

MINUTES OF THE SOUTHERN AFRICAN SOCIETY OF AQUATIC SCIENTISTS
47th ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
HELD on the 15th of June 2010 @ 16h30, Conference venue, Augrabies, South Africa

1 WELCOME AND OPENING

Wynand Vlok welcomed the members present and thanked the conference organizing team, and in particular Jan Roos and the UJ staff and students, for the excellent organization. He also informed the meeting about the health setbacks that Rodney Owen has experienced.

2 ATTENDANCE AND APOLOGIES

Attending: Members: Wynand Vlok (in the chair), Jan Roos, Christa Thirion, Herman van der Bank, Janine Woods, Gerhard Diedericks, Elliot Taylor, Paul Skelton, Melusi Thwala, Richard Greenfield, Wynand Malherbe, Nico Rossouw, Janine Adams, Michelle Soekoe, Martin Ferreira, Jackie King, Gerhard Cilliers, Johan van Vuren, Olaf Weyl, Hermien Roux, Edosa Omoregie, Michiel Jonker, Paul Fouché.

Non-members: Eve Fischer, Natalie Degger, Chris Renshaw, Sibisiswe Ngqulana, Jabulile Nhleko, Rendani Luthada, Nomfundo Mhlambi, Ruan Gerber, Charon Farquharson, Kyle McHugh, Warren Smith, Bruce Ellender, Tarryn Botha, Michelle Ferreira, Mpho Ramoejane, James McCafferty, Toyin Olubambi, Gavin Snow

Apologies: Digby Cyrus, Shirley Bethune, Rob Hart, Alan Whitfield, Rene Glen, Mike Coke, Mike Silberbauer, Brian Allanson, Nico Smit, Victor Wepener, Rodney Owen.

3 ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA

No new matters were added to the agenda

4 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS AGENDA

With the exception of a few typographical errors that were rectified the minutes of the 46th Annual General meeting was accepted as a true reflection of the proceedings. Proposed by Johan van Vuuren and seconded by Olaf Weyl.

5 MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES OF THE 45TH AGM

It was pointed out that SASAQS had made bursaries available to students who wanted to attend SIL.

6 PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Presidents report 2009/10

I want to welcome everybody to the meeting and report on the activities over the last year.

After a turbulent year, which was dominated by the financial melt down in some sectors, I want to thank all Society members for their continued support. The Exco worked hard to sort out some of the administrative issues and I must mention Prof Nico Smit (Honorary Treasurer) and Dr Paul Fouche (Honorary Secretary). They went to great lengths to sort out the many mailing lists in existence and the associated problems with membership and payments. I think we now have a more consolidated members list and this reflect in correspondence and reactions to emails and invoices.

To Dr Jan Roos who will take over as President later this year, my gratitude for support and keeping many activities going – I think he regret the brave announcement two years ago to host this conference. Jan, thank you for everything and well done with the conference. The committee who supported him are also acknowledged – Maryke Ferreira, Charon Farquharson, Michelle Soekoe, Lindie de Villiers and Yolandi Cloete. Our gratitude is extended towards Prof Johan van Vuren who allowed the secretariat to use the facilities and infrastructure at the University of Johannesburg. Prof Victor Wepener was a great sound board and helped me in many decisions during the term in office.

Under Mike Coke (Honorary Editor) a special addition of the journal was a great success and placed the Society and the journal in the spot light. The ever present Mike Silberbauer is still working to maintain the web page and we ask members to contact him if you want to place items on the page.

This 2010 conference is hosted during a special time and even the economic crises affecting us all in the last few months didn't prevent dedicated scientists and students to make this a memorable occasion. The theme, "Aquatic biodiversity and climate change – an arid region perspective" is relevant and I think we all experience aspects relating to the topic in our daily lives and research endeavours. As you are aware, Nico Smit will host the 2011 conference at Pongola (Sustainable utilisation of southern African aquatic resources). The theme will link to the past to the conference themes and will give us some focus when we discuss possible topics and research projects in future.

Although we aimed to attract more members, including southern African members, it is clear that the economic crises did affect the Society. On a positive note we are thankful for members who paid shortly after receiving their invoices and we also had a number of new members joining the Society during the past year. Dr Olaf Weyl and I are still pursuing options to get more student members to join the Society. The number of members outside South Africa is still low.

