurer’s Report

In the absence of GB who had had to return to Melbourne on an early morning flight, TF presented GB’s Treasurer’s report (File: AAvHF_Financial Report_2015.pdf [attached]) which showed a current balance (as at 11th November, 2015) of \$32,523.10. Expenditure during the accounting period since 20th September, 2013, had involved \$701.76 reimbursement of travel costs, \$200.00 for the Peter Schwerdtfeger Award, and Miscellaneous expenditures \$206.00 and \$310.00 for a dinner with Max Planck Awardee, Professor Brian Turner. Total income from memberships for the period was \$4,340.00. TF drew attention to the figure of \$22,492.40 which had already been received from the Foundation as part of the Humboldt Kolleg grant which had been received by PJ as the result of his successful application for a Humboldt Kolleg in association with the current Biennial Conference, and pointed out that this would soon be expended, partly on expenses for the Conference itself, and then partly on subsequent reimbursements to registrants.

In addition, the report contains a summary of the funds held by our Association on behalf of the RAMP Program (currently showing a surplus for the period of \$10,465.94) and a summary of the financial involvement of our Association in the Joint AAvHF/RSV Symposium which included the Humboldt Kolleg grant successfully applied for by TF to support that event.

It was moved (TF), seconded (IN) and carried that the Treasurer’s Report be accepted.

GB had also prepared a current membership summary which TF presented on his behalf. (File: AAvH_Membership_Report_Hobart_Nov_2015.pdf [attached]) which showed a

membership of 187 as at 11th November, 2015, of whom 60 are not up to date with their membership payments. GB indicated that it was his intention to remove from the membership list at the end of 2015, those who had not paid since 2009. The summary report noted that 2010-11 had been a “bumper period” due to recruiting by State Reps, but that new memberships had slowed since that time. GB recommended a “new membership drive” in order to reverse this trend. (Refer to later comment by KA under Item 12.1.)

Action: Honorary Treasurer and State Reps

9. Reports from State Representatives

RRe (NSW) indicated that he would not be continuing as NSW State Rep on the National Committee but had organized a smooth transition to a new representative. Partly for this reason, he had tabled a written report on the NSW AAvHF activities during the last two-year period. (File: AAvHFs NSW Report.pdf [attached])

10. Webmaster’s Report

In the absence of PK, GM acknowledged the work being done by him in maintaining the website. JM suggested that there was a need to upgrade our website and suggested that with the approval of the meeting, he and NK would investigate this and report to the incoming Executive Committee on a possible way forward. There was general support for this suggestion.

Action: JM and NK

11. Election of Executive Committee (2016-2017)

TF reported that the following nominations had been received in response to his distribution of a form calling for nominations along with the notice of this Biennial Meeting: Julienne Harnett (NSW), Nico Voelcker (SA), Thomas Baumgartl (QLD), Walter Bloom (WA), Gabrielle McMullen (VIC), Trevor Finlayson (VIC), Gary Bryant (VIC) and Nathan Kilah (TAS). In addition the following nominations were accepted by the President from the meeting: Hans Bachor (ACT), Jeff Malpas (TAS), Peter Jarvis (TAS) and Patsy Polly (NSW). (There had been no nomination received from the one member in the Northern Territory, Michael Fellows, but an enquiry by TF following the Hobart meeting, revealed that Michael Fellows and his wife would be departing Charles Darwin University very soon in order to take up positions in Germany.)

As this number of nominations (12) is one fewer than the number required (Article 4(a) of the Constitution), these 12 were declared elected to the National Committee. In PKs absence, HB suggested that PK should remain on the National Committee in his capacity as Webmaster but that he, HB, would take on the responsibilities of the ACT representative, since he felt that PK had a large work-load at the ANU. This suggestion was accepted by the meeting, subject to discussions between HB and PK.

Action: HB and PK

(It should be noted that, as required by the constitution (Article 4(a)) a subsequent meeting of the newly elected National Committee should be held at the conclusion of the Biennial general Meeting, to elect the Executive Positions of President, Vice-President, Honorary Secretary and Honorary Treasurer for the coming two-year period. However, on account of the shortage of time, given the outing to Mona, this meeting was postponed although expressions of interest in these positions had been received from Gabrielle McMullen for the position of President, Jeff Malpas (Vice-President), Trevor Finlayson (Honorary Secretary) and Gary Bryant (Honorary Treasurer). Subsequently, this meeting was held electronically with the Honorary Secretary email all members of the National Committee. There being no further nominations for these Executive Positions, the above four were declared elected.)

