



## 18<sup>th</sup> Biennial Business Meeting – 23<sup>rd</sup> November, 2019

**MUSE Building, 18 Wally's Walk,  
Macquarie University, Sydney**

### 1. Opening

The President, Professor Gabrielle McMullen AM, opened the meeting at 4:00 pm and welcomed members and non-members.

### 2. Roll Call and Apologies

#### Member Attendance List:

Thomas Baumgartl	(VIC)
David Black (DB)	(NSW)
Gary Bryant (GB)	(VIC)
Ron Clarke	(NSW)
Ralf Dietzen (RD)	(QLD)
Jean du Plessis (JdP)	(VIC)
Yuri Estrin (YE)	(WA)
Trevor Finlayson (TF)	(VIC)
George Gream	(SA)
Anne Green (AG)	(NSW)
Thomas Haselhorst (TH)	(QLD)
Robin Hill	(VIC)
Ravi Jagadeeshan	(VIC)
Peter Jarvis (PJ)	(TAS)
Nathan Kilah (NK)	(TAS)
Jeff Malpas (JM)	(TAS)
Gabrielle McMullen (GM)	(VIC)
Ingrid Piller (IP)	(NSW)
Roger Read (RRe)	(NSW)
Richard Sadus	(VIC)
Sarah Turpin-Nolan	(VIC)
Glen Wheeler	(NSW)
David Yosh	(VIC)

#### Non-Member

Peter Karuso	(NSW)
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#### Apologies:

Kathy Andrews (KA)	(QLD)
Hans Bachor	(ACT)
Walter Bloom	(WA)
Allan Bretag	(SA)
Kay Double (KD)	(NSW)
Majella Franzmann	(NSW)

Peter Hochs	(SA)
Keith Lloyd	(SA)
Paul Mulvaney	(VIC)
Judith Reinhard (JR)	(ACT)
Robert Robson (RRo)	(QLD)
Wim Woots	(WA)

Also in attendance:

Katrin Amian (KA)	(AvHF, Bonn)
John Harvey	(NZAvHF)
Robert Marks (RM)	(Royal Society of NSW)

### 3. Minutes of the Previous Meeting

The minutes of the previous meeting, held on 19<sup>th</sup> November, 2017 at The Royal Society of New Zealand, Wellington, were ratified by a motion to this effect (Moved: DB; seconded: JM; and carried).

### 4. Matters Arising from the Minutes

#### 4.1 Von Mueller fellowship

JM briefly summarized the effort on the part of the Association to try to re-instate the Fellowship, all of which had been to no avail. However, he indicated that during the visit to Canberra by KA on Monday and Tuesday, 25<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup> November, she, together with JR, Head of Science and Innovation, Embassy of Federal Republic of Germany, will meet with the Secretary of the G08 University group, and the Fellowship will be a topic on the agenda for that meeting. JM will receive a report from this meeting to pass on to the Association.

**Action: JM to report further**

#### 4.2 Web email address

NK reported that he would add his email address to the Association website, in his capacity as “Web Master” and would be pleased to receive any information from members in order to update items currently on the Website or to add new items of interest.

IP added that she will be writing a report on the Humboldt Kolleg held at Macquarie University, and will make this available. In addition, she will make available the picture file resulting from the photographs being taken throughout the weekend.

**Action: NK email address to website and Humboldt Kolleg Report when available**

#### 4.3 Post-nominal letters for Association membership

GM reported that she had made enquiries through KA in regards to any such letters being used by other Associations of Humboldt Fellows and there were none. NK responded that he had raised this matter previously, on the grounds that it may serve as an incentive for more Australian Humboldt Fellows and particularly younger ones, to join the Association.

There followed several comments concerning the “profile” of both the Australian Association and Humboldt Fellowships and Fellows, generally, amongst University Administrations. GM suggested the creation of links to our Website from University websites. JM felt that more needs to be done to encourage University Research Offices to promote Humboldt Foundation funding and Humboldt Fellowships, in particular. But other comments (YE and GB) indicated that information on Humboldt Fellowships was being circulated within their Universities. While there was an appreciation that, in the promotion of Humboldt Fellowships (by comparison with that for ARC funding, for example) there is no direct financial gain for a University, the potential gain through research collaborations resulting from Humboldt Fellowships should be sufficient to encourage their promotion. The following motion followed from this discussion.

**That this meeting strongly endorses that there is significant prestige for Universities to acknowledge Humboldt Foundation funding and the presence of Humboldt Fellows within the staff.** (Moved JM, seconded GW, carried.)

DB suggested that the incoming Executive should make contact with any DVCs (Research) who are Humboldt Fellows, in order to seek support for the aim of this motion within universities.

**Action: National Executive Committee to establish contacts with University Research Offices for promotion Humboldt funding and Fellows**

#### **4.4 Life Membership**

This matter had arisen as the result of a retiring member of the NZAvHF transferring to Perth. GB commented that he felt automatic “Life Membership” of the AAvHF for such a person would not be fair to the other Australian Life Members, since the NZAvHF does not have the same formal membership structure as the AAvHF. The following motion was proposed:

**That a retired Alexander von Humboldt Fellow, who transfers from elsewhere and settles in Australia, may gain Life Membership of the AAvHF on the payment of the same fee applying to an Australian Fellow, as stated in the AAvHF Constitution, namely, a one-off payment of \$100.00.** (Moved, JM; seconded GB; carried.)

#### **4.5 Donations from members**

GB stated that donations from members would be quite acceptable. Members choosing to make a donation to the Association should note that such a donation would be “tax deductible” and that a note to this effect should be added to the Association website.

**Action: GB to add note concerning Donations to website**

#### **4.6 Published Proceedings for 2019 Biennial Colloquium**

IP explained that following negotiations with the Royal Society of NSW, an email had been sent to all contributors indicating that a publication of manuscripts had been agreed upon.