As I have mentioned last year, effective communication will lead to the success of the society. As a learned society, we aim to get an effective network of interested parties to use the forum to the advantage of all in the water sector. We are of the opinion that the newsletter is a very practical way to get this communication going. We are always looking for interesting articles and hopefully this will stimulate some debate amongst members. Maybe it is time to use other electronic options to stimulate these debates, please let us know how you feel about this.

I want to thank the staff at Augrabies National Park for their assistance during the organising of the conference and conclusion I want to thank everyone for their continued support. See you in Pongola.

I thank you for your attention,

Wynand Vlok

7 TREASURERS REPORT

Honorary Treasurer's report to Annual General meeting

15 June 2010

Dear All

First of all I would just like to apologise for not being able to attend the conference and annual general meeting of the society. I feel specific weird to have been involved in the organizing of the conference and not to see how it turned out in the end. However, just by looking at the program and the names of the delegates I know that I am missing out on a very good conference.

I'll present my reports in 3 parts, first 2009, then the first 6 months of 2010 and will conclude with some suggestions.

2009

My term started in March 2009 and the first priority was to get membership invoices out. Unfortunately at that stage the new committee did not have a proper membership list, so I had to use a list that I received from NISC. This list included everyone that has been a member of SASAQs since 2001. Just to cover my basis I send invoices to all (total of 224 Invoices). As you can imagine I got quite a variety of responses, from members paying fees, to people who resigned back in 2002/2003 being very upset that I bother them again. In the process I also invoiced the editor of AJAS, 2 secretaries working at NISC, both our life members and 2 members who unfortunately have already passed away a few years ago!! Anyway, it was a good learning curve and in the end 102 members paid their annual membership fees, thus an income from membership fees of R30600. Other income for 2009 includes interests from our Current as well as our money market account. Also 2009 conference hosted by University of Johannesburg showed a profit of R18535.50. Our major expenses were payment of subscription to NISC as well as our journals editor's, Mike Coke, honorarium. So to conclude our Moneymarket

account started 2009 with a balance of R152 482.07 and closed in December on R163 262.46. Our current account was R82 710.47 in Jan 2009 and closed on R97 400.60. Thus in total our accounts grew in 2009 with R25 470.52, mainly due to the profit from the 2009 conference.

2010 to date

A total of 179 invoices have been issued to date, this include invoices to the 102 paid up members of 2009, 15 new members and 62 people who were members at different stages from 2003-2008. The latter group was identified by the committee and it was hope that we could entice those previous SASAQs members to rejoin. Of all the invoices to date 94 that have been paid comprising of 68 current members, 2 life members, 8 previous members that rejoined the society and 15 new membership. Our current bank account balances are, R167236.09 for the Money Market and R83722.93 for the Current Account. At the time of writing the report we have already paid almost all the major expenses of the 2010 conference, but still have quite a few conference registration fees outstanding, so ones that have been paid our current account balance will be quite a bit higher.

Conclusion

In all I think our Society is financially healthy and show a steady financial growth. As we don't know what the increase in NISC fees are going to be it is difficult at this stage to propose a membership fee for 2011, but I don't foresee that it will have to increase by more than 5%.

The 2009 financial statements have been submitted for auditing and I will circulate the final audited statements when I receive it back.

Nico Smit

8 EDITORS REPORT

The editor of AJAS, Mike Coke submitted the report below and it was presented by Paul Fouche:

Editorial Board: In recent weeks we have decided to abandon the distinction between 'Editorial Board' members and 'Associate Editors'. This is because, as the inflow of manuscripts has increased, several Editorial Board members have agreed to take on subject-editing tasks, which is what the Associate Editors were already doing. Therefore, as from the current issue, all 14 are now listed as 'Editorial Review Board' members. We welcome Ferdy deMoor, Paul Grobler, Frank Kansime, Olaf Weyl and Alan Whitfield to the Editorial Board, and bid farewell to Heimo Mikkola, who has served our journal since its inception in 2000. Thank you, Heimo, for your considerable input over the past ten years !

