

LSSC Teleconference Minutes
Wednesday 2nd September 2009, 2-4pm

PRESENT:	Megan Balks	University of Waikato (LSSC Chairperson)
	Vonda Cummings	NIWA
	Mark Stevens	South Australian Museum
	Clive Howard-Williams	NIWA
	Shulamit Gordon	Antarctica New Zealand
APOLOGIES:	Ed Butler	Antarctica New Zealand (Ex-Officio)
	Jenny Webster-Brown	University of Auckland
	Ian Hogg	University of Waikato

Actions from LSSC Meeting

LSSCer	Action Item	Status
Shul	Follow up where the Wisconsin project AWS is that is close to Beardmore	
	Look into possibility of Ian Hogg putting in an AWS in at the Beardmore this season or something small to get some data if possible.	
	Advertise again the potential for an AWS project if someone finds a suitable student to do this. Point out that this is not just for NZ students – anyone could use the data.	
	See about a scholarship for this AWS work.	
	Follow up with Bryan re AWS work being done	
	look into contributing to the Antarctic Society Journal	
	Add links on LGP and Ant NZ site to SCAR scholarships. On LGP site – show what projects could be worked on with this scholarship.	
	Send email out to alert SCAR scholarship deadline.	
	Follow up with Lou re UK/NZ Heroic age PHD fellowship. Can it be related to LGP key questions?	
	Approach Phil Lyver to see if he wants to join LSSC	
	Follow up on what is next with LGP Antarctic Gradients idea? Through Lou? Through Pete Convey and EBA? Or next SCAR Biology?	
	Antonio Quesada has agreed to submit a paper. Clive will be Guest Editor for this. Let Sharon Cooke know.	
	Send another reminders about due dates for special edition and remind submitters about the charge.	
	Ask Ian Hawes about his paper to confirm if he will submit one or not.	

	Check with Ed about the LSSC suggesting to LGPers to flag interest in a northern LGP site if one was supported in the future. If OK with it – send round to LGP list.	
	Identify potential sites north of MZS for marine and terrestrial work. Conduct literature review where needed. Also look at sites around Hallett/Adare.	
	Complete literature review for Southern extreme sites (not just Beardmore)	
	Draft a letter of thanks to Martin Riddle and cc John Gunn for his attendance to the LGP workshop and follow up on future links with ICEMATE - circulate round LSSC.	
	Follow up on Italy workshop	
	Complete suggestions for 7 year review	
	Ask Jeb, Diana, Byron and Berry if one of them would join the LSSC to increase communication between NZ and US on the LGP progress.	
	Set next LSSC teleconference meeting in March 2010	
Ed	Ant NZ to keep in touch with NSF programme managers re Beardmore support.	
Mark	Send the info on additional paper for special edition to Shul.	Done
Clive	Write to Warwick Vincent re exchange of AWS data.	
	Author introductory paper for special edition. Get going on first draft.	
	Put forward suggestions for who will be authors of intro paper. Send ideas to Megan.	

1. Apologies and confirmation of agenda

- Apologies from Ed Butler, Jenny Webster-Brown and Ian Hogg

2. Action Items from March 2009 Minutes

- Follow up where the Wisconsin project AWS is that is close to Beardmore
- Look into possibility of Ian Hogg putting in an AWS this season or something small to get some data if possible. Even just for a year. K020 put in a simple AWS in Miers – Hobo? Need something simple to set up.
- Follow up with Bryan re AWS work being done
- Regarding a popular LGP article, could we look into contributing to the Antarctic Society Journal?
- UK/NZ Polar Heroic Centenary update – moved away from a science exchange, but has support in principle for a UK/NZ Antarctic science PhD fellowship from Cambridge University for £15,00 per annum if NZ can match this. Would be announced in 2010 to start in 2011. Keep LSSC up to date with this. Can it be specified that the work relates to LGP key questions? Shul to follow up with Lou to see what is happening with this and where is it now. LSSC can come up with ideas to put forward for a project. Or it could be a competitive proposal that needs to relate to LGP key questions – then we don't eliminate people.

