

MINUTES of the Australasian Mycological Society ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING,

Monday 5 July 2010, 9.30 am

Sydney Convention & Exhibition Centre, Darling Harbour

Present: Sandra Abell-Davis, Leona Campbell, Dee Carter, Pam Cateheside, Genevieve Gates, James Fraser, Anna Hopkins, Barbara Howett, Fernando Korstedt, Patrick Leonard, Diana Leemon, Tom May, Peter McGee, Eric McKenzie, Sapphire McMullan-Fisher, Wieland Meyer, Ben Myles, David Orlovich, Pam O'Sullivan, Matthew Power, David Ratkowsky, Bettye Rees, Richard Robinson, Bevan Weir.

Apologies: none recorded

1. Minutes of the 2009 meeting
These were accepted by the membership as a true and accurate record of the 2009 meeting.
2. President's report
Dee Carter read the report to the membership. The full report is attached at the end of the minutes.
3. Re-nomination of the president and councillors (*Note: there were no new nominations for any of these positions*)

Council positions:

President - *Dee Carter proposed by Bettye Rees, seconded by Diana Leemon.*

Vice President - *Diana Leemon proposed by Dee Carter, seconded by Sandra Abell.*

Treasurer - *Anthony Francis, proposed Genevieve Gates, seconded by David Ratkowsky.*

Secretary - *Eric McKenzie, proposed by Diana Leemon, seconded by Peter Johnston,*

Councillor 1 - *Sandra Abell proposed by Peter Johnston, seconded by Peter Buchanan.*

Councillor 2 - *Anna Hopkins proposed by David Orlovich, seconded by Margaret Dick.*

Non-council positions: (*Asked to attend council meetings; without voting rights*).

Editor of Journal - *David Orlovich has agreed to continue.*

Membership Secretary - *David Ratkowsky is to remain in this position.*

Webmaster – (*newly created position*) *Nai Tran-Dinh.*

4. Membership was requested to accept that they were given sufficient notice of AGM and nomination of the office bearers.
Membership accepted this unanimously.
5. Changes to the constitution:
The following changes were proposed:

- **Change to membership fees** - normal rate increased to \$75; sustaining = \$150; lab membership = PI + students only = \$150
It was noted that this did not require a change to the constitution as constitution states that the membership fee is the amount specified in the constitution "or if any other amount has been determined by resolution of an annual general meeting of the Society, that other amount". All the above new membership rates were accepted by the members.
 - **Notice of AGM** and other meetings reduced from 4 months to 1 month
(Constitution 24.1)
 - **Nomination of council bearers** - change from 4 months to 2 weeks before AGM
(Constitution 13.1a)
 - Validity of holding **AGMs as e-meetings**
 - **Removal of the need for ballot papers** for nominations to council (should these exceed the places available) to be sent prior to the AGM. Instead these will be decided by vote at the AGM *(Constitution 13.1 g and h)*
 - **Removal of the requirement for new members to be ratified by council.**
Instead names to be posted on the website and/or in the journal and accepted if there are no objections after a specified time period (4 weeks?)
 - *For all of the above changes members expressed in principle support but requested that the wording changes to the constitution be drafted and that these changes be voted on specifically at either a special meeting of the Society or at the next AGM. Tom May volunteered to help redraft the changes to the constitution.*
 - **Additional office bearers** = webmaster and membership secretary *(Constitution 12.1 and 12.2)*
Members felt that while these were useful roles they did not need to have full council membership status.
 - **Allow cheques to be signed by the treasurer alone** *(Constitution 32.2)*
Members did not agree with the change to allow cheques to be signed by the treasurer alone, and the requirement for a co-signatory will remain.
6. Financial report from treasurer Anthony Francis
Printed copies were distributed at the meeting. The audited report is attached to these minutes
 7. The journal - report from journal editor David Orlovitch
David Orlovitch provided an oral report. The journal is now fully on-line and open access, and appears to be well received. The journal is now ISI indexed and should at some point receive an impact factor. David was thanked for his hard work on making the journal a publication that the membership enjoys and is proud of.
 8. The website - call for feedback on how it looks, functionality, suggestions for improvement.
There was no comment from members.
 9. Future AMS scientific meetings - how frequently, where and when?
The frequency of meetings was discussed and it was decided that every 2 years would be appropriate. These could be tied to other national or international

meetings, but only where convenient and appropriate. Sandra Abell offered to look into hosting the next meeting in Cairns. There was general support for a meeting in Cairns in 2012, with the exact date to be determined.

