

**Australasian Mycological Society President's report**  
**Dee Carter**  
**November 2012**

For much of the past year I've had to good fortune to live in Switzerland, where I undertook a 12-month sabbatical at the ETH in Zürich. During my absence from Australia we kept the AMS council running through regular Skype meetings where we discussed many AMS issues, particularly our upcoming scientific meetings, liaisons with other mycology groups, and progress with the journal. I report the following for the period since our AGM in November last year:

**Finance and membership**

Treasurer Sandra Abell-Davis has prepared a financial statement for the past 12-months. The AMS is in a healthy financial position and there have been no major expenses during the past year. Our membership is up substantially (from 60 in 2011 to ~90 now).

**Upcoming scientific meetings**

The current meeting has been coordinated and organized by Sandra Abell-Davis, who has put an enormous amount of work and energy into securing the venue, organizing catering, the foray, the dinner, handling registrations, issuing invitations..... and I am sure many more things beside! Anyone who has ever been involved in organizing a meeting knows how much work goes into making it all run smoothly (and making it all look effortless), and I sincerely thank Sandra for taking on this task. Thanks also to Diana Leemon who has assisted with many details and to the other members of the organizing committee: Wieland Meyer, John Dearnaley and Richard Robinson, for their helpful suggestions. It looks like we will have a terrific meeting, and it is great that so many of our younger members will be attending.

There have been a number of discussions within the council about how to run future meetings, and whether these might best be run in conjunction with other societies. Possibilities include joining with the Australian Society for Microbiology (ASM), which seems likely for 2013, as well as with FungiMap and the Australian Genetics Society. We will be discussing these options during the AGM.

**Website**

In order to keep our website up to date we have employed the service of Stephanie Champion, the mother of our website designer Sarah Champion. Stephanie works on an hourly rate, and the council felt it would be a good use of Society funds to ensure the website is always current. Should members wish to post material on the site please send these to me first so that I can pass them on to Stephanie.

This year treasurer Sandra Abell-Davis implemented a PayPal page to pay membership dues, which appears to have worked very well and is considerably less hassle for the treasurer and for members who can only pay via credit card. Thanks to Sandra for this excellent initiative.

Overall the website appears to be functioning well. I welcome any comments and ideas for further improvements to the site.

### **IMA award**

The Daniel McAlpine Medal is awarded by the International Mycological Association (IMA) to early career mycologists from the Australasian region in recognition of outstanding contributions to mycology. The award is timed to coincide with International Mycology Congress (IMC) meetings, and a call for nominations for the IMC10 award is likely to be made soon. When this happens we will inform members and ask for nominations, so please bear this in mind as a wonderful reward to some of our younger scientists. The requirement for nomination is that nominees must have received their PhD within the 10-year period immediately preceding January 1st of the year in which the award is given. As the next award will be given at IMC10 in 2014 the PhD must have been awarded no earlier than 2004.

### **Changes to council and other positions**

Last year we filled vacant positions for the treasurer, secretary and both councilors and I am happy to report that all of the council members elected to these roles will continue in them for another year. This year we have vacancies for the president and vice president as both positions have reached the end of their 3-year time limit. I wish to thank the council for their excellent work and support over the past year and extend particular thanks to Diana Leemon, who is stepping down as vice president but very fortunately for the society has accepted to be nominated for president. Diana has been extremely supportive and helpful to me in her vice president role and the society will be in excellent hands if she is able to continue as president.

**Journal Editor:** The journal continues to have problems and as no-one else was willing to take up the role of journal editor I have stepped in as managing editor. A full report on the state of the journal is provided, and I encourage discussion of how best to manage the future of the journal during the AGM.

As I have reached the end of my 3-year term as president I will be stepping down following the AGM. It has been a busy but enjoyable 3 years, and I hope I will be leaving the Society in at least as good shape as I found it when I started. AMS plays a unique role as a focus for mycology in Australasia and it is very important that we maintain it as a vibrant and active Society that is attractive to young, emerging mycologists while retaining our more senior members.

Thank you to all members for your enthusiasm for mycology and your continued support of AMS.



*Dee Carter*  
*24 September 2012*