- Clive to talk to Warwick Vincent re Arctic AWS data. USDA also has Arctic data that could be used.
- 3. Recognise minutes from conference mini-LSSC meeting (attached)**
- Would like to see someone new for the committee, from a discipline and institution not represented on the LSSC and maybe South Island. Phil Lyver? Landcare perspective. He may be interested in Northern sites. Shul to approach Phil to see if he wants to join LSSC.
 - Others who have an interests in sitting on the LSSC to contact Shul.
- 4. Summary of key outcomes of LGP Workshop at 09 Auckland Conference (attached)**
- Very good interactions with Martin Riddle from Australian Antarctic Division with lots of ideas and discussion about how ICEMATE is learning from LGP and how we could possibly have links in the future.
- 5. Report back on SCAR Biology meeting re implications for LGP**
- Very good NZ representation.
 - Good LGP profile - seeing more and more on the LGP.
 - Shul gave a talk on LGP and the Antarctic Gradients concept. Some people had still not heard about the LGP yet and thought it was good to hear about it. So we are still giving the LGP message to new people!
 - What is next with LGP Antarctic Gradients idea? Through Lou? Through Pete Convey and EBA? Or next SCAR Biology? Shul to follow up.
- 6. *Antarctic Science* Special Edition II**
- Antonio Quesada has agreed to submit a paper. Clive will be Guest Editor for this.
 - Need to keep up reminders about due dates and remind submitters about the charge.
 - Mark has another paper that could go in – Bryum Population genetics along VLC. Mark to send the info on this paper to Shul.
 - Ask Ian Hawes about his paper to confirm if he will submit one or not.
 - Order of papers. Wait until the papers have been submitted. Put marine papers first. Or put them in subject area. Could also put them in order of what key question they answer most. Or could do in alphabetical order of first author.
 - Clive to author introductory paper. Who might help him? Do we ask Riccardo again? Pete Convey? Spanish? Clive to approach the appropriate people and write a draft to circulate. Clive to send initial ideas to Megan.

7. 5 Year Plan (science and logistics) including 09/10

- **Darwin:** Two events being supported in the Darwin this season – Bryan Storey K056 and Jenny Webster-Brown (K081B). This will be the last of the LGP Darwin support.
- **Extreme Southern Site:** US planning on a camp in 10/11 where some NZ events can be hosted. Ian Hogg planning on going to Beardmore this season with US event.
- **New Harbour:** This site will now not be put forward as an official LGP site as it is no good to Ken Ryan (he needs first year sea ice) and Mary Sewell will have finished her LGP work. If people want to work at New Harbour, they can apply to do so through the regular bidding round.
- **Site between TNB and Hallett:** Still need to look into appropriate sites in this area. Will people apply for such a site even without LGP approval? Does the LSSC push and make a formal case/statement and try and identify a site? Or let people write their bids and put in for some site up north? Suggesting that if you're interested in doing a further north site – just flag it into your proposal. But don't hang your proposal on it. Then we can email LGP people about this. Then LSSC can start working towards making it happen. Send to whole LGP community.

8. LGP direction

- Can SCAR fund a new project like LGP or ICEMATE? EBA doesn't do much besides bringing people together. But would LGP wind up and become ICEMATE?
- Taking ICEMATE ideas and making them Antarctic wide was the concept that the EBA workshop at the SCAR Biology meeting was looking at adopting rather than the actual project (which is limited geographically).
- ICEMATE – small number NZers, but LGP more inclusive – maybe its strength.
- So does LGP have a role in relation to the SCAR projects?
- LGP should run long enough to see if we can utilise data or places or information that comes out of the initial couple of years of ICEMATE.
- Several options:
 - Wind up now
 - Have another go to go further north – think we should try for this – and then see what links we can forge with ICEMATE. This could also be of benefit to ICEMATE
 - Think big and get LGP to be a model for across Antarctica
- Would ICEMATE consider putting in a site at the top of the Ross Sea just below Adare to work out of? Would be very useful for several NZ groups. Potential for great synergies. Would be great to have a NZ LGP point that far north – more relevant than having it round the corner.
- LSSC to write a letter of thanks to Martin Riddle and cc John Gunn for his attendance to the LGP workshop and follow up on future links with ICEMATE. Shul to draft and circulate round LSSC.
- There was a workshop in Sapporo about the future of SCAR Biology programmes. Possibility of follow up workshop in Italy on future of SCAR biology projects - Shul to keep in touch with Italy re meeting.