RM then outlined what had been agreed to date, namely:

- submitted manuscripts would be published in a Special Issue of the “Proceedings of the Royal Society of New South Wales” (RSNSW);
- manuscripts would not be peer-reviewed, this being the policy of the RSNSW regarding conference proceedings;
- a template for the preparation of manuscripts will be forwarded to all presenters;
- presenters would need to supply “high resolution” files for all images, if these were not already available on the respective presentation \*.pptx files; and
- while all members of the RSNSW would receive a “hard copy” of the issue, this being the policy of the Society, only a \*pdf file would be available to the A & NZ Associations, at least according to the current discussions with the Humboldt Kolleg Organising Committee.

YE enquired about copyright to which RM responded that it is RSNSW procedure to seek copyright from the original holder of copyright. Any fee would have to be paid by the manuscript author.

**Action: Further email to all presenters with template, etc. – IP, RM**

#### **5. Awards Sub-Committee Report**

The Awards Subcommittee for 2019 had comprised KA (Chair), DB and RRe. KA had submitted a report from the Subcommittee which is attached, and which was accepted with applause.

#### **6. President’s Report**

The President’s Report had been circulated to all members prior to the meeting and is attached. GM drew attention to the following points in her report:

- the conclusion of the RAMP Mentoring Program during 2019; (GM also expressed the appreciation of the Association to KD for her role in this program and to the various members who had acted as Mentors during RAMP.)
- the death of Arijia Schwerdtfeger in late 2017;
- the appreciation of the Association to IP and her Committee for a most successful Humboldt Kolleg;
- thanks to the AvHF for their support, again, for our Biennial Colloquium and to KA for again visiting Australia for the event.

It was moved by GM and seconded by TF (and carried) that the President’s report be accepted.

#### **7. Secretary’s Report**

Likewise, the Secretary’s Report had been circulated and is attached.

#### **8. Treasurer’s Report**

The Treasurer's Report had also been circulated prior to the meeting and the file is attached. It showed for the two-year period ending 31<sup>st</sup> October, 2019, an operating surplus of \$3,240.26 resulting from an income of \$3,809.47 and an expenditure of \$569.21. The closing balance for the Association's bank account was \$17,136.17 and for the Term Deposit, \$24,633.21. GB also highlighted that the RAMP funding which had been managed through the Association's accounts, had recorded an expenditure of \$8,995.10 for the two-year period but that the RAMP funding had now been fully expended and, as indicated in the President's Report, the RAMP program had now concluded.

It was moved GB, seconded JM and carried, **“That the Treasurer's Report be accepted.”**

GB also presented a report on Association Membership. His file (also attached) shows a current membership of 215, although of these, 53 are not up to date with membership payments. He emphasized that those who have not paid their membership fee (only \$40.00 for a two-year period) since 2010, will be removed from the Association's membership list at the end of 2019. For the two-year period (2018-19) revenue from memberships had totaled ~\$3,000 with a “new membership” for the same period being ~24.

**Action: GB to remove memberships unpaid since 2010**

In responding to a question from JM as to how the Association might sustain itself into the future, GB suggested that members need to do more within their own Universities in order to connect with Fellows returning from Germany and Fellows who are not Association members, and to encourage such persons to join our Association.

**Action: Encouragement of non-member colleagues who are AvH Fellows, to join the AAvHF - All members**

YE enquired about the existence of “Local Chapters” of the Association within the States and Territories. GB explained that there had never been “Local Chapters” within the structure of our Australian Association but rather each of the elected State and Territory Representatives on our National Committee (as outlined in our Constitution) had the responsibility to “connect” with the local Association Members. Further, every February, it has been the habit of the current Treasurer/Registrar to send a list of Association Members within each State/Territory, to the respective Representative on our National Committee.

**Action: State membership lists to State Reps after 1/1/2020 - GB**

## **9. Election of Executive Committee for 1/1/2020 – 31/12/2021**

TF reported that, following the receipt of formal nominations via the form which had been circulated prior to the Meeting, there had been 12 nominations for the 12 positions on the National Committee. There being no further nominations from the floor, these persons were declared elected and, together with the Immediate Past President, will comprise the National Committee for the coming two-year period.

Unfortunately, there was no time at the end of this Meeting for there to be an election amongst these 12 members, as is required by the Association Rules, in order to fill the Executive Positions and formerly appoint “State/Territory Representatives”. (This was done in a brief meeting at the end of the Morning Sessions on 23<sup>rd</sup> November and the following were the results.)

**President:** Gabrielle McMullen  
**Vice-President:** Jeff Malpas  
**Secretary:** Trevor Finlayson  
**Treasurer:** Gary Bryant

Also, the following will be the recognized State/Territory Representatives for the coming two-year period (1<sup>st</sup> January, 2020 – 31<sup>st</sup> December, 2021).

**Q’ld:** Thomas Haselhorst  
**NSW:** Glen Wheeler  
**ACT:** Hans Bachor  
**Vic:** Sarah Turpin-Nolan  
**Tas:** Nathan Kilah  
**SA:** Peter Hochs  
**WA:** Walter Bloom

There continues to be no Association Member in the Northern Territory.

Other members of the National Committee will be: Rob Robson as **Immediate Past President**, and Peter Jarvis.

Gary Bryant will continue to act as **Registrar** and Nathan Kilah agreed to continue as **Web Master**.

## **10. General Business**

### **10.1 Comments from AvHF**

GM welcomed KA and invited her to address the Meeting. KA said that, in her opinion, the Australian Association was doing extremely well in promoting the work of the Foundation. But as a result of her work for the Foundation, she had become very aware that university researchers are under pressure and it had become a real challenge for them to spend time on scholarly activities outside their own disciplines. In this regard the Australian Association should be congratulated for its ongoing efforts.

