



GEOHAB

**Marine Geological and Biological
Habitat Mapping**

GeoHab 2010 Annual General Meeting

Thursday 6 May 2010, 5 pm, Wellington Town Hall, Wellington.

Chair: Brian Todd

Minutes taken by Vanessa Lucieer (Contact: Vanessa.Lucieer@utas.edu.au)

Attendance list was completed by a list being passed around the room for attendees to sign, but there is no sign of this list!

Meeting opened at 5 pm

1 - Feedback of GeoHab 2010

Brian Todd (BT): GREAT!

Peter Harris (PH): Positive points: 50 odd talks in 3 day; learnt a lot; hotel accommodation close to the venue, fantastic facilities.

Improvement possible: PH queried the usefulness of Keynote speakers; Are they necessary? More talks could have been allowed without them.

No good discussions held after the meeting or time allowed for good discussion.

Geoffroy Lamarche (GL): explained that the committee was shy in reducing talks. Acknowledges that 55 talks were probably too much. Question is: do we want to keep GeoHab as "one session fits all"? If "Yes", then one may need to cap the number of talks to ~45. Which is not easy.

Brendan Brooke, GA: thought 5 min talks were useful and suggested a session with 5 min presentations for posters.

Lynsday Gee; IVS 3D: agrees that 5 min talks are a good idea. From a commercial position it was very much appreciated that commercial groups were included and fully involved in the meeting rather than [pushed to] the back after committee cashed their cheques. Really enjoyed the workshop and thankful for the opportunity to contribute to GeoHab 2010.

Margaret Dolan, Norway: Thinks 5 min poster talks are a good idea. Did not get as much chance to look at the posters as desired and actually needed a break when poster sessions were scheduled.

GL: Agreed. Left the posters up for 3 days to help counteract this

Markus Diesing; CEFAS: Should be stricter with presentation times and make sure that the talks would stick to the limits. Most presenters did go overtime. 5 min and 5 slides would be a good idea to attract attention to the posters.

Perhaps extend GeoHab by one day?

BT: My liver would not take that!

GL: notes that 'Carte Blanche' is given to the Local Organizing Committee each year to organise the meeting and everyone had a chance to comment, but because there is no formula these feedback sessions are important.

Gary Greene (GG): part of the freedom of the meeting is its success. The meeting is growing incredibly. When it started, there was no registration fee. The commercial interest is

important and often we are using the products that are being displayed by vendors and need to hear the limitations of these by other scientists. Their contributions allow students to attend the meeting. Their [exhibitors] contribution in fees is going a long way with the support of catering etc. Gary would prefer one more day than having consecutive sessions.

BT: Could a handwritten letter please be written to thank the sponsors?
Do we want to extend the meeting by one day?

GL: Leave it [one day extension] to the local organising committee based on numbers of potential talks.

Alan Orpin (AO), NIWA: involvement of the treasurer and the sponsors were an integral part of the meeting. It is important to understand the limitations that may occur without the sponsors. Suggest holding icebreaker in the same place as the posters and with the sponsors there, where the exhibitors and where the posters are together so people are free to engage with both entities.

BT: Was there negative feedback from industry?

Lyndsay Gee: no but by having an extra day we should be able to bring the icebreaker forward by 2 hours. Industry is satisfied with people coming to their booth and talking to them. Perhaps this depends on how many people are attending, etc. They [industry] were happy that they could attend the meeting. Loved the workshop and would have been concerned if the workshop was cancelled.

GL: Had only one sponsor saying that the communication was slow.

Roland Pitcher: Many conferences have a special poster evening. Alternatively the periods between the sessions, and after with drinks, before the dinner, [would be good] to mill about and look at the posters

1. Wants to engage the industry more,
2. Needs more time to absorb the posters in 3 (perhaps 4 days), enough breaks to give the posters enough exposure.

Margaret Dolan: Do we plan to put the posters on the web?

BT: Yes, GeoHab plans to put them up as pdf files.

GL: Could all posters be sent as pdfs to put on the web.

Anu Kaskela (Finland): Posters with a handout are a good idea so that you can take it with you and read it on your own time. Note for Aarno Kotilainen (in 2012) that posters come as pdfs before hand. Otherwise, it is a huge job for Brian to ask for them later.

GL: be aware that everything has a cost!

2 - GeoHab 2011.

Presentation from Aarno Kotilainen, Geological Survey of Finland (Contact: aarno.kotilainen@gtk.fi)

Hard to move to 2011 as 2010 was great!

Anu Kaskela, Anna-Leena Downie, Essie Keskinen were introduced as part of the organising committee.

Next meeting to be held in Helsinki: Aarno presented slides and introduction on GeoHab 2011.

