

LSSC Teleconference Minutes
Wednesday 3rd March 2010, 1-4pm

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

Actions from LSSC Meeting

LSSCer	Action Item	Status
Shul	Add extreme Southern Site literature review to LGP website	
	Find out more information about the Beardmore/CTAM camp	
	Coordinate a NZ Beardmore workshop	
	Make a formal submission to Ed about the request for a site north of Hallett – so that it can be planned for over the next 4 years.	
	Set LGP workshop for Wednesday 7 th July in the afternoon.	
	Write a blurb for the LGP conference workshop for the conference website.	
	Book meeting room for Monday 5 th morning LSSC meeting	
	Book LSSC dinner for Wednesday 7 th .	
	Communicate March 31 st as final deadline for submissions to LGP Ant Sci special edition. Also let Sharon Cooke know of this.	
	Let Natalie Cadenhead know that we will provide reviews	
	Find out how many words for 2 book reviews in Ant Soc editions	
	Give instructions to Ian Hawes re the submission he is leading	
	Check number of pages for the Ant Soc edition and if we'll fill them.	
	Source images from Ursula for Ant Soc edition.	
	Sort out how submissions to Ant soc edition should be handled.	
	Lead 'background' paper for Ant Soc edition	
	Write logistics paper for Ant soc edition	
	Coordinate NZ SCAR Biology meeting for input before the end of May.	
	Find out who else will be attending the SCAR OSC	
	Ask LGPers attending SCAR OSC and IPY conference in Oslo to show their links with the LGP in their presentations.	
Send out a reminder re OSC abstract submission date.		
	Submit abstract for LGP poster to SCAR OSC and make poster.	

Ed	Find out what is required for this LGP Science outcome review	
	Pull together the science outcomes document – Megan to lead.	
Mark	Let Martin Riddle know we're keen for him to come to the LGP workshop and Ant NZ conference again.	
Vonda	Coordinate marine workshop in April/May	
	Lead Ant Soc Marine paper. Due June 1 st .	
Megan	Pull together the science outcomes document – Megan to lead.	
Jenny	Coordinate terrestrial workshop in April/May	
	Review 'Innocents in the Dry Valleys' by Colin Bull for Ant Soc magazine. Due 1 st June. With Ian Hogg. Ian Lead. Due 1 st June	
Ian	Review 'Innocents in the Dry Valleys' by Colin Bull for Ant Soc magazine. Due 1 st June. With Jenny. Ian Lead. Due 1 st June.	
	Lead Ant Soc Terrestrial paper – due June 1 st .	
	Check with Byron Adams, Jeb Barrett and Diana Wall about interest to come to LGP workshop/Ant NZ conference in July.	
Clive	Review 'Wildlife of the Arctic' - Due 1 st June.	

1. Apologies and confirmation of agenda

- No apologies.
- No additions to agenda

2. Action Items from September 2009 Minutes

- The SCAR scholarship is now advertised on LGP website and has been advertised in the Ant NZ monthly Science Updates.
- Phil Lyver was invited to join the LSSC and he accepted.
- Extreme southern site literature review to be added to the LGP Website.
- Letter of thanks to Martin Riddle was sent in September.

3. Re-cap on 09/10 Season

Granite Harbour

- Second year for the camp at Granite Harbour
- Shortest LGP camp – only 3 weeks
- Supported Ken Ryan (K043) and Mary Sewell (K018)
- Successful season for both group

New Harbour

- Vonda (K082) spent a very successful 3 weeks at New Harbour with her team in a great camp with great weather.

Darwin:

- Supported 2 events in the Darwin – Jenney Webster-Brown and Ian Hawes as part of K081 and Cliff Atkins and Kurt Joy as part of K056.
- Very productive season for both groups which means that this is the last of the Darwin seasons for the LGP.
- Learning from the Darwin: need to be put in somewhere useful for sampling so not stuck at a site due to weather that is no use for sampling.

- Darwin may be the anomaly in the latitudinal gradient in terms of biological life, or could it be that the Beardmore is the anomaly in that it is uncharacteristically diverse?!
- Still plenty of work to come from the analysis of Darwin samples.
- There is certainly a high diversity in the diversity of the water bodies in chemistries in the area.