JM responded in saying that it was most pleasing to observe the stability of staff in positions at the Foundation, which is particularly obvious with Dr Amian’s appointment. He said that this is one feature of the Foundation which is so important for its success.

### **10.2 Comments on 2019 Biennial Meeting**

PJ commented that while the 2019 Humboldt Kolleg had so far, been very successful, he felt that it could be a useful practice if each “immediate past Biennial Symposium Organising Committee Chairperson”, were to become a Member of the subsequent National Committee. IP responded that perhaps such a formality was not necessary but she acknowledged the support she had received not only from Eamonn O’Brien of the NZAvHF (the 2017 Symposium Chairperson) but also from PJ and the Members of the National Executive, during several Teleconferences in the lead-up to the current Symposium.

AG commented on the need for “gender balance” in the organization of both our Biennial Symposia and our National Committee. But in this respect it would seem that the matter had been well addressed by the present Organising Committee.

### **10.3 Venue and time of next Biennial Meeting**

Two offers to host the 2021 Biennial Symposium had been received in response to a mail-out by TF prior to this current Meeting. Accordingly, GM invited both JdP and TH to address the meeting.

JdP outlined a proposal for the 2021 Symposium to be held at the Waterfront Campus (Geelong) of Deakin University. He touched on the research profiles for a number of key staff at Deakin University, showed slides of the outlook from the Waterfront Campus which overlooks Corio Bay, and indicated the support he had been guaranteed by the DVC (Research) for such a Symposium being held at Deakin University.

TH outlined a case for the 2021 Symposium to be held in South East Queensland, indicating the support he had received from RD, KA and RRo, who had been involved in the previous Biennial Symposium which had been held at the University of Queensland in 2005. TH also indicated the strong support in Queensland for German Week, which is held annually in October, and suggested that this may be a suitable time for a Biennial Symposium.

GM then invited the meeting to vote on the venue for the 2021 Symposium. The result was a majority in favour to hold the 2021 Symposium at the Waterfront Campus of Deakin University, on dates yet to be negotiated by the incoming Organising Committee.

**Action: Planning for 2021 Symposium - JdP**

## **11. Closure**

In closing the meeting at 5:00 pm, GM thanked all in attendance for their support and remarked that, in future, additional time (perhaps one and one-half hours) must be allowed within the Symposium Program for this Biennial Business Meeting which is a most important feature of any Biennial Symposium.

Minute Taking  
Associate Professor Trevor Finlayson  
Honorary Secretary

## 2019 Distinguished Member and Peter Schwerdtfeger Awards

### **AAvHF Subcommittee Report** **2019 Distinguished Member and Peter Schwerdtfeger Awards** 18<sup>th</sup> November 2019

#### **Subcommittee Membership:**

- (Chair) Prof Kathy Andrews, a/Director Griffith Institute for Drug Discovery, Griffith Uni
- Professor David Black, School of Chemistry, UNSW Sydney
- Hon Associate Professor Roger Read, School of Chemistry, UNSW Sydney

#### **Award Details:**

**Peter Schwerdtfeger Award:** Recognises the academic or professional achievement of AAvHF members in the early career stage of their career. One awarded to be selected based on defined award criteria.

**Distinguished Fellow Award:** Recognises those AAvHF members who have excelled in their professional field and/or have provided service to the organisation. Up to two awardees to be selected based on defined award criteria.

#### **Award Judging Process:**

A/Prof Trevor Finlayson, AAvHF Honorary Secretary emailed applications and referees reports to subcommittee members. The subcommittee Chair emailed a scoring template to subcommittee members to guide their ranking process. Each subcommittee member (including Chair) independently assessed applications based on the selection criteria and provided a ranked list to the Chair for collation. As all subcommittee members were unanimous in their rankings, no telecall was required to discuss rankings. The AAvHF Honorary Secretary was advised of the final outcome in mid-October 2019.

#### **Recommendation:**

In 2019, three applications were received for the Peter Schwerdtfeger Award and two applications for the Distinguished Fellow Award. The following recommendations were made:

- **Peter Schwerdtfeger Award:** Ravichandar Babarao
- **Distinguished Fellow Award:** Kay Double
- **Distinguished Fellow Award:** Jeffery Malpas

#### **Subcommittee Comments:**

The award subcommittee would like to thank the AAvHF for the opportunity to participate in the 2019 award process, noting that it was fantastic to see the research and service excellence represented within our Association. The applicants were all of very high quality making the selection process difficult. However, it was very pleasing to see three nominations for the Peter Schwerdtfeger Award, as representation from our early career researchers is so important to the sustainability of the Association.

The award subcommittee would also like to acknowledge the fantastic efforts of A/Prof Trevor Finlayson, AAvHF Honorary Secretary, in collating the application and seeking referees reports. This is a significant amount of work and Trevor's efforts on behalf of the Association are very much appreciated!

# President's Report to Biennial Meeting Australian Association of von Humboldt Fellows

Sydney, 23 November 2019

The biennial meeting of the Australian Association of von Humboldt Fellows (AAvHF) will be held on 23 November 2019 at Macquarie University, during the forthcoming symposium of the Australian and New Zealand Associations of von Humboldt Fellows. This report to the biennial meeting summaries significant matters for the AAvHF since its last meeting in November 2017 in Wellington.

It has been a privilege to serve as President of the Australian Association of von Humboldt Fellows in 2018-2019. I see this service to our Association as an opportunity to acknowledge the support that Australian Fellows have had from the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation and as a small contribution to promoting academic cooperation between Australia and Germany.