3 - GeoHab 2012 and beyond

GG: GeoHab is privileged to hold the next meeting in Helsinki as proposed in 2007. The Galapagos were suggested for 2012, but [GG] has not heard back from contacts there. Vaughn Barrie and GG talked and considered that it could be held in the US, in the San Juan Archipelago on Orcas Island. Everything [venue, housing, etc.] is self-contained at a resort [Rosario]. This is our idea now and the GSC (Vaughn's group) might be able to help support the meeting as a trans-boundary (USA–Canada) approach. Rome is proposed for 2013 (hosted by Andrea Fiorentino).

Andrea Fiorentino: volunteered to host the 2013 meeting. Discussed with Brian yesterday [and explained] that there is a peculiar arrangement with their admin trying to work out how to host the meeting, but thinks it would be possible to solve this problem. Offered it for the next year, but it is fine with them to put it off for a year. They will start working on the organisation now as he [Andrea] thinks it might be a challenge and needs to find out how they will host it with the help of Instituto Superiore per la Protezione e la Ricerca Ambientale (ISPRA), etc. How do we decide what the theme is best for the conference?

GG: it is the host countries choice.

Andrea Fiorentino: is studying microfossils and he feels a lack of planktonic topics and chemistry is general information concerning the oceans that needs to be addressed. Does not know now how to wrap this all up, but he would like to invite some of his colleagues who work on coccoliths.

GL: re. Financial issues. If NIWA were the recipient for the registration and sponsors funds, it would have been a nightmare to run. That is why they employed Janet Simes from Absolutely Organised for the conference organisation. She dealt with a large number of issues, venues (including AV and catering), registrations, sponsors, registration desk, and all payments (in and out).

AO: 85% of the registrations were paid for by VISA and NIWA had no capability of doing this.

GL: Regarding scientific theme of conference: if the theme is too limiting then you limit the potential number people who can attend.

GG: you don't want to limit topics, just assign themes that most topics can be put into.

Kersten Kroger: we had a workshop at the last GeoHab meeting, analysing video, etc. for all different aspects and thought about using the webpage of GeoHab as a one-stop shop. The report went into a black hole. Can it go on the web?

BT: the workshops are independent. The website will not be hosting any of the workshop content as it is up to the organisers to do this. Scott Gallagher is therefore responsible for getting it out. There has been no feedback to Brian in the last year and the GeoHab webpage will not take any ownership for the workshops before or after the conference.

Becky Allee: suggested the Gulf of Mexico for GeoHab 2014. Some places to consider are Corpus Christi Texas, Heart Research Institute, an AMA research institute in Galveston that studies sea turtle; New Orleans, but first week of May is Jazz Fest so would need to move the dates; Mississippi; Alabama; Florida, St Petersburg.

Jean François Bourillet (JFB): Jacques Populus (not present at the meeting) offered Brest, France for 2015. JFB notes that 2015 is a long way away. Jacques has put his hand up to host it in Brest but there may be other locations that would also be nice. Perhaps the Cote d'Azur.

GL: we only confirmed Wellington at the 2008 meeting, so these are just ideas.

Lyndsay Gee: Is there any southeast Asian participants or South America?

GG: it is hard to get them (Asia and South America) to come because they need to be paid for their travel, but we need contacts in SE Asia [to pursue this].

Miguel Canals: Barcelona is in the south of Europe, so perhaps it could be considered in Barcelona in 2016.

Bryony Pearce: is part of the Gardline company that have offices in Brazil and Japan so might see what she can do about encouraging promotion there [for a future GeoHab meeting].

4 - GeoHab Financial

GeoHab has grown really well and we are financially fit. GeoHab really has no officers or secretariat and is not a formal tax deductible organization. We have a problem with handling money. Therefore, we bank money through the CPC, a non-profit, tax deductible organization. The Menlo Survey Credit Union at the US Geological Survey is where the banking is done, so it goes through the proper accounting and auditing and we don't have to pay any taxes, just need to pay for a CPC accountant to file tax returns and inspect the books.

2009/2010 Financial Transactions are as follows:

Deposits US\$18,510 (from AUS to pay for the special issue of the CSR, a US\$20K commitment)

US\$7,053 (from Norway GeoHab meeting)

US\$1,127 in interest and royalties

US\$26,690 Total intake

Expenditures

US\$6,446 (for 2010 GeoHab student support)

US\$ 300 (web support)

US\$8,000 (lent to GeoHab meeting committee for organizing meeting)

US\$14,746 Total outlay

Funds in Bank accounts as of April 1, 2010 (includes previous balances):

US\$ 6,057 (savings)

US\$50,107 (chequing)

US\$56,164 Total, but does not include expenditures for this meeting.