4. 5 Year Plan (science and logistics)

- **Beardmore:**
 - Ian Hogg got to visit the Beardmore this season with the US programme with three day trips via Twin Otter. He has lots of images and video for people who are interested. Several ponds in the area.
 - Best site for biology around Mt Kyffin with +3-4°C temperatures, no wind and clear skies. Lush vegetation, soil fauna and invertebrate fauna. Did find nematodes in the Meyer Desert but no lichen or moss.
 - Ant NZ has four groups set to go to the Beardmore in 10/11 to be hosted by the US programme. Jenny W-B would like water samples to be taken from the area, but K081 won't be going to the Beardmore.
 - Need to find out where the main US camp will be.
 - Possibility to share US Satellite images of the area
- **LGP Northern Site and Future of LGP**
 - AAD's ICEMATE is still in the planning phase. As a concept it's been approved and is in the 10 yr science plan and the science strategy, but may not happen under the banner of ICEAMTE. Still early days yet and not something LGP should rely upon right now.
 - Shul presented document listing LGPers preferences for a northern site. Mixture of sites north of Terra Nova Bay and some wanting to work near Cape Adare or 'round the corner' from there.
 - Unlikely that this will happen in the 12/13 or 13/14 seasons as the 4 year bidding round has passed. But could be indicated for the next 4 year bidding round for support from 14/15 seasons.
 - Some groups in this bidding round have already asked for sites around or north of Terra Nova Bay (Ken Ryan, Craig Cary, Vonda Cummings) – so this is already covered in the next 4 years.
 - Do want to see the LGP continue and link with AAD with a longitudinal transect. But need to caution about continuing the LGP (around the corner) as it is no longer a latitudinal gradient.
 - Some discussion over whether we should 'morph' the LGP into a Gradient Project – one of the main findings is that latitude is not the key determinant for what we are seeing along the coast, so maybe this will work and thus encompass all gradients. This would certainly fit in with the larger 'Antarctic Gradients' concept that has been discussed in SCAR through EBA and might coincide well with the new SCAR Biology programme(s) – whatever they may be.

- Agreement that we should ‘morph’ the LGP to an Gradients Programme, but still emphasise that a programme/project is still needed to continue all the advantages that LGP had in terms of common questions, and interdisciplinary and multinational.
- We should communicate and discuss this more with the community – Ant NZ conference would be a good time (see item 6).
- We can decide at the workshop when and how this ‘morphing’ will happen.

Actions:

Shul: Find out more details on the US camp and operations at Beardmore

Shul: Coordinate a NZ Beardmore workshop

Shul: Make a formal submission to Ed about the request for a site north of Hallett – so that it can be planned for over the next 4 years.

5. LGP Science Outcome Review

- Need to find out exactly what is required for this LGP Science outcome review.
- What difference has the LGP made to science? How have we advanced our knowledge?
- Don’t need to couch this round the 8 key questions – broader than this.
- LGP has been successful in fostering interdisciplinary science and has given a broader appreciation of ecosystems in the Ross Sea region – high level statement.
- What are the key science outcomes that we can flag wave?
- Shul presented compilation of responses from NZ LGP community.
- Need to collate the science outcomes with highlights and a summary.

Actions

Ed: Find out what is required for this LGP Science outcome review.

Ed and Megan: Pull together the science outcomes document – Megan to lead.

6. LGP Workshop at 2010 Ant NZ Conference

- Yes, definitely want an LGP workshop during the conference.
- Need to discuss the ‘morphing’ of the LGP.
- Also see the need to have specific LGP workshops for the marine and terrestrial groups to bring together the work that has been done over the LGP and work towards a single or 2 part review paper(s) on the outcomes of LGP. Will decide once the papers are pulled together where they should be submitted to. These workshops should be some time before the conference so that a synthesis from each group can be presented at the LGP workshop.
- Vonda will coordinate the marine workshop, Jenny will coordinate the terrestrial one.
- Have an LSSC meeting on Monday 5th morning of conference.
- LGP workshop on Wednesday can be followed by an LSSC dinner meeting.
- AAD will be invited to the Ant NZ conference. May be given an AAD session or a few Australian’s may present throughout the conference.
- Would be good to at least have Martin Riddle again – Mark to point this out.

- Maybe would be a use to have LTER person at the LGP workshop to put the US view. Ian Hogg will check with Byron, Jeb and Diana.

Actions:

Vonda: Coordinate marine workshop in April/May

Jenny: Coordinate terrestrial workshop in April/May

Shul: Set LGP workshop for Wednesday 7th July in the afternoon.

Shul: Write a blurb for the LGP conference workshop for the conference website.

Shul: Book meeting room for Monday 5th morning LSSC meeting

Shul: Book LSSC dinner for Wednesday 7th.

Ian Hogg: Check with Byron Adams, Jeb Barrett and Diana Wall about interest to come to LGP workshop/Ant NZ conference in July.

Mark: Let Martin Riddle know we're keen for him to come to the LGP workshop and Ant NZ conference again.

7. Antarctic Science Special Edition II

- 12 papers have been submitted, 12 still to be submitted.
- Need to have a definite deadline – this was decided as 31st March.
- Clive needs to get all the submissions before he can finish off the introductory paper.
- Shul still seeking sponsorship for the special edition. Has been turned down by MFAT. Still waiting to hear again from Mfish and TAA.