This report highlights the following key matters for the Australian Association:

- Celebrating Humboldt's 250th Birthday
- Conclusion of the RAMP Mentoring Project
- Death of Arija Schwerdtfeger
- Australian Association of von Humboldt Fellows Activities
- Significant Achievements of Fellows
- Awards Committee
- 2019 Conference at Macquarie University
- Gratitude to the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation
- Service of AAvHF Executive

## **Celebrating Humboldt's 250th Birthday**

On the 250th anniversary of Alexander von Humboldt's birth, 14 September 2019, the National Library of Australia hosted a forum, entitled *Alexander von Humboldt: The Shakespeare of the Sciences*. It considered his impact upon "the world of science and how his work still affects leading scientists and experts". As President of the Australian Association of von Humboldt Fellows, I was invited to introduce the life and work of Humboldt. This was followed by a panel discussion, facilitated by Lish Fejer of ABC Radio Canberra, and featuring Humboldtians Dr Judith Reinhard, Head of Science and Innovation at the Embassy of the Federal Republic of Germany and Emeritus Professor Hans Bacher from the Research School of Physics at the Australian National University, and Professor Tim Entwistle, Director and Chief Executive of the Royal Botanic Gardens Victoria. It was an excellent occasion, which attracted a packed lecture theatre at the National Library – a fitting celebration of Humboldt's legacy!

## **Conclusion of the RAMP Mentoring Program**

From 2011-2019 young Australian researchers in all scholarly disciplines had access to independent mentoring through the national Research Ambassador and Mentoring Program (RAMP), which was initiated and managed by Humboldtian Associate Professor Kay Double of the University of Sydney and Sydney-based Directors of the Deutscher Akademischer Austauschdienst (German Academic Exchange Service, DAAD). In 2013 Associate Professor Double was awarded a Humboldt Alumni Prize for Innovative Initiatives for the program.

Valued at 25,000 Euros, the prize enhanced and extended the mentoring scheme. Over the past nine years RAMP provided practical and independent advice to many young researchers and supported them in their career development. During 2019, Associate Professor Double advised that the program was concluding as the funding had come to an end. RAMP was truly an 'innovative initiative' and the AAvHF thanks Associate Professor Double and the DAAD for their dedication to early career researchers through RAMP. Several others contributed to the success of the RAMP initiative and I also record the Association's gratitude to them: Kerry Thornton and then Dr Anna Firsova as the part-time RAMP Coordinators, Dr Darren Kelly for design and maintenance of the RAMP database and website, and AAvHF Honorary Treasurer Professor Gary Bryant as RAMP financial administrator. Finally, the Association expresses its appreciation to those who acted as mentors and wishes the mentees well for their future careers.

### **Death of Arija Schwerdtfeger**

Just after the previous biennial colloquium in New Zealand, Professor Peter Schwerdtfeger, former President of the New Zealand Association of von Humboldt Fellows, advised the Australian Association of the sad news of Arija Schwerdtfeger's death. As many of you will know, Arija's husband, also Professor Peter Schwerdtfeger, was founding President of the Australian Association of von Humboldt Fellows (but not related to his New Zealand namesake). Arija regularly attended the activities of the Australian Association and many of us knew her well from the biennial meetings. She endeared herself to our members and we hold her in fond memory.

### **Australian Association of von Humboldt Fellows Activities**

#### *Publication from 2017 Colloquium*

In September 2018, AAvHF Honorary Secretary Associate Professor Trevor Finlayson published a handsome e-book with papers from the 2017 joint colloquium of the Australian and New Zealand Associations of von Humboldt Fellows. The details for the volume are:

Trevor Finlayson (editor) *The Changing World in the South Pacific: Australasian and German Perspectives* (September 2018) available at [www.humboldtaustralia.org.au](http://www.humboldtaustralia.org.au) under the menu item "Publications".

Associate Professor Finlayson spent weeks dialoguing with colloquium speakers and referees to gather together the papers for publication and then meticulously edited the manuscript for publication. The Australian Association of von Humboldt Fellows is indebted to him for this valued scholarly contribution building on a successful colloquium.

#### *Humboldt's Birthday Dinners*

It has been a custom in our Association, at the State and Territory level, to celebrate the birthday of Alexander von Humboldt, normally with a dinner – I have heard of a range of such initiatives in 2018-2019 which our members have enjoyed. Such occasions have often been honoured by significant German guests like the German Ambassador to Australia or the local Consul General. I was pleased to be able to join the Melbourne gatherings in 2018 at the German Club Tivoli in Windsor and in 2019 at the Hofbräuhaus in the city.

In association with the above-mentioned event at the National Library of Australia, I was delighted also to attend the 2019 Canberra Humboldtians' dinner. It was held at University House at the Australian National University on the actual day of Humboldt's 250th birthday, 14 September 2019. It was a festive and most enjoyable occasion graced by the presence of the new Ambassador of the Federal Republic of Germany, H. E. Dr Thomas Fitschen, and his wife Dr Ilona Stölken. During dinner, Dr Fitschen gave an engaging address on Alexander von Humboldt.

Gratitude is expressed to the State and Territory representatives on the AAvHF Committee who arrange these gatherings which Fellows value.

#### *Visit of German Federal Ministry of Education and Research Delegation*

On 29 October 2018 a delegation from the German Federal Ministry of Education and Research visited Canberra to discuss scientific and technological cooperation with its Australian counterparts. At the request of the Foundation in Bonn, the Alexander von Humboldt network was represented by Professor Hans Bachor, who is the Canberra representative on the AAvHF Committee. On the occasion, he highlighted the ongoing links between Germany and Australia, catalysed through the Humboldt Foundation. Afterwards, he reported that the representatives of the German and Australian Ministries acknowledged the positive effects of the work of the Foundation and our Australian Association.

#### *DAAD Reunion*

On 2-4 November 2018 in Melbourne, the DAAD held an alumni meeting entitled *The Responsibility of Science and Technology for Innovation*. On the Saturday evening, then Ambassador of the Federal Republic of Germany Dr Anna Prinz, together with DAAD Secretary General Dr Dorothea Rueland, hosted a dinner cruise for delegates. I was delighted to be able to represent the AAvHF. The previous day, the conference was opened with a number of welcome addresses, including from Vice-President Professor Jeff Malpas on behalf of the AAvHF.