Approximately US\$35K or so is what we will have in the bank once all pending expenditures are paid out. This includes the US\$20K needed for the CSR publication. This is what we have to work with for the 2011 conference. This does not take into account any other expenditures not foreseen at this time.

AO: NZ\$56K in sponsorship

85% of registrations were by VISA.

Few extras paid for but perhaps made an 8-9K profit.

5 - Students

A lot of effort has gone into student support. The responsibility for organising the students belongs to the previous year chairperson so it is GL's responsibility to chair the 2011 student selection committee.

Margaret Dolan: Student selection; she was happy to be involved with the students, and in providing the information that goes out to the students to tell them how to apply; would like to suggest bringing forward the deadline by one month and ask also for the abstract from the students so that we can let them know of acceptances so that they can get cheaper airfares for attending.

Maeva Gauthier, University of Victoria: Is there a student committee working on the outreach to students to put the word out? There are other funding agencies that might support getting students to attend GeoHab.

GL: Propose to 'appoint' Maeva Gauthier as the student representative for GeoHab.

GL: In 2010, we budgeted NZ\$10K for student sponsors. Perhaps this is something we need to talk about?

6 - Contact List:

BT: We don't have a committee that markets GeoHab, it is actually only an e-mail. You can never come off it! Any comments on the laborious nature of keeping the list?

GL: thanks to BT for doing it for another year!

7 - Publications

Andrew Heap: At the 2007 meeting, it was decided a special issue for CSR would be published. 15 publications have been submitted and 11 have been received online DOI. GeoHab sponsored the special issue. The publications are up to 2009. It is a long process. It is a different audience to the Atlas and Glossary.

Please get your contributions IN!

PH: the GeoHab Atlas. The CSR publication is sponsored by GeoHab US\$20K. It is important that it be published quickly. Elaine Baker is co-editor [with PH] on the Atlas project. This has been an idea for a few years but was kicked off last year with 65 expressions of interest and 27 [contributions] in hand. The Atlas is being published by Elsevier as an eBook but you can get a hard copy if you want.

Elaine and PH had to sign a contract with Elsevier to get it in on time. There is a royalty stream to be generated from the sales. Based on the length [of publication].

All contributors get a copy of the book. Case studies are 8-10 pages, there are 60 + the general introduction and conclusion so the book will perhaps be about 650 pages.

Those who have not submitted their papers need to do so. There will not be a second deadline. IT NEEDS TO BE IN ASAP. If you do not have it in by the 1st of May 2010, you need to clear it with Peter [and tell him] when you will hand it in.

Sarah Hamylton (Cambridge Univ.): will you try to get a paper from Asia so that there is an even spread across the world?

PH: the geographic distribution was focused on more than the geographic location. It is a case study of the system and presents various habitat types. In particular, no one put their hand up to do ocean vents and so people were tracked down to cover this. It [the paper] needs to have a habitat map, biological information and some surrogacy information.

Miguel Canals and BT met about an Atlas that would be updated to the Atlas of Glaciated Margins. When they saw Andy's talk about the Atlas of Ireland they thought they would continue with that idea again.

Mark Costello (Uni. Auckland). Re. The Glossary: any more volunteers for the Glossary? Initiative or questions? A report has been generated and so it will be sent around for comments and to other attendees as an outcome of the 2010 meeting.

8 - Web (content and costs).

Invoices given to Gary to pay for the GeoHab website.

It [the web site] has been criticised by almost everyone, but it is done of a shoestring. If you don't want to pay for it, then Brian will do it for nothing. It is a data dumpsite that is not meant to be flashing lights. For the upcoming GeoHabs the website is the responsibility of the organisers of that year's meeting.

The following are to be uploaded onto the website:

- Agenda and abstracts of past and present meetings as pdf booklet.
- List of participants
- Minutes of meetings
- PPT files: turned to pdfs.

GeoHab pays for the space at the moment.

PH: Thinks that the ppt files are of limited value and thinks after 1 year they should be taken down and replaced by the following year's slides.

Host for the webpage?

BT: Tried that and it failed.

Do we go commercial? Alternatively, let BT keep going.

Lyndsay Gee: have you considered sponsors for the website?

BT: no but do we want that?

Pdfs of talks and posters have been collected and he [BT] is in the process of loading them all onto the web site.

Jean François Bourillet: perhaps the host conference could pay for the pdf files.

BT: National University of Galway kept it [pdfs] on from 2004 and wants to kill it.

It was agreed that we keep only 2 years [on the web site] and [establish a] rolling window and replace them [with the latest talks and posters].

Reassess in 2011.

Meeting closed at 6.20 pm