10. Other business
There was no other business.

Meeting closed at 10.30 am

President's report – Dee Carter. July 2010

It's a little over a year now since I was persuaded to become president of AMS, and although I was somewhat reluctant to take on this role it has been an enjoyable challenge and I look forward to the rest of my tenure.

Along with me, most of the council members were also new to their jobs in 2009. Diana Leemon took up the position of Vice President, Anthony Francis became treasurer, and Anna Hopkins and Sandra Abell accepted the councilor roles. The only person to continue in his position was Eric McKenzie, who continues as secretary. With this new council, and following discussions with outgoing President Teresa Lebel, it was decided that an important first step in establishing direction for the society would be to hold a face-to-face council meeting, which we did in September 2009. From this we decided on a number of high priority actions to be undertaken over the following year:

1. Update the website and appoint a webmaster who would be capable of making changes as the need arose;
2. Bring our finances into line and ensure that the auditing was correct to enable our ongoing incorporation as a society;
3. Decide on where, when and how we would hold our next scientific meeting;
4. Ensure that we had not been in breach of any aspects of our constitution;
5. Make changes to the constitution in areas that were clearly out of date, cumbersome or no longer relevant;
6. Begin work on a 5-year strategic plan that would determine the future direction of the society.

I am pleased to report that we have successfully achieved the first 4 of these points.

1. The website has been completely redesigned, and Nai Tran-Dinh has been appointed as webmaster. I am very happy with the look and functionality of the new site, and welcome any feedback on the user experience and any areas for improvement.
2. Anthony worked extremely hard to review the financial situation of AMS, and where necessary has followed up on late fees and any other outstanding items. He has been in regular correspondence with Ken Thomas, our Public Officer in Canberra, over the issues surrounding our ongoing incorporation. At this point we feel confident that AMS is a solvent society and that it will continue to be incorporated.
3. After some discussions it was decided to hold the 2010 AMS meeting in conjunction with the ASM meeting at Sydney. Diana Leemon took on the role of coordinating the meeting along with Wieland Meyer and John Pitt.
4. Breaches to the constitution were noted and rectified: 1) membership fees had been changed without ratification at an AGM, and it was necessary to change these back to their original levels; 2) the new council members had not been nominated prior to the AGM, however it was determined that this was not in breach as the constitution allows for nominations to be taken from the floor, which was effectively the case; 3) the specified 4 months notification of the 2009 AGM had not been given,

and we will be requesting at this meeting that the membership agree that the notice for this meeting had been sufficient.

For point 5, we will be moving to change aspects of the constitution at this meeting and asking the membership to vote on these.

Point 6 is ongoing and may develop in line with the strategic plan already underway with the Fungal Initiative.

There are other areas that we would also like to work toward over the coming year or two; specifically the creation of awards and prizes for members, particularly students; the establishment of education resources and student networks within the Society; development of sponsorship; increasing recruitment of members into the Society; and an ongoing plan for scientific meetings so that these can be done on a regular basis. The council welcomes any feedback on these and any other issues from the AMS membership.

Finally, it remains for me to thank the council members for their enthusiasm and hard work during 2009-10, with particular thanks to Anthony who took on the onerous and thankless job of retrieving some sense out of our financial situation. I also thank Ken Thomas for his help with the legal affairs of the Society, Nai for his support of the website, and Diana, Wieland and John for putting together what promises to be a fabulous 2 day meeting.

We look forward to your continued support of AMS.