#### *German-Australian Cooperation*

AAvHF members, through research partnerships and other collaborations, support German-Australian cooperation. Locally, there is also active participation in key activities such as the Falling Walls Lab, organised by the Australian Academy of Science in association with the Embassy of the Federal Republic of Germany in Australia, and the Australian-German Science and Innovation Day during Brisbane German Week. The former initiative, with reference to the fall of the Berlin Wall, has at "its heart ... the question 'Which are the next walls to fall?' as a result of scientific, technological, economic and sociological breakthroughs".

Annually mid-year in Melbourne the *Honorargeneralkonsul* in Victoria Michael Pearce SC hosts a *Runden Tisch*. This afternoon brings together some two dozen German groups based in Victoria and encompassing aged care, cultural, educational, industrial, media, professional and religious bodies. The Honorary Secretary or I represent the Australian Association of von Humboldt Fellows on these occasions.

Such contributions to German-Australian cooperation are valued and build on the philosophy that underpins the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation and its awards.

#### **Significant Achievements of Fellows**

The achievements of many Australian Fellows to their own field, academia or the wider community continue to be significant. Particular attainments during the last two years include the following:

- Professor Ingrid Piller from Macquarie University was one of eight international researchers to receive a 2018 Anneliese Maier Research Award from the Humboldt Foundation for life-time achievements in the humanities and social sciences to promote internationalisation of these disciplines in Germany. Awardees are nominated by German collaborators and the award valued at €250,000 is designed to support research collaboration over a period of up to five years. Professor Piller and her University of Hamburg partners research language education in linguistically diverse migrant-

receiving and globalising societies, enabling a comparative perspective through the combination of Australian and German research in multilingual education.

- Professor Xiao-Lin (Joshua) Zhao was appointed as the new Associate Dean (International) for University of New South Wales Engineering. He was previously at Monash University and moved to his new appointment in April 2019.
- Professor Andrew Blakers from the Australian National University (ANU) Research School of Engineering, with colleagues Dr Matthew Stocks and Bin Lu, won the 2018 Eureka Prize for Environmental Research. Their research, which is challenging the barriers to renewable energy, shows Australia could transition smoothly to 100 per cent renewable electricity while retaining reliability of supply.
- In 2019 ANU's Associate Professor Alex Maier created one of the International Research Training Groups awarded by the Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft. Entitled "Crossing Boundaries: Molecular Interactions in Malaria", it will foster a unique research partnership between the ANU and the Humboldt University in Berlin, based on the universities' complementary malaria expertise. Over the next nine years, research projects involving work carried out in both Berlin and Canberra will enable 75 PhD students to graduate with a dual PhD from both universities.
- Dr. Daniel Priebbenow (University of Melbourne) was successful in gaining a Discovery Early Career Research Award (DECRA) in the most recent ARC Grants announcement, for a project entitled "Metal-free Strategies for Sustainable Light-driven Synthesis".

#### **Awards Committee**

The Association has two biennial award categories – the Peter Schwerdtfeger Award and up to two Distinguished Fellow Awards. These recognise, respectively, 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 2019 AAvHF awards committee with membership of Professor Kathy Andrews (Griffith University, chair) and Professors David Black and Roger Read (University of New South Wales). The committee considered the nominations for this year's awards which will be announced at the forthcoming symposium dinner.

#### **2019 Conference at Macquarie University**

Firstly, on behalf of the Australian Association, I acknowledge the highly successful meeting, *Our Changing World in the South Pacific*, held in Wellington in November 2017 and organised by Professor Eamonn O'Brien and his fellow committee members. The Australian delegation very much appreciated the stimulating program and warm hospitality arranged by our New Zealand colleagues.

In Wellington Macquarie University's Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research), Humboldtian Professor Sakkie Pretorius, kindly offered an invitation to the Australian and New Zealand Associations to hold their 2019 meeting at Macquarie University. The joint 2019 symposium, titled *Sharing Knowledge in the Spirit of Humboldt*, will be held shortly (22-24 November 2019). Conference convenor Professor Ingrid Piller, who has arranged an outstanding program for the occasion, was assisted by an Academic Advisory Board with membership of Professors David Black and Roger Read (University of New South Wales), Professors Michael Gillings, Bronwen Neil and Lucy Taksa (Macquarie University) and Professor Eamonn O'Brien (University of Auckland) and the Organising Committee comprising Dr Jinhyun Cho, Dr Loy Lising, Dr Shiva Motaghi-Tabari, Pia Tenedero, Dr Vera Williams Tetteh and Dr Hanna Torsh (Macquarie University), Dr Alexandra Grey (University of Sydney), Katharina McGrath (DAAD/Macquarie University) and Dr Laura Smith-Khan (University of Technology Sydney). The AAvHF expresses its immense gratitude to Professor Piller and her team for organising

the 2019 symposium and providing a program in the spirit of Alexander von Humboldt to mark his significant anniversary.

The AAvHF President, Secretary and Treasurer met several times by tele-/videoconference with Professor Piller to advance planning for the symposium and Professor Eamonn O'Brien, President of the New Zealand Association, joined these meetings on behalf of the New Zealand Fellows.

It is pleasing that Professor Piller and her collaborators have successfully applied for an Alexander von Humboldt Foundation *Kolleg* grant, which will defray some of the costs of the meeting and Fellows' attendance as well as support the attendance of the German invited speakers.

### **Gratitude to the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation**

Members of the Association value the academic and cultural opportunities that have been offered to them by the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation. In turn, many Fellows become 'ambassadors' for Australian-German collaboration, furthering the bridge-building spirit underpinning the *Stiftung*.