- There are discussions about a joint NZ/Australian conference in 2010 instead of the annual Ant NZ conference. If this happens – will be a great opportunity to talk more with the Australians about links with ICEMATE. Could have a workshop about links with LGP and ICEMATE put this at the end of the conference on the day after possibly – or in the half day before proper opening. Might need to have abstracts in earlier so Australians know if their abstracts are accepted or not and can attend.
- Andrew Fountain from the MCM LTER wanting to organise a Dry Valleys Symposium – sometime next year maybe. Last one was in 1994. Might want to suggest 2011.

9. 7 Year LGP Review – key points missing

- Shul is preparing a 7 year review of the LGP for Lou.
- Will seek input from LGP contributors.

10 Other

- Next meeting in March 2010. Make it a teleconference again to save time and money.

LGP Notes from 2009 Auckland Conference

1. LSSC Meeting, 30 June 2009

- Ian Hogg to come onto the LSSC. He has good links with Italy and the US.
- Considering new members to the LSSC
 - e.g. earth scientist doing relevant LGP paleoclimate work
 - Currently have uneven membership with 2 NIWA and mostly N Island
 - Could approach Bryan Storey to ask if he knew of anyone appropriate or if he himself would be appropriate
- Decided on Guest Editors for special edition
- Re Evaluation of the LGP
 - EBA finishes in 2013 – do we run in line with this?
 - How much support/energy from the scientists is there for future LGP work?
 - If we don't try to ask for more, we'll never get more
 - Logistically, a far North site will be hard, but what about options with Korea, US, Australia?
 - Do need to decide on future now and put this forward as plans take time
 - Would have to find a site for a far North site
 - Vonda very keen for a site between TNB and Hallett or Hallett and Adare
 - Better to go to a North site as a group than individually – more difficult to make the case for a single event
 - Maybe it would be better to wrap LGP up and morph into another project?
 - Would be good to do a final wrap up site where marine and terrestrial come back together
- Still points for discussion:
 - Wider than 'future' question
 - Strengths?
 - Problems?
 - Omissions?
 - Are we enthusiastic to keep going, or do we morph into something else?

2. Post Conference Comments from Megan

- Talked to a number of people and I think the consensus view is that there is strong support for an LGP leg in the TNB region that brings the marine and terrestrial back together and covers some gaps that Hallett left. And it should be relatively do-able. The feeling is that it is better to try to get to the top corner with the Australians maybe as part of ICEMATE.
- The question is do we need to do anything now to formally flag a desire for a mid-Ross-sea site around the broader TNB area to AntNZ?

3. LGP Workshop

- Introduction by Shul on LGP
- Quick presentations by LGPers on key findings under some of the key questions
- Presentation by Martin Riddle on ICEMATE and Land/Sea and Sea/Land interactions
 - Said that LGP is way ahead of ICEMATE and that the thinking of ICEMATE has come from what LGP is delivering
 - Wants to learn more from the LGP to fine tune techniques
 - ICEMATE proposal has been through assessment process and has been highly ranked, but needs logistics.
 - ICEMATE proposal started as broad-scale biodiversity, but has now turned more towards processes.
 - Would like to see the idea of ICEMATE applied more widely across the continent. Could it be the next EBA?
 - Aurora Australis takes 116 people max.
 - Australian programme open to proposals from overseas so will encourage involvement from the NZ community
- Benefits of the LGP and points of improvement
 - Benefit is the model of having everyone in the field at the same time. Different projects, but get to work together and exchange ideas – leads to synergies that wouldn't happen otherwise.
 - Commitment to LGP logistics is what has made it work. RiSCC and EBA don't work in the same way as there is no commitment to logistics.
 - Martin wanted to know the process of how the LGP got going – explained to him later.
- Who in audience wants to go to Beardmore?
 - Jenny Webster-Brown – ask others to make sample collections.
 - Jackie Aislabie
 - Craig Cary
 - Peter Almond
 - Bryan Storey
 - Ian Hogg
 - Allan Green
- What about after Beardmore?
 - Are we done?
 - Work with Australians?
 - Or try to have one final joint camp with marine and terrestrial at a site North of MZS?
 - Another site north of Drygalski would be good giving scope to improve links between marine and terrestrial.
 - Mustn't ignore the Peninsula gradient too – would be good to get into this area to work in the future

4. LSSC Dinner

- Idea of joint NZ/Australian conference suggested.