Action:

Shul: Communicate March 31st as final deadline for submissions to LGP Ant Sci special edition. Also let Sharon Cooke know of this.

8. LGP Special Edition of Antarctic (NZ Antarctic Society Magazine)

- Could include a review of an Antarctic book if LGP wants to fill the entire edition.
- Ian Hogg and Jenny will review 'Innocents in the Dry Valleys' by Colin Bull; Clive will review 'Wildlife of the Arctic'.
- All designated lead authors have agreed to be the leads for their submissions and will start working on these. Some have already received text from co-authors.
- Deadline for submission to Natalie Cadenhead (editor) is June 1st. Shul to sort out how the submissions should be handled.
- Submissions groupings are:
 - Background – Clive Howard-Williams, **Shulamit** – 700 words plus 2– 3 images = approx 2 pages/double spread
 - Marine – **Vonda Cummings**, Mary Sewell, Ken Ryan, Phil Lyver - 1100 words plus 3 images = approx 3 pages
 - Terrestrial – Allan Green, **Ian Hogg**, Mark Stevens, Craig Cary, Craig Marshall, Roberta Farrell, Bryan Storey, Jackie Aislabie, Megan Balks, Fiona Shanhun - 1100 words plus 3 images = approx 3 pages
 - Aquatic – Jenny Webster-Brown, **Ian Hawes**, Phil Novis - 900 words plus 3 images = approx 3 pages
 - Logistics – **Shulamit** - 600 - 750 words plus 2– 3 images = approx 2 pages/double spread

Actions:

Ian and Jenny: review 'Innocents in the Dry Valleys' by Colin Bull for Ant Soc magazine. Due 1st June.

Clive: review 'Wildlife of the Arctic' - Due 1st June.

Shul: Let Natalie Cadenhead know that we will provide reviews

Shul: Give instructions to Ian Hawes re the submission he is leading

Shul: Check number of pages for the Ant Soc edition and if we'll fill them.

Shul: Source images from Ursula for Ant Soc edition.

Shul: Sort out how submissions to Ant soc edition should be handled.

9. Future of SCAR Biology Workshop

- SCAR is having a workshop to discuss the future SCAR Biology programmes that will start after EBA finishes.
- This will be held in Italy at the end of May.
- Clive Howard-Williams has been invited and will be attending.
- Shulamit has been invited as the Secretary of the EBA to ensure the outcomes of the meeting are followed through, and will be attending.
- Would be an ideal opportunity to present our thoughts on the changing face of LGP and how this could be used as a basis for further work/collaborations by the international community.
- Important to note that it's not all about biology – and this was certainly realised in the Sapporo workshop on the future of EBA (i.e., the value of multidisciplinary studies).
- Clive and Shulamit will coordinate a video conference/teleconference with NZ biologists to get their input for this meeting.

Action:

Shul: Coordinate NZ SCAR Biology meeting for input before the end of May.

10. SCAR OSC Buenos Aires

- At least Bryan Storey, Brian Sorrell and Shul and Ian Hogg will be attending.
- Shul to present a poster on the LGP.

Actions:

Shul: Find out who else will be attending the SCAR OSC

Shul: Ask LGPers attending SCAR OSC and IPY conference in Oslo to show their links with the LGP in their presentations.

Shul: Send out a reminder re OSC abstract submission date.

Shul: Submit abstract for LGP poster to SCAR OSC and make poster.

11. NZ/UK LGP Collaboration for heroic age celebrations

- Working on a scholarship partly funded by RSNZ (to start with) and University of Cambridge, UK. PhD scholarship – not necessarily linked with the LGP now.
- Still would like to try and direct it to gradient research of some kind.

12. LGP Automatic Weather Stations

- Hallett AWS and soil moisture unit downloaded this season by a US team visiting the site. Having talks with Matt Lazzara from Uni Wisconsin about linking the soil moisture sensors to the AWS. Hopes will happen in the next 2 seasons.
- Darwin AWS downloaded.
- Maybe an AWS put in the Beardmore area – Shul will keep an eye on this.
- Adrian McDonald at University of Canterbury has a student doing work on AWS data, but not with a gradients approach.

10 Other

- The Christchurch City Council is keen to have an international Antarctic workshop/conference held in conjunction with their Antarctic festival in August 2012. This coincides with the wrap-up period for EBA and Pete Convey is keen to have a wrap up of Work Package 4 on gradients in Christchurch – due to the LGP's prominence in this WP. Shul is talking with CCC about this link and will work with the EBA community to see if it will work.
- Look into using video conferencing for future meetings, though the teleconference does work well and reduces time and cost of the meeting (in terms of travel).