In the period 1953-2018, Australia was the beneficiary of 608 Humboldt research fellowships, 93 Humboldt research prizes and 125 Feodor Lynen scholars. Regrettably, not all the Fellows join the Australian Association and I would strongly encourage AAVHF members to recruit other Humboldtians to join the Association and take part in our activities. This is an important way of fostering the spirit of the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation 'down-under'. Significantly, the *Stiftung* continues its interest in us, as indicated by the *Kolleg* grant provided for the Sydney meeting.

The AAvHF is delighted that Dr Katrin Amian from the Foundation will again attend our biennial meeting to update us on the Foundation's work. Her long-standing contribution and dedication to her Foundation portfolio, encompassing North America, Australia, New Zealand and Oceania, has fostered the AAvHF's relationship with Bonn and our sense of belonging to the international Humboldt family. After the symposium Dr Amian will visit Canberra and Melbourne.

### **Service of AAvHF Executive**

Our Association is fortunate to have members in each State and the Australian Capital Territory willing to serve on the national committee. These State/Territory representatives play a key role in organising and supporting events locally and I express my gratitude to them. Regrettably, we do not have a representative in the Northern Territory and would welcome any relevant contacts that members may have in the Northern Territory.

The Association and especially the President have received outstanding support through the dedicated and professional contributions of Honorary Secretary Associate Professor Trevor Finlayson, Treasurer Professor Gary Byrant, Vice-President Professor Jeff Malpas and Webmaster Dr Nathan Kilah. I thank them all most sincerely for their commitment of time and expertise to the AAvHF. In particular, as members will be aware, Associate Professor Finlayson regularly distributes to members, on behalf of the Association, the wide range of updates and requests received from national and international contacts. Professor Bryant continues to play a key role in maintaining and growing the Association's membership.

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Let me conclude by expressing my gratitude to all members of the Australian Association of von Humboldt Fellows for their efforts to promote the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation and its ideals in the Australian context. I also thank them for their support of our activities

over the past two years and look forward to seeing many Australian Humboldtians at Macquarie University.

I wish both the Australian and New Zealand Associations well for the future and trust that they will flourish and continue their efforts to grow the Humboldt family.

Gabrielle McMullen

**President, Australian Association of von Humboldt Fellows**



**Australian Association of von Humboldt Fellows**  
**18<sup>th</sup> Biennial Business Meeting,**  
**Macquarie University, Sydney, 23<sup>rd</sup> November, 2019**

The activities of the Secretary during this past two-year period have been as follows:

**1. Publication of Papers from the 17<sup>th</sup> Biennial Colloquium, *Our Changing World in the South Pacific: Australasian and German Perspectives*, Wellington, New Zealand, 17-19 November, 2017**

Following discussions within the Colloquium, it was agreed that presenters should be offered the opportunity to submit a manuscript for peer review and subsequent publication in a volume which was to be published electronically on the website of our Australian Association ([www.humboldtaustralia.org.au](http://www.humboldtaustralia.org.au)). I offered to undertake the editorship for this volume. A communication setting out details for manuscript presentation and deadlines, etc., was sent to all presenters. In all, 14 manuscripts were submitted and I am grateful for the peer-reviewing which was undertaken voluntarily by two reviewers for each manuscript, and for the feedback which these reviewers offered to the authors. The final result was the publication, *Our Changing World in the South Pacific: Australasian and German Perspectives*, ed. Trevor R. Finlayson (ISBN 978-0-9588149-4-2) (Australian Association of von Humboldt Fellows, 2018) 112 pp. Following a suggestion from one young author, the word “Proceedings” was deliberately not included in the title of the e-book and each of the peer-reviewed manuscripts was included as a separate chapter, together with an editor’s *Preface*, an *Introduction* by Ambassador Gerhard Thiedemann and *Biographical Notes* on each of the presenting authors.

**2. Victorian-based “AvH Birthday Dinners”**

While it is always the aim to organize this annual celebration on 14 September, in order to suit the busy schedules for certain key members, a date near to this is felt to be quite acceptable, with the result that the 2018 dinner was held at the German Club, Tivoli, in Windsor, on 7 September, 2018 and the 2019 dinner at the Hofbräuhaus, Market Lane, Melbourne, 14 October, 2019. (The latter delayed date was the result of the invitation to President Professor Gabrielle McMullen AM, to speak at the special 250<sup>th</sup> Birthday Celebration held at the National Library, Canberra, on the correct birthday date, 14 September.) As in previous years we were pleased to be joined by the Honorary Consul, Mr. Michael Pearce SC, on these two occasions. The response from Victorian members for this annual celebration continues to be somewhat disappointing and, in the future, a change of format to involve a contributed talk by an invited guest has been suggested by Michael, in an attempt to attract a better attendance.

**3. Distribution of Notices**

Our Association regularly receives items from the Office of the Honorary Consul General for Victoria or from the Ambassador’s Office in Canberra, which are of potential interest to our Membership. Such items are distributed electronically to our Membership group email list and, as appropriate, to the full list of Australian Fellows who, for whatever reason, have chosen not to become members of our Association. Maintenance of such email group lists is not a simple task and on almost all occasions that either group list is used, the Inbox of the Secretary’s PC is “flooded” with automatic responses, many of which are from discontinued email addresses.

**In this regard may I urge all members please to notify the Honorary Secretary of any change to your email address.**

**4. 18th Biennial Conference at Macquarie University, Sydney**

While the organization of our 18<sup>th</sup> Biennial Conference has been the responsibility of an Organizing Committee, most of whom have been based at Macquarie University with Professor Ingrid Piller as Chair, I have shared a number of exchanges with Ingrid in relation to the organization for our Biennial Conference. I was pleased to be able to offer assistance particularly for her preparation of a Humboldt Kolleg application which proved to be a successful one, thereby assisting the Biennial Conference financially. The Foundation will be duly acknowledged for this Humboldt Kolleg Grant in the reporting of our 18<sup>th</sup> Biennial Conference.

