

**Board Meeting of the 29th Annual Sea Turtle Symposium
February 24 (7:00 pm), 2009
Brisbane, Australia**

President's Overview

Colin Limpus, the Symposium's President, thanked his Organizing Committee for the incredible effort. Eighty-six countries have attended the Symposium of which 13 have never attended the Symposium before and include 7 Pacific Island nations. In the past, the maximum number of Australians that have attended a Symposium was 9, but this year the participation has been tremendous with 300 Australians attending the Symposium. Colin Limpus circulated the current financial summary of the Symposium and the finances are in good standing with unprecedented funding from Australia.

Awards

The recipients of the awards this year are:

- 1) Lifetime achievement awards to George Hughes and Jack Frazier.
- 2) President's award for leadership in communication and education through Cturtle and the online bibliography in celebration of the 100-year Archie Carr Anniversary to the Archie Carr Center for Sea Turtle Research.
- 3) President's Award to Chloe Schauble.
- 4) Champion's Award for community engagement at three levels—Asia, Western Pacific, and Australia—to the Japan Sea Turtle Association, to the Dimaru community (an indigenous group), and to the McLaughlan family.

Information on awards will soon be available on the ISTS website.

Nominations Committee

Aliki Panagopoulou, the Nominations Committee Chair, shared the committee's thoughts on improving the process. Henceforth, the Nominations Committee Chair will be invited to the Board Retreat so that the Chair can directly provide input and understand the needs and functions of the Society.

Travel Committee

Asia and the Pacific had been the priority regions for the Travel Committee. As always, travel from Africa was a problem because of visas and airfares—of the 18 who applied, only 7 or 8 made it. Names of travel grantees will be posted on the ISTS website.

Student Awards

This year there were 37 students in the oral category and 59 in the poster category with twelve judges involved in the process. At the 30th Symposium, a list of all the past winners will be presented and those present will be acknowledged.

Treasurer's Report

Ed Drane's report was reviewed and accepted by the Board.

Resolutions

Two out of 3 submitted resolutions had been withdrawn. The board discussed the Resolution entitled, “Conservation of Leatherback Turtles in the Eastern Tropical Pacific Marine Corridor,” and it was put forward for voting at the Plenary.

2010 Symposium

Kartik Shanker presented the details of the 2010 Symposium to the Board.

Location: Goa

Dates: 27-29 April, 2010

Venue: The Marriott or the Kala Academy.

Website: www.india.seaturtle.org

Essentially it will be a regional Symposium; neighboring countries are encouraged to participate to emphasize habitat and connection to people. A traditional fishermen’s festival will be organized with crafts and gear.

Attendees: Colin Limpus, Michael Coyne, Manjula Tiwari, Ana Barragan, Marydele Donnelly, Kartik Shanker, Lisa Campbell, Brendan Godley, Nancy FitzSimmons, and Naoki Kamezaki.

Observers: Takahiro Shimada, Seema Shenoy, Hoyt Peckham, and Aliko Panagopoulou.