In addition, the respective State/Territory representatives were noted so that the National Committee for the period 1st January, 2014 to 31st December, 2015, is as follows:

President: Gabrielle McMullen
Past President: Rob Robson
Vice-President: Jeff Malpas
Secretary: Trevor Finlayson
Treasurer: Gary Bryant (also Registrar)

Nominated State Representatives:

Q'ld: Thomas Baumgartl
N.S.W.: Julienne Harnett
A.C.T.: Hans Bachor
Vic.: Trevor Finlayson
Tas.: Nathan Kilah
S.A.: Nico Voelcker
W.A.: Walter Bloom
N.T.: -

Other National Committee Members:

Patrick Kluth (also Webmaster)
 Peter Jarvis
 Patsy Polly

12. General Business

12.1 Comments from AvHF

GM invited KA to address the meeting. KA expressed the thanks of the AvHF for the work being done by the AAvHF.

She indicated that selections of new Fellows were now available on the Foundation website and she encouraged the Association to use this information in order to encourage new memberships, particularly on the parts of new Australian Humboldtians and also to check for older Australians who may be Humboldtians but who are not yet members of the Association. She also encouraged the Association to liaise with Australian Humboldtians who may still be researching in Germany, in an effort alert them to the benefits of joining the Association on their return to Australia.

GM thanked KA for her remarks and also for her attendance at our Biennial Conference.

12.2 Comments on 2015 Biennial Conference Organisation

PJ suggested, in response to some questions that he had received about the opening lecture by Brandon Menzies, that Brandon's PowerPoint slides would be made available on the Association website (www.humboldtaustralia.org.au).

Action: PJ and PK

PJ mentioned that reimbursements would take some time to finalise but would subsequently be completed by the Treasurer. He reminded those who had not yet completed a reimbursement request that they should do so using the form which could be downloaded from the Conference website and which should be returned to the Treasurer.

Action: GB

12.3 Venue and Time of Next Biennial Meeting

GM stated that it had been agreed with our NZ colleagues, that the NZAvHF should host the 2017 Biennial Conference. As yet there was not a confirmed venue but, nevertheless, the 2017 Biennial Meeting of the Association would be held in conjunction with this 2017 conference.

10. Closure

The meeting closed at 1.45 pm.

Minute Taking
Associate Professor Trevor Finlayson
Honorary Secretary

President's Report, Australian Association of von Humboldt Fellows

Hobart, 22 November 2015

Over the last three years it has been an honour to serve the Australian Association of von Humboldt Fellows (AAvHF) as its President. With the other members of national executive, I value this opportunity to make a contribution to the Humboldtian family and, in so doing, to acknowledge with gratitude the generosity of the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation.

This report will highlight significant Association matters since its previous biennial meeting in Sydney in 2013:

- Leichhardt Symposium
- Death of Dr George Bornemissza OAM
- Joint AAvHF – Royal Society of Victoria Symposium
- Update on the RAMP Project
- Gratitude to the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation
- Significant Achievements of Fellows
- Awards Committee
- 2015 Conference in Hobart
- Service of AAvHF Executive

Leichhardt Symposium

In the week following the last AAvHF biennial meeting in Sydney, which occasion was also the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation's only international colloquium in 2013, the University of Queensland hosted the Leichhardt Symposium in celebration of the 200th birthday of the German explorer Ludwig Leichhardt. Focusing on Biodiversity and Conservation, the symposium on 23-24 October 2013 brought together researchers, students, decision-makers and the general public in these fields, with Australia and Germany at centre stage. With support from the Foundation and the Australian Embassy in Berlin, the symposium was designed to initiate a series of conferences on these central themes to be alternated between Australia and Germany. Humboldt Fellows Dr Judith Reinhard and Professor Peer Schenk from the University of Queensland played leading roles in planning and conducting the successful Leichhardt Symposium.

Death of Dr George Bornemissza OAM

Following a long illness Dr George Bornemissza OAM died on 10 April 2014 in Hobart. George was a long-standing member of the Australian Association and was awarded inaugural Distinguished Fellow status in 2011. He was an internationally-recognised entomologist and ecologist – his most famous work was on the Australian Dung Beetle Project at CSIRO's Division of Entomology. On behalf of the Australian Association of von Humboldt Fellows, I offered condolences to Dr Bornemissza's wife, Jo, and his family.

Joint AAvHF – Royal Society of Victoria Symposium

The major AAvHF event in 2014 was the joint symposium with the Royal Society of Victoria, entitled *Celebration of German Contributions to Australian Science and Victorian Scientific Institutions – Past and Present*. The symposium was first proposed during the 2012 visit to Melbourne of Professor Helmut Schwarz, President of the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation. A joint planning committee, which I chaired, was subsequently established and met regularly for over a year. On behalf of the committee Associate Professor Trevor Finlayson applied for and gained a Humboldt *Kolleg* grant to support the symposium.