## **5. 2019 Association Awards**

As has become our practice since our Association introduced both the Peter Schwerdtfeger Award for an Early Career Researcher Member and the Distinguished Member Awards in 2010, we have followed the practice of firstly establishing an Awards Sub-Committee, in order to agree to a suitable deadline date for the receipt of nominations, and then to distribute the information calling for nominations, in a timely manner. I should like to thank Professor Kathy Andrews, Griffith University, for accepting the task of Chairing this Sub-Committee, and to its other two members, Professor David Black and Associate Professor Roger Read, University of New South Wales, for offering their services to our Association on this Sub-Committee. While one does not like giving busy colleagues additional work, it was pleasing that there were three nominations for our Peter Schwerdtfeger Award this year. I should also express my thanks to those members who nominated young or older colleagues for either of our Association Awards and also to those colleagues who responded to my correspondence inviting professional references for each of the award nominees. I am sure these references were of great assistance to our Awards Sub-Committee.

As Members should be aware, these awards are offered every two years, coinciding with our Biennial Conference and I urge Members to give thought to nominations of either your younger research colleagues or your older ones (or perhaps both) when the nominations are next invited in early 2021.



Trevor R. Finlayson  
Honorary Secretary  
18 November, 2019

## AAvHF Financial Report - 31 Oct 2019

<b>General expenditure</b>	
<b>Miscellaneous expenditure</b>	
Peter Schwerdtfeger Prize	\$200.00
Miscellaneous costs	\$47.52
Reimbursement of President's Costs	\$321.69
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$569.21</b>

<b>Income</b>	
Member payments (55)	\$2,200.00
Member payments - retired (12)	\$240.00
Life Member payments (3)	\$400.00
Total Membership Subscriptions	\$2,840.00
Interest	\$969.47
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$3,809.47</b>

**AAvHF Surplus/Loss    \$3,240.26**

<b>Ramp Program</b>	
<b>Expenditure</b>	
RAMP Mentor	\$8,200.00
RAMP miscellaneous costs	\$795.10
<b>Total Expenditure</b>	<b>\$8,995.10</b>

**RAMP Surplus/Loss    \$8,995.10**

### **Notes**

The RAMP program has now concluded, and was fully supported from AvH funding.  
The 2017 meeting was held in NZ and no budgetary subsidy from AAvHF was required.

<b>Bank Accounts</b>	
<b>Transaction Account</b>	
Opening Balance	\$23,860.48
Closing Balance	\$17,136.17
<b>Surplus/Loss</b>	<b>-\$6,724.31</b>
<b>Term Deposit</b>	
Opening Balance	\$23,663.74
Closing Balance	\$24,633.21
<b>Surplus/Loss</b>	<b>\$969.47</b>
<b>Total Surplus/Loss</b>	<b>-\$5,754.84</b>
<b>Reconciliation</b>	
AAvHF Surplus	\$3,240.26
RAMP expenditure	-\$8,995.10
<b>Total Surplus/Loss</b>	<b>-\$5,754.84</b>



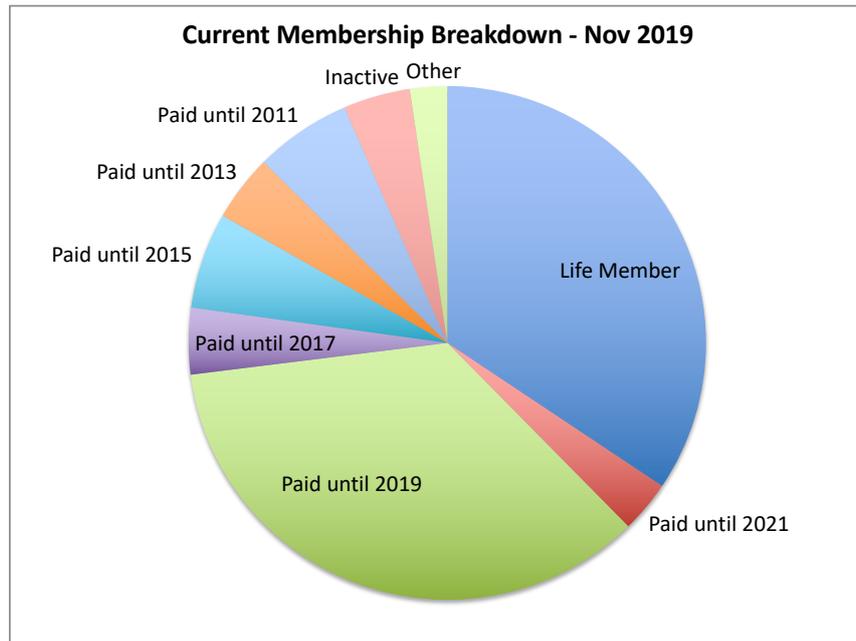
# Australian Association of von Humboldt Fellows

Promoting scholarly interchange

[www.humboldtaustralia.org.au](http://www.humboldtaustralia.org.au)

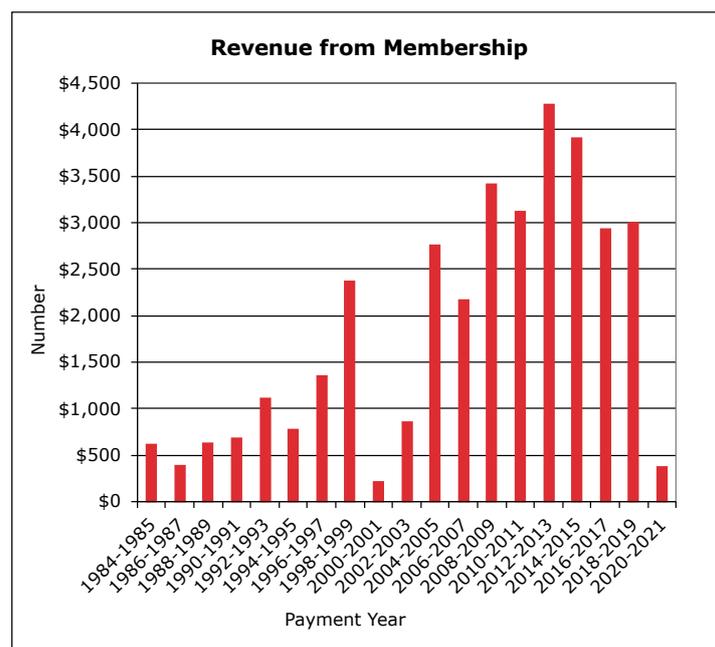
## Membership Summary, 23 November 2019

There are 215 Members on the books. Of these, 53 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 2010) will be removed from the list at the end of 2019.



