

**Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of the Australasian Mycological Society**

**Wednesday 19th October 2016, 1.00pm AEST**

**ZOOM teleconference**

Present: John Dearnaley (Chair), Julie Djordjevic (Vice President), Jeff Powell (Councilor), Bevan Weir (Councilor), David Orlovich, Diana Leemon, Susan Nuske, Celeste Linde, Peter Buchanan, Patrick Leonard

Apologies: Elaine Davison, Pam Catcheside, David Catcheside, Dee Carter, Leona Campbell, Tom May, Jane Barton, Sapphire McMullan-Fischer.

**1. Welcome and introduction by AMS President**

John Dearnaley welcomed the audience to the meeting and thanked them for their attendance.

**2. Acceptance of the minutes of the 2015 AGM**

Minutes of the previous AGM were accepted without modifications

**3. President's report**

John Dearnaley presented the president's report to the meeting. He said it had been another busy year and singled out the Queenstown conference and establishment of subcommittees in Fungal Education and Fungal Conservation as particular highlights. He thanked the Council, Dee Carter (web master), Susan Nuske (student representative and Facebook page co-ordinator) and the AMS membership for their support throughout the year.

**4. Nomination and re-nomination of council positions**

The following nominations for council positions had been received by the secretary by October 5<sup>th</sup>: President – John Dearnaley (continuing), Vice President – Julie Djordjevic (continuing), Treasurer – Celeste Linde, Secretary – Leona Campbell (continuing), Councillor – Jeff Powell (continuing), Councillor – Bevan Weir (continuing). In the absence of any other nominations, David Orlovich assumed the responsibility of announcing re-election of the nominated candidates.

**5. Financial Report from Treasurer, Celeste Linde**

The society's financial health is good with the only major expenditure in the 2015-2016 period, allocation of the 2016 Research Award and the costs associated with running the Queenstown conference. There are currently 88 financial members of the society which is an increase on the numbers this time in 2015 (74). It is great to see increased representation of New Zealand members within the society which is probably a result of the conference being held in their country this year. A full outline of the society's finances was presented by Treasurer, Celeste Linde. In summary, as at 30<sup>th</sup> June AMS funds stand at \$14,831 which is \$12,753 less than last year due to paying for 2 conferences and the additional costs incurred due to currency exchange fees (from \$AUS-NZ). As we have moved to having ZOOM meetings, John noted that there would be no more "Chorus call" teleconference charges and no AGM expenses associated with airline travel. Celeste also pointed out that given there will be no conference in 2017 we would also save on PayPal expenses.

Given that the books were currently being audited by an accountant, no motion was moved to accept the budget report.

## **6. Report from Fungal Conservation subcommittee**

Peter Buchanan spoke on behalf of Tom May and stated that the subcommittee had been formally approved by the AMS Council following the Queenstown Red Listing workshop. Susan Nuske and Patrick Leonard both indicated that they wanted to be involved in this subcommittee. Peter reported that a major aim of the sub-committee is toward getting recognition of the need for conservation of rare fungi at a State and Federal level. Peter also updated the meeting on the committee's success in obtaining Australasian recognition of two Red Listed fungi (*Claustula fischeri* found in NZ and AUS and *Boletopsis nothofagi* found in 2 sites in NZ). He suggested that John include this in the next newsletter and John mentioned that the announcement should also go up on the AMS web page under the section dedicated to "Fungal Conservation".

### **Summary of future activities of the Fungal Conservation subcommittee.**

1. Peter to get the "Fungal Conservation" page set up on the AMS website and keep it up to date. It would be indicated who the contacts are and how to join the group.
2. Get the AMS to endorse the new Mueller & Dahlberg protocols for Red Listing fungi.
3. Prepare a statement endorsing the Mueller & Dahlberg protocols (which are the most up-to-date, internationally accepted criteria for Red Listing fungi) and recommending that the Department of Conservation in all State governments (especially QLD) use these protocols to make more informed decisions when considering requests to Red List an endangered fungus. Apparently QLD has not adopted the new Mueller & Dahlberg protocols but still follow the IUCN criteria for plants which are not appropriate for accurately determining the population size of an endangered fungal species. This need for action follows a recent decision by the QLD government to defer a Red List request of two fungal species put forward by the QLD Mycological Society (led by Patrick).
4. Ask John as president to send a letter on behalf of the AMS and the Fungal Conservation subcommittee to State and Federal bodies advocating the use of the Mueller & Dahlberg protocols in fungal Red Listing assessments.

Susan mentioned that the Mueller & Dahlberg protocols are guidelines that can be informed through genetic studies performed by mycologists. Peter also mentioned that mycologists need to be more vocal and less concerned about being wrong.

## **7. Report from Fungal Education subcommittee**

John presented this report in the absence of the chair of the subcommittee, Sapphire McMullan- Fisher. This newly constituted subcommittee had met twice in 2016 via teleconference and at the Queenstown workshop in May. Outcomes had included surveying all Australasian Universities for undergraduate offerings in mycology and the writing of "An introduction to the biology of fungi". Both of these items would be placed on a new subpage dedicated to "Fungal Education" on the AMS website.

## **8. Next AMS scientific meeting**

John reminded us that there will be no scientific meeting in 2017. Julie mentioned that COMBIO was currently polling members on going to biannual meetings. The 2018 AMS meeting will likely to be joint meeting with the Australian Society of Microbiology (ASM) in Brisbane (time and venue to be announced). Diana mentioned we should check that the date of the combined meeting does not overlap with IMC11 in Puerto Rico (July 16<sup>th</sup> -21<sup>st</sup>) before we start planning the meeting. IMC is usually well attended by Australasian mycologists. John also mentioned that given the success of the 2016 meeting in NZ, the AMS should plan

another joint meeting with FUNNZ by 2020. Bevan suggested the North Island as the destination. Co-ordinating meetings with Fungimap was also mentioned.

### **9. Other Business**

1. Susan inquired about an update on the replacement of a new student representative. Julie suggested inquiring about whether any of Wieland Meyer's current students would be interested. She offered to ask Wieland directly and John offered to follow up with an email. John will also keep advertising the position via the monthly newsletter and Dee via the AMS website. Diana pointed out that numerous nominations would probably not be forthcoming and that we would have to "tap someone on the shoulder".

2. Peter brought to our attention that mushrooms (*Entoloma hochstetteri*) feature on the new \$50 NZ note and that the note was in the running for "International bank note of the year" award.

**The Meeting concluded at 2.15pm AEST**