Manuscripts: The Editorial Office received more manuscripts last year than ever before – 95 in all (Table 1). A major impact was made by the splendid bundle of 16 manuscripts received from the University of Johannesburg research team, which have taken up one-and-a-half issues of the journal, the last ones appearing in 2010. This was the main factor in the significant rise in the proportion of published manuscripts authored by SASAQs members from 31% in 2008 to 83% in 2009. I like to think that the increased inflow of manuscripts is an indication of widespread faith in our journal. Also, if the percentage of manuscripts rejected or withdrawn is anything to go by (52% in 2007, 45% in 2008, and now 35% in 2009), then we're attracting better material each year.

Table 1. Analysis of the Journal from 2001 to 2009

Year	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
No. of MSS received	30	31	47	57	73	62	61	86	95
No. of MSS rejected etc.	2	11	21	22	42	37	33	49	34
Volume Number	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34
Total No. of pages	147	174	195	291	221	328	317	289	304
Total No. of papers	19	20	23	32	28	34	39	38	33
Total No. of book reviews	1	7	3	8	9	5	4	1	4
Authorship									
SASaQs members	13	10	8	8	9	7	13	9	15
Non-members	6	6	13	24	19	24	26	29	18
Number of items published per region									
South Africa	16	17	10	14	11	20	13	17	13
Southern Africa	2	1	7	9	6	4	9	4	9
Africa	0	2	6	9	10	10	16	16	11
Overseas	1	0	0	0	1	0	1	1	0
TOTAL	19	20	23	32	28	34	39	38	33

A significant about-face was caused by the arrival of the Johannesburg University manuscripts. For the first time in this journal's history, we suddenly had more 'accepted for publication' manuscripts on hand than was able to be contained in a single issue of the journal! Consequently, not only was I able to hand manuscripts over to the publisher for layout up to a month ahead of deadline, but was also able to start accumulating 'accepted' manuscripts for the next-but-one issue of the journal. If this trend continues (and long may it do so) we might soon be able to publish four issues per year.

However, we could not have achieved the manuscript flow or the publishing turn-around times that have happened without the energetic assistance of our Editorial Board members and Associate Editors, our numerous peer reviewers, and NISC's dedicated publishing team. We owe a debt of thanks to them all.

Journal subscriptions: The numbers of subscribers to the journal in recent years have been as shown in Table 2. There's been an almost steady nose-dive in overall subscriptions, which fell to an alarming 131 in 2008, whilst the number of SASaQs subscribers dropped to a mere 101 last year – which is the absolute borderline for the journal's viability. A membership drive is therefore imperative for our survival. I have advertised the journal to those African Universities from which recent manuscripts have come, so as to encourage submissions from them. A few African authors have recently elected to join the Society because of the very attractive free publishing offer that NISC currently gives to Society members. One hopes that we can interest them sufficiently to keep them on as members.

Table 2: AJAS subscription statistics : 2002-2009 (data from NISC)

	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
SA SASaQs Soc.	181	153	123	146	122	127	95	95
African SASaQs Soc.	23	19	8	1	7	8	3	2
International SASaQs	9	7	5	7	5	7	7	4
['SASaQs' subtotal]	[213]	[179]	[136]	[154]	[134]	[142]	[105]	[101]
SA Institution	13	15	13	13	12	14	14	14
African Institution	4	3	3	3	3	6	3	3
Internat ^{nl} institution	15	18	18	16	21	12	8	12
SA Individual								2
African Individual							1	1
['Other' Subtotal]	[32]	[36]	[34]	[32]	[35]	[32]	[26]	[32]
TOTAL	245	214	170	186	170	174	131	133

Journal usage: Full text of our journal, and back numbers, is hosted by Ingenta, EBSCOhost and AJOL, each having different amounts of material available on their site and each serving a slightly different community. Mike Schramm of NISC has kindly provided the following very interesting

information from Ingenta on who uses our journal (Table 3). Note that the downloads were done mainly by subscribers, with some pay-per-view activity by non-subscribers. All in all, the journal is now getting a really high level of international interest, and one hopes that this starts to translate into more article submissions from international researchers as well as more international subscribers.

Table 3. IngentaConnect AJAS usage statistics for May 2009 – April 2010.