The symposium, held on 1-3 October 2014 at the Royal Society of Victoria in Victoria Parade, Melbourne, demonstrably achieved its goal of recognising past and present Australian-German collaborations in science. Its plenary and parallel sessions were well-attended and the symposium was honoured by both the presence of the Deputy German Ambassador Joseph Reichardt and a Victorian Government reception as its closing event on the Day of German Unity. A special issue of the *Proceedings of the Royal Society of Victoria* was published in 2015, collating papers from the symposium including my opening address entitled *Noted Colonial German Scientists and Their Contexts*.

The symposium's success was due in no small part to the generous contributions of the planning committee and, in particular, months of dedicated work on the part of the Association's Honorary Secretary Associate Professor Trevor Finlayson. On behalf of the Australian Association of von Humboldt Fellows, I express our sincere gratitude to Trevor and all the planning committee.

Update on the RAMP Project

In 2013 Scientific Ambassador for the Humboldt Foundation in Australia Associate Professor Kay Double was awarded a Humboldt Alumni Prize for Innovative Initiatives. The prize, valued at 25,000 Euros, supports a national mentoring scheme for early Australian career researchers. Entitled the Research Ambassador and Mentoring Program or RAMP, the program is an initiative of Kay and the past Director of the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD) in Sydney, Dr Andreas Jäger. Alumni of Humboldt- and DAAD-funded schemes can enrol in RAMP either as:

- *research ambassadors* who disseminate information re opportunities for studying in Germany, current examples of co-operation, and the scholarship programs of the Humboldt Foundation and DAAD at public forums and in their institutions, or
- *mentors* who, bridging geographically dispersed Australian research institutions, seek to support young Australian scientists in defining their professional goals, by offering them non-partisan advice, potentially assistance in the preparation of resumes and applications, and appropriate contacts.

Annual gatherings of mentors and mentees have been arranged with the Humboldt Alumni Prize meeting travel and other meeting expenses for these occasions. The funding has also enabled the development of a website – ramp-australia.info – through which research ambassadors, mentors and mentees can register their interest in RAMP and be appropriately linked. RAMP held its 2015 national meeting in Hobart immediately prior to the Association's biennial colloquium. The Association expresses our appreciation and congratulations to Kay on this valuable collaborative initiative with the DAAD and wishes it continued success.

Gratitude to the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation

It is particularly pleasing that Dr Katrin Amian from the Alexander von Humboldt-Stiftung, who oversees the Australian and New Zealand "portfolio", has joined us in Hobart for the

colloquium. We ask her to convey our gratitude to the Foundation for its ongoing support of the Australian Humboldtians.

Over 500 Australians have received Humboldt Fellowships and Awards; Australian research has also benefitted from over 100 Feodor Lynen Fellowships to German researchers joining Australian research groups and a quarter of the latter have remained in Australia. We are truly indebted to the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation for promoting German-Australian research collaborations, including occasions like this biennial meeting which foster ongoing fellowship and cooperation. The AAvHF expresses its sincere thanks to the Foundation for the Humboldt *Kolleg* grant which has generously supported the Australian and New Zealand Associations' meeting in Hobart.

In recognition of the significant support for Australian research by the German Government, the Association executive remains committed to seeking Australian Government sponsorship of Australian-German research partnerships. It commends the cross-Tasman initiative of the annual Julius von Haast Fellowship which allows for an internationally recognised German researcher to spend time working collaboratively with New Zealand colleagues to establish or enhance collaborative research of benefit to both countries.

Following the change of Government and in the absence of an Australian Science Minister for much of the last two years, the AAvHF executive did not continue its efforts to seek the re-establishment of the von Mueller Fellowship previously offered under the former Australian Research Council's International Linkage Scheme. However, with the appointment of a Minister for Industry, Innovation and Science and enhanced Government commitment to investing in science and promoting Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematic education, the AAvHF executive intends to take up the case again with the Federal Government, if the Hobart meeting endorses the proposed action (see meeting agenda).

Significant Achievements of Fellows

On behalf of the Australian Association of von Humboldt Fellows, I congratulate Humboldtian Dr Judith Reinhard on her appointment as Science Counsellor for the Embassy of the Federal Republic of Germany in Canberra. Another Australian Fellow Professor Aidan Byrne continues in his significant role as Chief Executive Officer of the Australian Research Council. We are delighted that both Judith and Aiden are present at and contributing to this biennial meeting.