Dee Carter
5 July 2010

Australasian Mycological Society – Treasurer’s Report

2009-2010 Financial Year

Financial situation

- The financial situation of the society remains healthy despite the \$1081.35 loss this year. This loss is also down on that of last year (\$2866)
- Journal costs are currently (under Bettye and David O’s management) around \$1200 an issue so current membership subs just cover normal journal costs. However, journal issues have cost more than \$3000 which would leave a substantial hole in the society’s finances at current subs rates. Journal costs however are lower than expected because
- The once-off costs associated with the redevelopment of the website was a substantial cost this year– however there also has not been an issue of the journal published in 2010
- Costs associated with Council meetings are up both electronically and to facilitate the initial face-to-face Council meeting – however given the problems that have occurred in the past with poor communication in the Council, I think this is more than justified.

Membership

- Membership has probably fallen by around 15 since 2008 through withdrawals, losses of students and ‘group memberships’; however it has increased from the 83 financial members last year.

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2010 Financial Members

Sustaining	2
Full AU	43
Concessional AU	21
Full NZ	10
Concessional NZ	6
Full International	2
Concessional International	2
Library	7
Total Members	93

Journal survey results

Questions	YES	NO	%
I would prefer not to receive a posted hard copy of the Australasian mycologist and would be happy to only access the journal PDFs via the society's website	8	28	78%
I prefer receiving the journal in hardcopy	27	9	75%
I feel receiving the hardcopy of the Australasian mycologist is an important part of my membership	24	12	67%
I would expect that any new membership category not receiving a hard copy of the journal would pay a reduced subscription rate	18	18	50%
I would continue to pay full/concessional membership to receive a hardcopy of the journal even if an online-journal-access-only membership category with a reduced subscription rate was introduced	22	14	61%

- Firstly, thank you for participation

Results

- Of the 58 memberships I processed (all Australian or Other international – for future surveys we need to take into account the fact NZ members send forms to Eric)
- 36 (69% of paid members) individuals received and responded to the survey
- only 8, (22% of respondents) wanted the electronic copy only
- 75% preferred the hardcopy and presumably most of these (67% of respondents) considered the hardcopy to be an important part of their membership
- the pack was divided evenly as to whether online only subs should receive a reduced rate and 61% would still pay full price to receive the hardcopy...
- I think the results show that receiving the journal in hardcopy is a really important part of the society to the majority of members
(particularly those who actually pay on time! ;) – gratuitous Treasurer's comment

Constitutional changes

- Fees. It is the introduction of a new class of fee that we're particularly wanting to pass, however the increase should enable the society to both cover any extra-large Journal issues and expand the work we do.
- • The move to 'one to sign' will facilitate e-banking and will help streamline the Treasurer's job

Incorporation

- ***The audited statement of financial records must be approved by the AGM***, this is a requirement of incorporation – ***therefore, future Councils should endeavour to ensure the AGM is in August or later*** to allow the Treasurer time to have the books audited and then approved by an AGM. This is at least partly why the 2009 Annual return for Incorporation could not be submitted/accepted.
- The 2007-2008 Audited Financial statement was only prepared in 2009 and the 2009 financial year had not ended when I became Treasurer at the May 2009 AGM. Neither of these statements have yet been accepted by an AGM – this led the Office of Regulatory Services to threaten to dis-incorporate the society if the reports were not accepted by an AGM and forwarded to them. **I propose, therefore, that this AGM accepts all three attached Audited Statements of the Society's Financial Position.**
- There are a few other requirements for incorporation including the amount of notice people are given for meetings and changes to the constitution – I've requested that this AGM agree that the society has received sufficient notice for both this meeting and all issues on which decisions are made to ensure that the Council can move on these issues with full confidence.

General thoughts

- Just for future reference an in-person handover between Treasurers would be helpful. I've benefited greatly from David Ratkowsky's assistance as a former Society Treasurer in teaching me the ropes and in his current capacity as Membership Secretary.
- I'm continuing the move towards electronic book-keeping Anne began. Comments from Peter our Auditor suggest that this has made it easier for him to process the books.
- I think we should try to consolidate all back-issues of the Journal as new library members have requested hard copies of back issues and often can't print out large volumes of back issues.