Contents pages viewed (Top 10 countries)	No. of views
United States of America	2768
South Africa	1041
United Kingdom	87
Tokelau	33
Turkey	32
China	23
Swaziland	23
Germany	22
Saudi Arabia	18
France	17
TOTAL	4186

Abstracts viewed (Top 10 countries)	No. of views
United States of America	13179
South Africa	2181
United Kingdom	298
Tokelau	181
China	119
Unknown	99
Malaysia	83
Australia	79
Brazil	67
France	65
Total	17318

Top 10 downloaded full-text articles	No. of downloads
Dickens & Graham (2002) The South African Scoring System (SASS) Version 5 Rapid Bioassessment Method for Rivers. AJAS 27(1)	102
Cambray (2003) The global impact of alien trout species - a review; with reference to their impact in South Africa. AJAS 28(1)	40
Marr et al. (2009) Conserving the fishes of the Twee River, Western Cape, South Africa: revisiting the issues. AJAS 34(1)	38

Lowe et al. (2008) The impact of invasive fish and invasive riparian plants on the invertebrate fauna of the Rondegat River, Cape Floristic Region, South Africa. AJAS 33(1)	36
Allan & Froneman (2008) Trophic interactions amongst the plankton in the temporarily open/closed East Kleinemonde Estuary, South Africa. AJAS 33(2)	36
Ollis et al. (2006) Bioassessment of the ecological integrity of river ecosystems using aquatic macroinvertebrates: an overview with a focus on South Africa. AJAS 31(2)	35
Masese et al. (2009) A preliminary benthic macroinvertebrate index of biotic integrity (B-IBI) for monitoring the Moiben River, Lake Victoria. AJAS 34(1)	33
Whitehead et al. (2007) Reproductive and feeding biology of the endangered fiery reedfin, <i>Pseudobarbus phlegethon</i> (Barnard 1938) (Teleostei: Cyprinidae), in the Noordhoeks River, South Africa. AJAS 32(3)	33
Richardson et al. (2009) Rapid biological assessment of the fishery potential of Xonxa Dam, near Queenstown, South Africa. AJAS 34(1)	32
Brown (2001) A comparison of several methods of assessing river condition using benthic macroinvertebrate assemblages. AJAS 26(2)	29
Total number of downloads of these 10 articles	414

In comparison, EBSCOhost reported a total of 377 downloads of their top 10 articles from Volumes 33 & 34 (2008 & 2009) alone. However, they don't have as much material available as Ingenta do, and so their downloads are skewed towards the more recent publications.

Impact factor: We have yet to receive our first Impact Factor rating, which is expected to become available during June this year. Having an Impact Factor will definitely improve the status of our journal in the eyes of potential authors, and so should improve both the flow and quality of incoming manuscripts.

Publishing changes: NISC's publishing collaboration with Taylor and Francis has not yet resulted in the setting up of the promised electronic manuscript-handling system. When this happens it is likely to improve both the speed and visibility of the refereeing and publishing process, and thereby should put our journal on a better footing.

Mike Coke
 Editor, African Journal of Aquatic Science
 31 May 2010

In reply the meeting expressed their appreciation for the report and Wynand Vlok thanked Mike for the excellent job he has been doing over the years.

9 WEB MASTERS REPORT

The secretary indicated that a report was received from Mike Silberbauer regarding the society's web site and that this report will be attached to the minutes. Mike was thanked for the service he provided over the past years.

Paul Skelton then requested that a SASAqS tradition again be revived. He pointed out that the tradition was that the committee members be thanked for their reports and work done in the past year. He then proposed a vote of thanks to the committee which was fully supported by the members present.

10 COUNTRY REPRESENTATIVE REPORTS.

The chairperson again raised his concern about this aspect as nothing had occurred since the previous AGM. Elliot Taylor undertook to assist since he is based in Malawi and Edosa Omoregie indicated that

he would assist in Namibia. The secretary was requested to supply them with the names and contact detail of people in their respective areas.

11 CONFERENCES

2010 Conference

The team, and in particular Jan Roos, was once again thanked for the well organized conference.

2011 Conference

The conference will be at Phongola and will be hosted by Nico Smit and his team from UJ. No date was finalized but it was suggested that it should be in the June school holiday. Possible dates will be communicated.

2012 and 2013 conferences

Olaf Weyl and Janine Adams were requested to investigate the possibility to host the 2012 conference and it was suggested that the 2013 conference be held in the Okavango.

12 AWARDS

The chairperson reported that no proposals were received.

13 HONORARIA

It was suggested that the honorarium paid to the Editor of AJAS be adapted to include the inflation rate.

