

TROPICAL MYCOLOGY RESEARCH CENTRE (TMRC)

Plans are ahead for Australia to have its very own Tropical Mycology Research Centre. This is a private venture sponsored by Dr Kevin D. Hyde and it is hoped to start operations in early 1999. The Centre will be based in north Queensland on the Atherton Tablelands and premises are presently being sort. The Director of the Centre will be Ceri Pearce and it is hoped to develop a centre for fostering research in mycology over the next decade. Setting up the Centre will be costly and we are much in need of literature. Anyone having reprints or duplicate copies of books are requested to post them to the centre.

It is hoped to take on a student to study a group of microfungi in the north Queensland wet tropics as part of a PhD program (probably registered in The University of Hong Kong). If anyone is interested or knows of anyone who is interested they should contact Ceri Pearce or Kevin Hyde.

We will keep you informed of the progress in future issues.

Mission statement

Our mission is to increase the understanding of mycology in the Australian tropics by fostering high quality scientific research. Providing research facilities is central to the achievement of this mission.

Post Graduate Studies

We are expecting to have a place for one post graduate student to work on microfungi. Please contact Dr Hyde or Ceri Pearce with an expression of interest.

Ceri Pearce: email: Ceri.Pearce@tfr.csiro.au
Kevin D Hyde: email: kdhyde@hkucc.hku.hk

MINUTES

AUSTRALASIAN MYCOLOGICAL SOCIETY Annual General Meeting

Held at the Botany School, University of Adelaide, 1 October 1997.

Meeting opened at 5.15 pm.

Present: Jack Simpson (chair), Peter Buchanan, Cheryl Grgurinovic, Heino Lepp, Tom May, David Moore (President, British Mycological Society) and 14 others.

1. Treasurer's Report.

Heino Lepp reported that audited accounts were included in *Australasian Mycological Newsletter 16*. *Newsletter* costs have increased, reflected in an improvement in the quality of the *Newsletter*. There is consequently a need to increase subscriptions. It is also recommended that the student membership category be expanded to cover retirees and those on Government pensions.

MOTION 1. That the words 'student member' in Note 1 of Section 2 of the AMS Constitution be changed to 'concessional member' Moved Peter McGee, Seconded Kevin Hyde. Carried.

MOTION 2. That 'concessional membership' be extended to any person who is (i) a retiree, or (ii) receiving a government pension. Moved Peter McGee, Seconded Heino Lepp. Carried.

MOTION 3. That all membership fees be increased by 50% of their current amounts. Moved: Cheryl Grgurinovic, Seconded Neale Bougher. Carried.

MOTION 4. That a category 'Sustaining Member' be created, with annual fee to be three times the ordinary membership fee. Moved Fiona Benyon, Seconded Neale Bougher. Carried.

New Zealand Payments. New Zealand members can pay Peter Buchanan in \$NZ, who will make a once yearly payment to the Treasurer. Peter McGee commented on extending this arrangement to other regions.

2. Report on election of office-bearers

Tom May reported that one nomination was received for each vacant position and therefore the following were elected unopposed:

President: Jack Simpson
 Vice-President: Cheryl Grgurinovic
 Treasurer: Heino Lepp
 Secretary: Tom May
 Councillors: Peter Buchanan and David Ellis

Ken Thomas is the Public Officer.

3. Reports of Special Interest Groups

Fungal Poisoning Network. Mary Cole reported that Tony Young is sorting out indemnity. Even for mycologists with 'Honorary' status at Hospitals or Poisons Information Centres, legislation is not tested as far as advice to other parties. Tony Young is developing a LUCID key to poisonous fungi.

Education Special Interest Group. Peter McGee discussed the WWW package currently under development. In 5–10 years it is planned to develop a multifaceted education package for fungi, suitable for use by classes or individuals, and to cope with different levels of interest and expertise.

Conservation Subcommittee. This newly created subcommittee will also act as the IUCN, Species Survival Commission, Committee for Fungi, Australasian Regional Committee.

Promoting Mycology Group. This group is yet to be formed, but the intention is to start up a discussion in the *Newsletter* and via email on the promotion and funding of mycology.

4. Conferences

IMC 2006 Committee. Chaired by Eric McKenzie, this group is preparing a bid to hold IMC 2006 in Australia.

IUMS Congress of Mycology, August 1999, Sydney. The 1999 Scientific Meeting of AMS will be held in conjunction with the IUMS Congress.

In general discussion about conferences, Neale Bougher commented that it was good to hold the AMS meeting along with systematics meetings (such as ASBS); it was also agreed that there should be regular co-ordination with plant pathology meetings; Kevin Hyde inquired why there was no meeting of the Society planned for 1998—the feeling is that the Society could hold a viable scientific meeting about every two years; Tom May explained that in years where there is no scientific meeting, an ad hoc AGM will be organised at a convenient place and time; according to the constitution the AGM must be held in the second half of the year, so where the scientific meeting is in the first half of the year, an ad hoc AGM would also need to be arranged, although a General Meeting could be held at the time of the Scientific meeting to allow members to discuss issues.

5. Other business

Patron. It was agreed that the Society should have an honorary patron, and that Jack Warcup would be an excellent choice.

Web page for the Society. Cheryl Grgurinovic will be able to accept files for a proposed AMS web page, and include links to relevant sites.

Vote of thanks. Jack Simpson thanked British Mycological Society president David Moore for attending and the BMS for supporting his visit.

Meeting closed 5.45 pm.

AUSTRALASIAN MYCOLOGICAL SOCIETY BUSINESS

Scientific Meetings

1998: There will be no scientific meeting.

1999: The scientific meeting of the Society will be held jointly with the IUMS Congress of Mycology in Sydney in August 1999.

2000: The scientific meeting of the Society will be held jointly with the New Zealand Fungal Foray. This will be in the South Island, most likely in May in the Te Anau area. Lawre Taylor is co-ordinating the Foray, and can be contacted for further details (mushroom@ihug.co.nz). There will be a day to present papers and posters. Student assistance will be available. This will be an excellent opportunity to collect, catch up with colleagues, and present your latest research, all in a beautiful location—so mark this in your diary now. There will be further details in the next *Newsletter*.