

**MINUTES**  
**Australasian Mycological Society**

**ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING, 13 May 2009, 7.05 pm, Waikanae, New Zealand**

Procedural Note: as 4 months notice of the AGM was not given, any decisions taken at this meeting could be challenged, and may necessitate the holding of a special meeting in the future.

**1. Present**

Peter Austwick, Ann Bell, Peter Buchanan, Dee Carter, David Catcheside, Pam Catcheside, Genevieve Gates, Don Horne, Gwen Horne, Kentaro Hosaka, Takako Hosaka, Peter Johnston, Fran Kell, Allison Knight, Teresa Lebel, Michael Lucas, Dan Mahoney, Eric McKenzie, Ben Myles, David Orlovich, Shaun Pennycook, David Ratkowsky, Bettye Rees, Noah Siegel, Petra White.

**2. Apologies**

Tom May, Diana Leemon, Anthony Francis, Anna Hopkins, Pam O'Sullivan.

**3. Minutes 2008 AGM / Matters Arising**

- Minutes of the 2008 AGM, held by email, were circulated by Bettye Rees on 2 May 2009.
- A hard copy of subscription reminders to be circulated with last journal issue for year, otherwise Secretary will send out reminder in January.
- Web site and open access for journal to be discussed in later section.

**4. Further Agenda Items**

- Bettye Rees noted that she had suggested an item.

**5. Election of Officers**

- *President* – Teresa Lebel is standing down. Dee Carter (agreed to nomination) was proposed for position by David Ratkowsky, seconded by Fran Kell.
- *Vice President* – Bettye Rees has finished term. Dianna Leemon (agreed to nomination) was proposed for position by Teresa Lebel, seconded by Pam Catcheside.
- *Treasurer* – Ann Lawrie is standing down. Anthony Francis (agreed to nomination) was proposed for position by Genevieve Gates, seconded by David Ratkowsky.
- *Secretary* – Eric McKenzie continuing in position.
- *Councillor* – Sandra Abell has agreed to continue.
- *Councillor* – D. Orlovich is standing down. Anna Hopkins (agreed to nomination) was proposed for position by David Orlovich, seconded by Margaret Dick.
- *Editor of Journal* – David Orlovich continuing in position. \*Editor will be asked to attend Council Meetings, although without voting rights.
- *Membership Secretary* – David Ratkowsky continuing in position.

**6. Reports from Officers**

- These have not yet been circulated to full membership, but were available at the AGM.  
**ACTION: Secretary to do so as soon as practical.**

***President's Report – (read out at meeting).***

The 2008-09 'year' is a short one (6months) due to the lateness of the 2008 AGM and the early timing of the AMS conference/AGM in 2009. This means that several items of interest to members may not come to fruition until after the new, revitalised Council is elected.

In reflecting back on the last few years, I realise I started with more enthusiasm than understanding of the time required to discuss, decide and take up ideas or changes. It has been a fast-track from council member to Vice-president to President in 4 years, a rapid learning experience on many levels. Lack of continuity of council membership and at least one face to face meeting early in the Presidency, in hindsight, made many issues larger and longer than they should probably have been, and others fell by the wayside. Two of these include:

**Strategic Plan** (5yr plan) Some initial discussion but no further action undertaken.

**Constitution** to be updated (not changed, just various amendments made by Council since inception need to be incorporated into the official documentation, as this has not been done since 1997)

As has been the case for a number of years, one of the highlights for the Society is the Journal, with a professional look and feel, and interesting articles. The move to incorporate 'themed issues' covering a range of topics, will I feel, prove to be a popular one, that also has the potential to broaden our audience and membership. Thankyou to the publications subcommittee AND to all those who continue to submit manuscripts. Access to past

and current issues of the journal was discussed at the 2008 electronic AGM; however no final decision was made and this will require further discussion with the members of the AMS. A revitalised website will be key to enabling access, no matter what the final decision is. Council has approved investigation into establishment of an independent (of institutions) website, with the Web Manager and Journal Editor to have editing rights to update and change items. It is hoped that a prototype website will be available for members to trial by July 2009. I look forward to working with the new council on this exciting project.

A special thankyou to Bettye Rees (Vice-President) for her advice and help, and to Ann Lawrie (Treasurer) for stepping forward when there were no nominations for the position 2 years ago.

I look forward to welcoming new councillors and to seeing as many of you as possible at the conference in 2010, to be held conjunction with the Australasian Society for Microbiology in Sydney in July.

Dr Teresa Lebel  
President  
Australasian Mycological Society.

#### ***Treasurer's Report A. Lawrie***

Although the 2007/08 statement has been audited it has not yet been returned to the Treasurer. It is hoped that this will happen by the end of June. As soon as it arrives, it will be sent to members for approval. Due to the 2009 AGM occurring prior to the end of the financial year (June30), the 2008/09 financial report was not available at the meeting. A short summary will be sent shortly, and the audited statement will be available at the AGM in 2010.

- Concern was expressed that there needs to be better management of asking for subscriptions – membership is currently down by a quarter.