Humboldtian Professor Bryan Turner who is currently both Director of the Mellon Committee for the Study of Religion at the Graduate Center of the City University of New York and Director of the Institute for Religion, Politics and Society at Australian Catholic University was recently presented with a 2015 Humboldt Foundation Max Planck Research Award. As AAvHF President I wrote and congratulated him on his prestigious award and then on 11 August 2015, with Honorary Secretary Associate Professor Trevor Finlayson, met with him for dinner in Melbourne.

Awards Committee

The Association has two biennial award categories – the Peter Schwerdtfeger Award and up to two Distinguished Fellow Awards, which respectively recognise the academic or professional achievement of early career AAvHF members and of long-standing members who have excelled in their professional field and/or provided sustained service to the Association. I acknowledge with gratitude the work of the AAvHF awards committee with membership of Professor Jeff Malpas (University of Tasmania, chair), Associate Professor Kathy Andrews (Griffith University) and Associate Professor Roger Read (University of New South Wales). The committee considered the nominations for 2015 awards and recommended unanimously that:

- Dr Jared Cole be the recipient of the Peter Schwerdtfeger Award; and
- Both Professors David Black and Robert Robson be recipients of a Distinguished Fellow Award.

On behalf of the Association, I was pleased to accept the recommendations and prepared the citations to be read at the colloquium pre-dinner reception. The Association congratulates the awardees most warmly.

2015 Conference in Hobart

The AAvHF has held regular biennial meetings since 1983 – this is the first one in Tasmania. The Association is most grateful to the University of Tasmania-based organising committee for its preparations for the *Global Perspectives, Local Knowledge* colloquium which has brought the Australian and New Zealand Associations of von Humboldt Fellows together in Hobart. Committee chair Dr Peter Jarvis and his fellow committee members – Professor Simon Ellingsen, Associate Professor Michael Gardiner, Dr Nathan Kilah and Professor Jeff Malpas – have worked diligently over many months to arrange the conference. They also prepared a successful application for a Humboldt *Kolleg* grant to support the colloquium and we congratulate them on this achievement. All their generous and professional efforts have been rewarded with a well-attended colloquium and a stimulating program. We thank them and their local collaborators most sincerely. In particular, I acknowledge the University of Tasmania’s support for the biennial meeting, especially through the provision of the Institute for Marine and Antarctic Studies as the conference venue.

We also express our appreciation to Australian Ambassador for the Federal Republic of German Dr Christoph Mueller who generously sponsored the reception preceding the conference dinner on Saturday, 21 November.

Service of AAvHF Executive

Our Association is very fortunate to have a willing and generous team providing leadership across the country through the State/Territory representatives. A valued role of these representatives continues to be their organisation of annual local functions to mark Alexander von Humboldt's birthday. I was pleased to join the Melbourne function which this year was held at Il Vicolo in Carlton on 14 October.

The Association and, in particular, the President has been provided with outstanding support through the professional and dedicated work of Honorary Secretary Associate Professor Trevor Finlayson, Treasurer Professor Gary Bryant, Vice-President Professor Jeff Malpas and Webmaster Associate Professor Patrick Kluth. I thank them most sincerely for their commitment to the AAvHF.

Let me conclude by expressing my appreciation of all the AAvHF members who have supported me in my role as President over the period 2012-2015. It has been a privilege to serve you and promote the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation in the Australian context. I enjoy hearing of Fellows’ activities across the States and Territories, especially the traditional and much-appreciated celebrations of Alexander von Humboldt’s birthday.

I wish the Australian and New Zealand Associations well for their future development and trust that they will continue to remain true to the ideals of the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation.

I hope that many members of the Australian Association will gather in two years time in New Zealand for our next joint colloquium.

Gabrielle McMullen AM
President, Australian Association of von Humboldt Fellows
22 November 2015

Secretary's Report, Australian Association of von Humboldt Fellows Hobart, 22 November, 2015

1. AAvHF/RSV Joint Symposium/Humboldt Kolleg (1-3 October, 2014)

A major commitment by the Association during the past two years which has meant a significant effort on the part of the Honorary Secretary, was the Joint Symposium/Humboldt Kolleg with the Royal Society of Victoria (RSV) entitled, "Celebration of German Contributions to Australian Science and Victorian Scientific Institutions – Past and Present." This commitment had evolved from an invitation from Professor Lynne Selwood, Immediate Past President, RSV, to our President, for our Association to be involved. The acceptance of this invitation generated much more input on the part of the Honorary Secretary than one would have imagined initially. This involved:

- regular meetings with Professor Selwood at the University of Melbourne between 3 September, 2013 and September, 2014.
- formation and administration of a Programme Committee (three meetings).
- submission of a Humboldt Kolleg Application (February, 2014).
- correspondence to: (i) Vice-Chancellor, University of Melbourne; (ii) State Government of Victoria; (iii) Siemens; (iii) Mercedes; (iv) Bayer Chemicals, (v) Audi Australia and (vi) Hella Australia. These were efforts to secure support for the Symposium. (i) was immediately successful resulting in a grant of \$2,800 to enable a lower registration for all Early Career Researchers attending. (ii) was eventually successful following significant assistance from Mr Michael Pearce SC, Honorary Consul for Victoria, in that the final function of the Symposium in celebration of the anniversary of the day of German Unity was supported and organized by representatives of the State Government Department of Minister Matthew Guy. The rest did not yield any support for the event.
- preparation and printing of symposium Handbook. (This can be viewed on-line at our Association website, humboldtaustralia.org.au (via AAvHF Events – VIC Events)).
- preparation and submission of Humboldt Kolleg Report to the AvHF. (This report can also be accessed on the above website.)
- advice to the Editors of the special issue of the Proceedings of the Royal Society of Victoria recently published on-line at www.publish.csiro.au/?nid=308.
- coordination of purchase and supply of hard copies of the above issue to those full registrants who ordered same.

In addition, in order to fulfill one requirement of the award of a Humboldt Kolleg by the Foundation to support this Joint Symposium, I prepared a paper entitled "The Alexander von Humboldt Foundation: Outcomes of Support for Australian Science and Scholarship", the full manuscript from which was accepted for publication in the special issue of the RSV Proceedings.

2. Organisation of Annual Humboldt Birthday Celebration

This is always an enjoyable event for those who attend. Dinners have been organized in September, 2014, at the Swiss Club, Flinders Lane, Melbourne and in October, 2015, at Il Vicolo Restaurant, Carlton. In each case we have been pleased to welcome Mr Michael Pearce, SC and in 2015 the DAAD Lecturers at Monash University and the University of Melbourne, Imke Schmidt and Daniela Mueller, respectively.

3. Liaison with AvHF (Bonn)

On two occasions I have received requests to make available the names and contacting details for Australian von Humboldt Fellows in tertiary institutions. The first of these came from a person in the Research Administration Unit of Macquarie University and the second from an Associate Dean (Research) at the University of Melbourne. In each case I was pleased to be able to assist, with the complete co-operation and support of an officer at the Foundation in Bonn, who supplied the relevant updated details of Australian Humboldtians.

4. 16th Biennial Meeting in Hobart

While the organization our 16th Biennial Conference has been the responsibility of a small committee at the University of Tasmania under the Chairmanship of Dr Peter Jarvis, I have been responsible for:

- the circulation of the series of circulars (four in all) to our Association group membership email list, to a supplementary list of non-member Australian Humboldtians and to a supplementary email list of interested persons including our NZ Humboldtian colleagues;
- the organisation of occasional teleconferences, as require, between the University of Tasmania Organising Committee and the Melbourne-based AAvHF Executive.
- the circulation, in accord with our Association constitution, of all papers in relation to our 16th Biennial Business Meeting.



Trevor R. Finlayson
Honorary Secretary
22 November, 2015



Australian Association of von Humboldt Fellows

Promoting scholarly interchange

www.humboldtaustralia.org.au

Membership Summary, 11 November 2015

As of 11 November there are 187 Members on the books. Of these, 60 are not up to date with membership payments.

The distribution of membership types is shown in figure 1. Those who have not paid for several years (since 2009) will be removed from the list at the end of 2015.

Membership revenue continues the strong trends of the past decade, as shown in figure 2. This has mostly been from existing members and life membership payments.

New member trends are shown in figure 3. 2010-2011 was a bumper period due to recruiting by state reps, but new membership has slowed since. A new membership drive is in order to reverse this trend.

Figure 4 shows the growth in life members, which currently represent 36% of the membership, and almost half of the recently active membership.

