

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of the Australasian Mycological Society

Friday 20th September 2013, 3:00pm

Room GA 604 Ecosciences Precinct, Dutton Park, Brisbane

Present: Diana Leemon (Chair), John Dearnaley, Sandra Abell-Davis, Peter McGee, Lisa Galino, Nigel Fechner, Alistair McTaggart, Marissa McNamara, Wanporn Khemmuk, Ni-Raj Bende, Lesley Francis, Chanintom Doungsa-ard, David Holdom

Apologies: Elaine Davison, Pam Catcheside, Peter Austwick, Peter Solomon, Melanie Weckert, Julie Djordjevic

Diana Leemon welcomed the audience to the meeting

1. Minutes of the 2012 AGM

Minutes accepted as read

Moved: Peter McGee

Seconded: Sandra Abell-Davis

2. President's report

Diana Leemon tabled the president's report to the meeting. It had been a busy year since the last AGM. Diana reflected on her role as president in promoting the mission of the AMS ie. stimulating research and teaching in Mycology, raising the profile of Mycology in Australasia and facilitating networking and collaboration among mycologists. She thanked Dee Carter for her excellent efforts in preparing the new AMS website and in keeping the society's journal, Australasian Mycologist, running so well. Diana was keen to see more Australasian mycologists publishing in the journal. In terms of recent AMS conferences, Diana felt that the Cairns meeting had been a small but excellent meeting and had provided good opportunities for younger researchers to present their work. The recent AMS/ASM meeting in Adelaide had been highly successful with a good number of attendees and an array of interesting symposia. She looked forward to next year's meeting in Brisbane and encouraged members to think of interesting symposia topics for the conference. She thanked the council for support. In particular Sandra was singled out for her diligent work as Treasurer, John for his timely and accurate meeting minutes and Peter for his vision and drive to strengthen the society.

3. Re-nomination of council positions

The following re-nominations for council positions had been received by the secretary: President – Diana Leemon, Vice President – Peter McGee, Treasurer - Sandra Abell-Davis, Secretary - John Dearnaley, Councillor - Richard Robinson, Councillor - Eirian Jones. In the absence of any other nominations, the secretary indicated that the individuals indicated were re-elected to these positions. The meeting congratulated the 2013-2014 council.

4. Financial Report from Treasurer, Sandra Abell Davis

The treasurer, Sandra Abell-Davis indicated that the closing balance of the AMS bank account was \$19,187.60, as at June 2013. Combined with a closing balance of the AMS PayPal account, meant the total cash assets of the AMS, as at June 2013, was \$20,903.88.

There had been expenses of \$13,465.31 (primarily conference expenses) for the year. The profit from 2012-2013 was \$1,474.21 which was down on the \$4,309.27 for the preceding financial year. Sandra noted that most AMS memberships were being paid with the PayPal option which was very convenient for her. She highlighted that there were multiple payment options including cheque, credit card via PayPal, direct deposit via PayPal or direct deposit into the society's account. She noted that the new electronic receipting system was very convenient for her and was also saving the society money. The 2012 Cairns conference had generated income of \$9484.52 and expenses had been \$11,406.46. This meant the conference had cost the society \$1921.94. Sandra indicated that the audit had been completed on the 2012-2013 AMS finances but just needed to be signed off.

There were no questions on the Treasurer's report so it was moved that the report be accepted by the meeting.

Moved: Diana Leemon

Seconded: John Dearnaley

The treasurer opened discussion on whether or not the AMS could use surplus funds to support an annual AMS competitive grant. The conjectured amount might be \$1500-\$2000 and the scheme would be open to any AMS members for mycological research or teaching purposes. Peter McGee said that there had been no prior notice on the topic and the AMS council should be asked for comments in the first instance. A motion was put that the AMS council be asked to consider the establishment of a small grant scheme and that the membership also to be contacted for feedback.

Moved: Sandra Abell-Davis

Seconded: Diana Leemon

John Dearnaley commented that the scheme might provide incentive for AMS membership. Sandra suggested that financial support was one of the better ways of making mycology happen. Peter McGee wanted to know what actually was meant by "the society's finances were healthy". He also indicated that there was financial support for mycology currently provided through the McAlpine Medal and that if the AMS small grant initiative went ahead, the guidelines should be clear on how the money should be spent. Sandra indicated that a committee could be established to judge and award the grant and that there would be strict guidelines for expenditure. Diana Leemon indicated that the matter would be on the agenda for the next council meeting. Peter requested a briefing document on the issue. David Holdom suggested that it was essential that grant application evaluation and awarding were an open process.

6. Next society AGM

Diana Leemon indicated that the next AMS AGM would take place in Brisbane in April 2014

There was "no other business" and the meeting concluded at approximately 3:30pm.