**ACTION: A hard copy of subscription reminders to be circulated with last journal issue for year, otherwise Secretary will send out reminder in January.**

#### ***Secretary's Report***

No correspondence has been received.

- It was proposed by Bettye Rees, seconded by David Orlovich that *the meeting accept sign-off on the minutes of the 2008 AGM except the Treasurer report until the audited statement of finances is received.*

#### ***Publications Report***

David Orlovich did not have a written report but gave an oral account. He has been editor of the journal for 2 years.

- The journal has been submitted for evaluation and hopefully will gain an impact factor, which will then allow it to be indexed by Current Science, Web of Science, etc. It is necessary to submit three consecutive issues; the third issue will be sent in 2 or 3 weeks.
- The journal now has a slightly new format with smaller fonts and margins. This has allowed for a reduction in total size, and will hopefully lower printing costs. David will become stricter over charging for colour plates.
- There is a new set of instructions for authors on web site. Web access is not very good and there are only issues up to 2006. There was discussion over whether or not we should make all issues including current issue freely available on the web site, or perhaps exclude the current issue, or year. Password protection was also discussed. There was concern that some members may resign if the journal was available on the web, since the journal is really the only tangible gain from society membership. In the end it was proposed by Teresa Lebel and seconded by Shaun Pennycook that *there will be a 2-year free or open access trial for all journal issues on the web.* It was agreed that authors could put a link on their own websites to PDF's of their journal articles.

**ACTION: need to update the front and back pages of the journal**

- There was discussion over whether or not the journal still accepts reports. David reported that no such articles had been submitted.
- There was discussion over the results of the survey (21 responses) on how members wish to receive their copy of the journal (hard copy or electronically). More than half of those who responded wish to continue receiving hard copy. The next subscription request form will have the same question as circulated earlier about how members want to receive copy of the journal.
- Ann Andrews reported via Bettye Rees that the Society should exchange journals with the British Mycological Society. It was then pointed out that AMS now has no library. Perhaps we could receive one of the BMS journals in an electronic format that we could then place on our web site.

**ACTION: Secretary to investigate this with BMS.**

**Conservation Report** – The President read out the report at the meeting.

No meetings of the AMS Conservation Special Interest Group have been held in the past year, although informal contacts among members have been made.

Through the efforts of Neale Bougher, two fungi (*Torrendia grandis* and *T. inculta*) have recently been listed as Priority Flora, category P2, under the Western Australian *Wildlife Conservation Act*. The other two fungi previously listed (*Amanita carneiphylla* and *A. griseibrunnea*) are also in category P2, which is for taxa known from one or a few populations, at least some of which are not believed to be under immediate threat. Such taxa are under consideration for declaration as 'rare flora', but are in urgent need of further survey. Otherwise, there have been no further additions to the very small number of fungi formally listed on Australian state and commonwealth conservation schedules, or to the 49 species listed as Nationally Critical for New Zealand.

Tom May (Australia) and Peter Buchanan (New Zealand) continue to participate in the IUCN Special Survival Commission Fungi Specialist Group, and Tom maintains a website for the Group.

The Conservation Special Interest Group (jointly with Fungimap) has organised a workshop on threat assessment of fungi. This workshop will be held at the Fungimap Conference, Wallerawang, New South Wales, May 21-25, 2009. The workshop will look at issues around formal listing of fungi under conservation schedules at national and state level, especially the difficulties of fitting fungi into threat assessment categories developed for other organisms such as animals or plants. The workshop will include reports on activity in this area from most Australian states, and a general discussion of threat listing.

**Tom May**

Royal Botanic Gardens Melbourne

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May 2009

**Education Report**

This sub-committee is fairly much inactive. Pam O'Sullivan has generated some interest with a fungal initiative in New South Wales for exchange of ideas, publicity, holding of master classes, establishment of permanent survey sites, etc. Bettye Rees read email, which contained an update on the fungal initiative. For further information please contact P. O'Sullivan.

**7. Other Business**

- Bettye requested that a summary of past Council meeting decisions be circulated to membership. It was noted that this is not a requirement of the Constitution, however would perhaps be helpful to incoming Council members. Suggested that at least minutes of past AGMs be placed on new website.
  - Jack Warcup student prize. Following judging, by four members, it was announced that Ben Myles had won the NZ\$250 for his talk entitled *Molecular phylogenetics and species boundaries of New Zealand's "holiest" lichens* (*Menegazzia*, Parmeliaceae).
- ACTION: Secretary to send cheque to Ben.**

**8. Forthcoming Conferences**

- **2010 meeting** – in conjunction with ASM, Sydney. Dee Carter is chair of ASM conference, which will run from 5–8 July. Decided to arrange mycology meeting on Sunday 4 July, probably at a separate venue. May be other mycology (especially medical) at ASM on the Monday. People would have to register separately at a cost of \$250 to \$300. To register for whole conference would probably cost about \$700. Bettye Rees offered to help Dee with programme, etc.
- **2011 meeting** – could be held in Melbourne at the time of the International Botanical Congress. Teresa Lebel to investigate a "fringe conference", either before or after the IBC to keep costs down.

Meeting closed at 8.15 pm.



TERESA LEBEL

PRESIDENT