Gary Bryant
11 November 2015
Honorary Treasurer

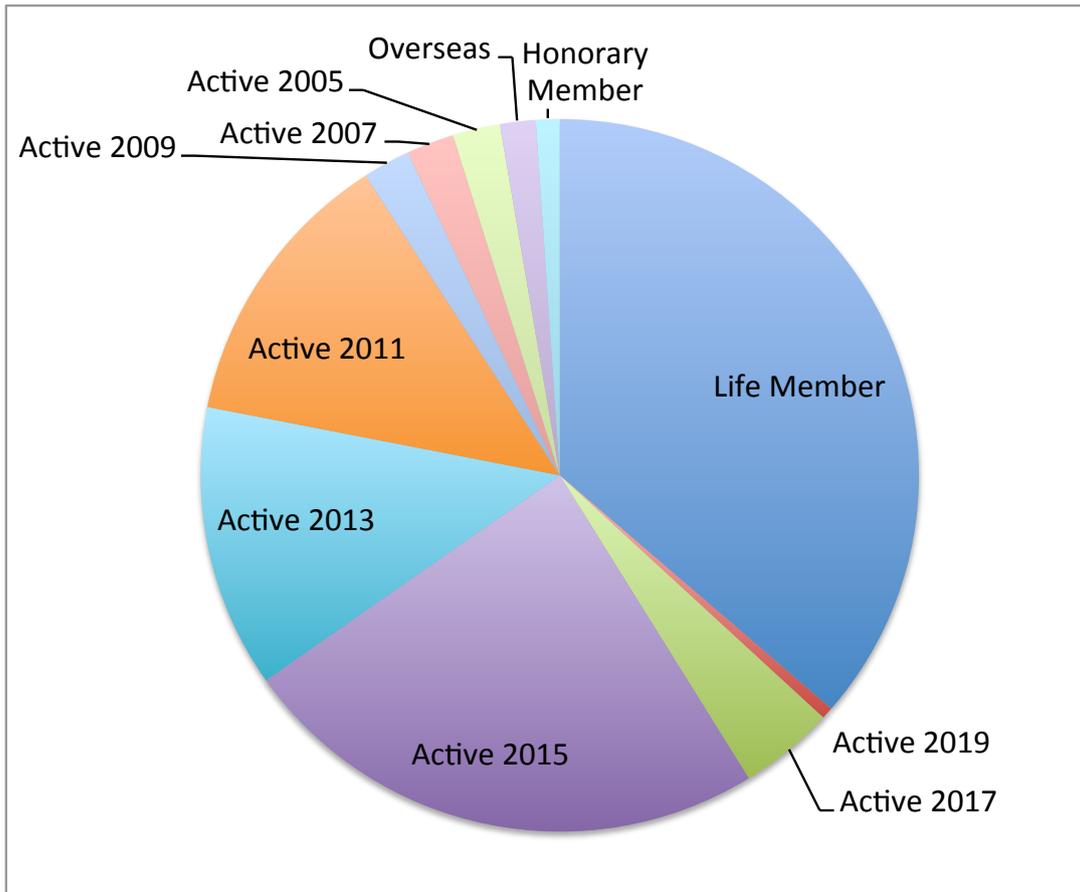


Figure 1: Membership Status

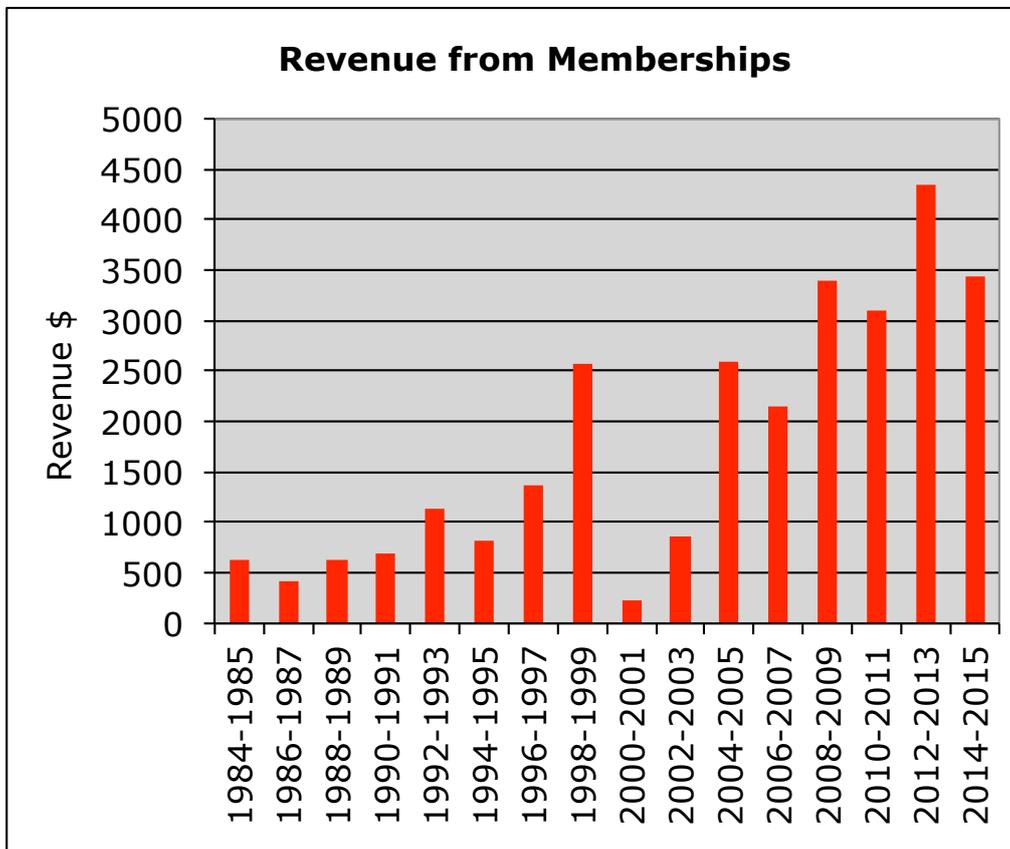


Figure 2: Trends in revenue from membership

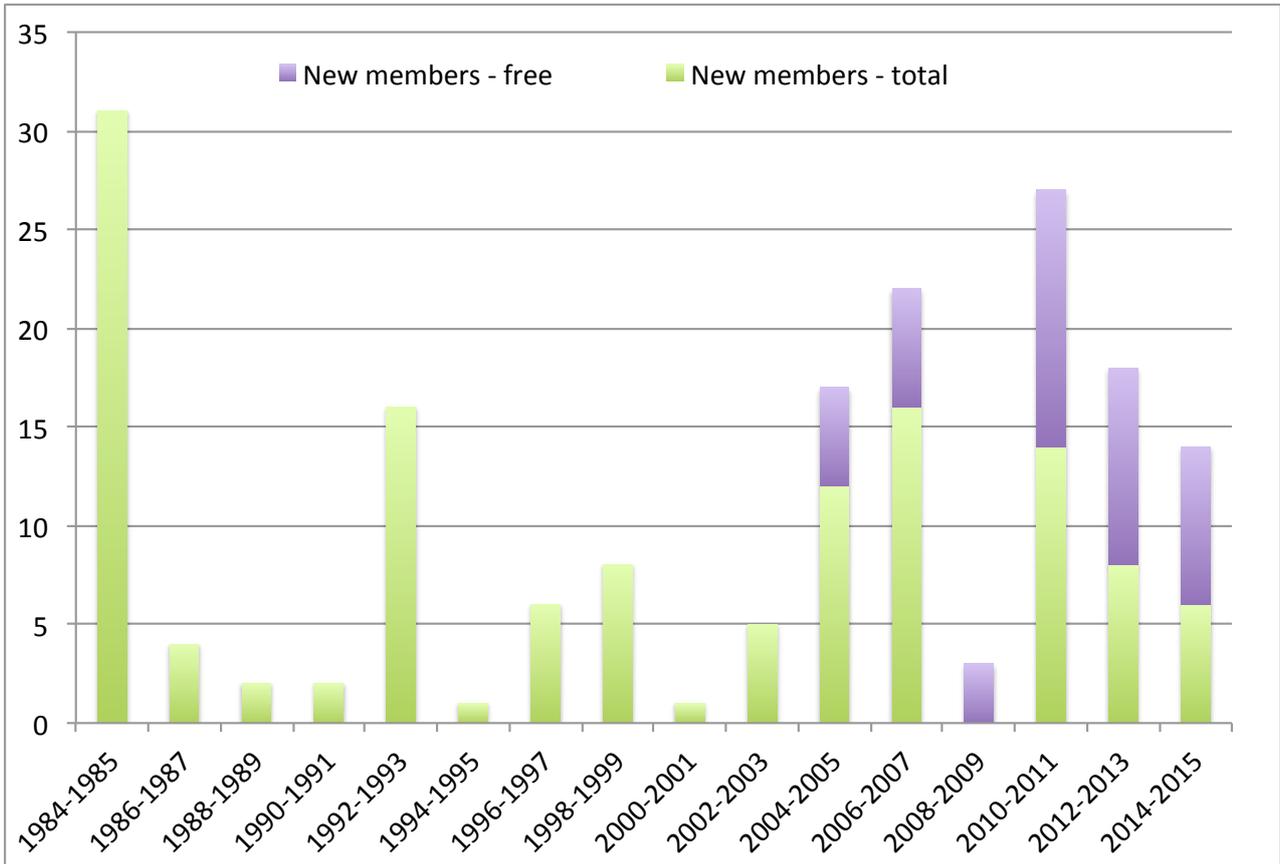


Figure 3: New Members

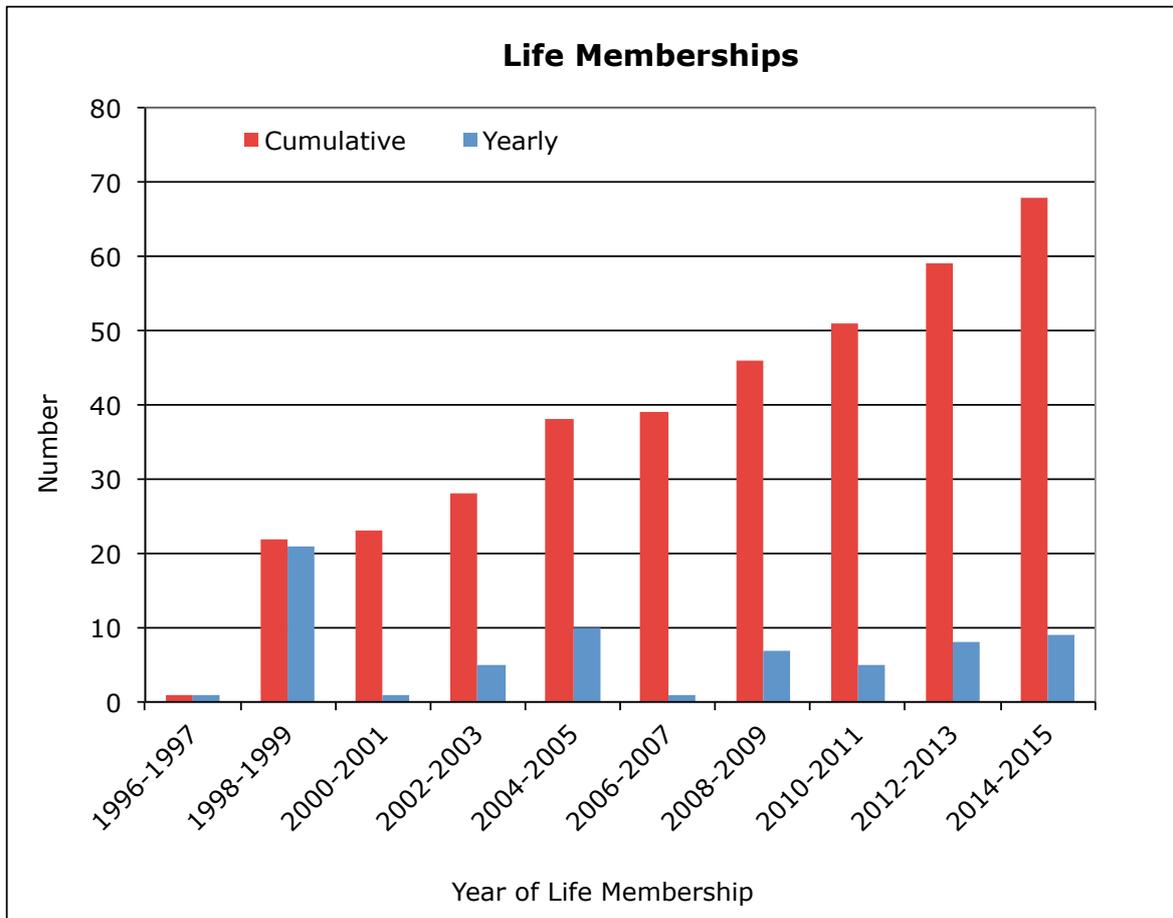


Figure 4: Life Members



16th Biennial Business Meeting – 22 November, 2015

Hobart, Tasmania

NSW Representative Report

NSW members enjoyed a period of significant activity in 2013 that was under-reported at the last business meeting. This included overlapping engagement with the DAAD Information Office through its Director, Dr Joern Hausner, with activities such as a film night during the German Film