14 BY-LAWS

The chairperson indicated that there was nothing to report

15 GENERAL

- a) Election of the Executive committee.

The committee consists of the following:

President : Jan Roos, Vice-President: Janine Adams. Nico Smit remains as the Honorary Treasurer, Paul Fouché as the Honorary Secretary and Victor Wepener and Wynand Vlok as additional members. Mike Coke is still the Honorary Editor and Mike Silberbauer manages the web page.

- b) Suggestion by Nico Rossouw. Nico suggested that for the next conferences suppliers of scientific equipment be invited to show their wares. This was accepted by the meeting and the organizers of the next conference are requested to investigate the possibilities.

The meeting closed at 18h00.

Signed

PSO Fouché
Hon Secretary

Date

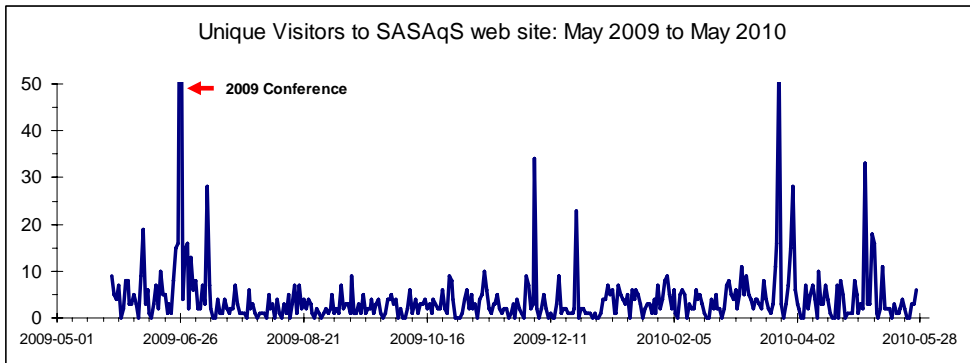
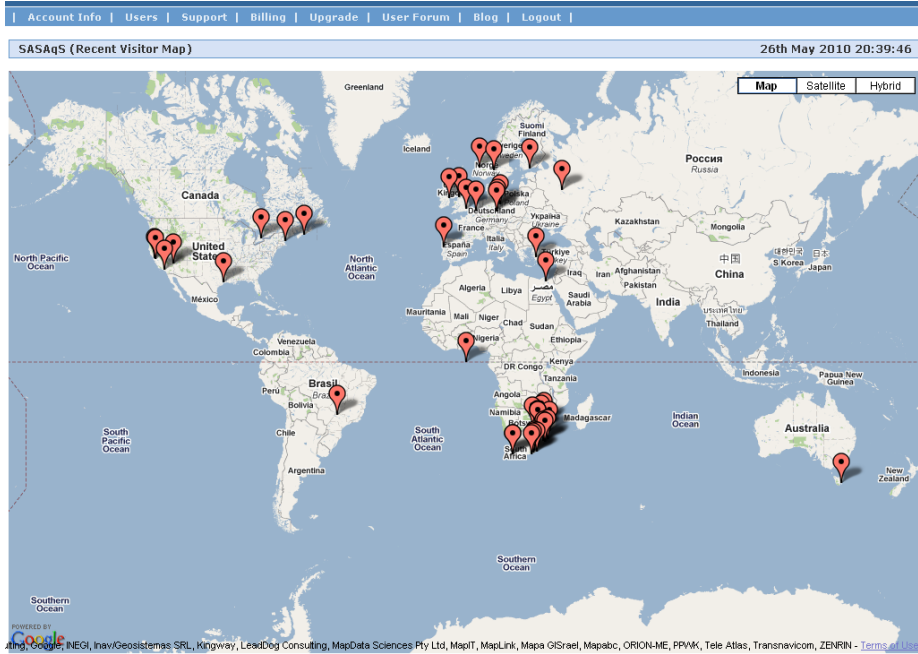
Accepted

President (W Vlok)

Date

SASAgS May 2009 to May 2010 web report

The site was not terribly active as Internet sites go, with about 5431 page loads, 1517 unique visitors, 1254 first-time visitors and 263 returning visitors. The map shows where our visitors came from. From 25 May 2009 to 25 May 2010 about 44 people applied for membership of SASAgS via the web site form.



Mike Silberbauer, 27 May 2010.