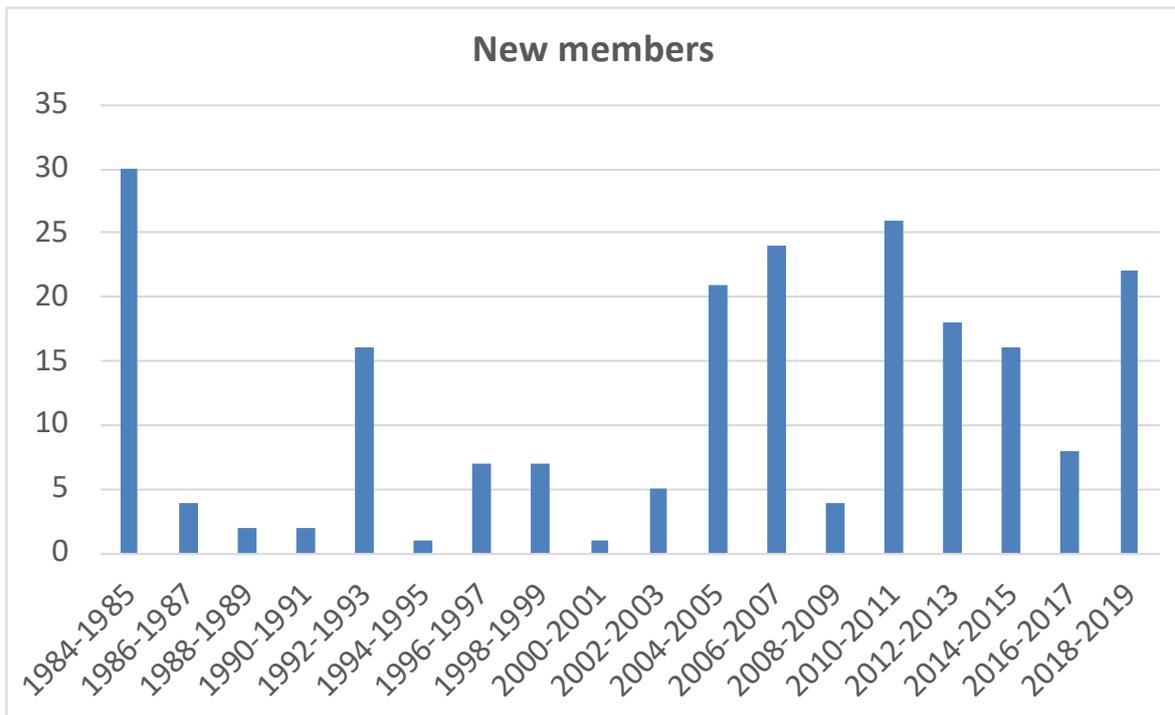
**Figure 1: Membership Breakdown – Nov 2019**

Membership revenue continues strongly, as shown in figure 2.



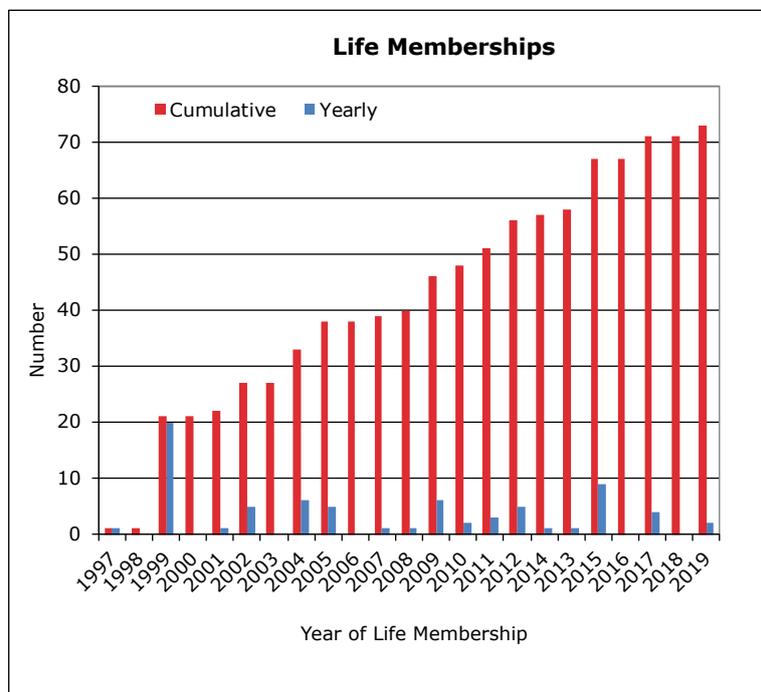
**Figure 2: Trends in revenue from membership**

New member trends are shown in figure 3. 2018-19 was a strong year for new membership, but we need to continue to grow membership from newly returned fellows.



**Figure 3: New Members**

Figure 4 shows the growth in life members, which currently represent 32% of the membership, and almost half of the recently active membership.



**Figure 4: Life Members**

Gary Bryant  
 23 November 2019  
 Honorary Treasurer