Festival, a Francis Bacon Alumni Event at the Art Gallery of NSW, and regular, informal Stammtisch gatherings at a range of Sydney venues.

Additional NSW AAvHF organized events included:

1. A public event, "Pizza Night at the Sydney Observatory" on 10 Apr 2013, with social engagement, tour of the Observatory, and an informative lecture by AAvHF member Professor Anne Green, Sydney Institute of Astronomy, on the Square Kilometre Array Telescope development (total attendance *ca* 30 AAvHF members and interested public).
2. Alexander von Humboldt Birthday Celebratory Dinner on 13 Sept 2013 at the Essen Restaurant and Beer Cafe (13 AAvHF members and partners).

Interaction with the DAAD has continued during 2014 and 2015, particularly with attendance at informal Stammtisch meetings, the most recent of which was on 22 Sept 2015, to welcome the new Information Office Director, Dr Ada Bieber.

Sadly, there were no specific NSW AAvHF organized events in 2014, but a celebratory Alexander von Humboldt Birthday Dinner was held on Tuesday 15 Sept 2015 at the Rhinedorf German Restaurant, Beverley Hills (9 AAvHF members and partners). The dinner was enjoyed by those who were able to attend.

I have been honoured to represent NSW on the AAvHF Executive Committee for the past 4 years but have decided to step aside to allow newcomers to contribute. I do hope NSW members will give my replacement their full support.

Roger Read
22 November 2015