

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*.

Annual General meeting

The 3rd Annual General Meeting of the Australasian Mycological Society will be held in Sydney later this year. It is anticipated that the AGM will be held in November at the University of New South Wales, along with a half day symposium where a number of student and newly graduated members will present seminars. Details of date and place will be included in the next *Newsletter*. Members wishing to place items on the agenda should contact the Secretary.

Call for nominations

Nominations are requested from members of the Australasian Mycological Society for the following positions in the Society:

President, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer, and two Councillors.

Nominations should be submitted in writing, signed by two financial members of the Society and accompanied by the written consent of the candidate. Nominations should be received by the Secretary by 14 August 1998. Objects and rules of the Society can be found in the *Newsletter* for March 1995, or can be obtained on request from the Secretary.

According to the constitution of the Society, the President and Vice-President must stand down after three years.

Please consider nominating as an Office Bearer or Councillor

The founding council has served unchanged for three years—it would be great to have some fresh faces on council.

Payment of subscriptions by New Zealand members

To help members avoid costly currency conversion charges, it was resolved at the last AGM that New Zealand members could, if they wish, pay subscriptions to a New Zealand member of Council, who would then forward the bulk amount each year to the Treasurer. Subscriptions paid in this way will be the same amount in \$NZ as the current \$AUS subscription. New Zealand members may direct their payments in \$NZ to Peter Buchanan at Landcare Research, Private Bag 92170, Auckland, New Zealand. *Please make cheques payable to 'Foray account'.*

New membership categories—Concessional Member/Sustaining Member

The Concessional Member category replaces the Student Member, and now covers students, retirees, and those receiving a government pension. The rate for this category is the same as the old Student Member category. The new Sustaining Member category will have an annual fee three times the ordinary membership fee. Sustaining Members will be listed in each *Newsletter*.

Tom May

Secretary, Australasian Mycological Society

BOOK REVIEWS

Protocols for an All Taxa Biodiversity Inventory of Fungi in a Costa Rican Conservation Area by Amy L. Rossman, Rodham E. Tulloss, Thomas E. O'Dell and R. Greg Thorn (1998). 195 pp. (Hardcover.) ISBN 1-887905-05-7. Parkway Publishers, Inc. Box 3678, Boone, NC 28607, USA. Email: aluri@netins.net; <http://www.netins.net/showcase/alurir>. Price \$US35.00

For the past 25 years, my fungal studies have mainly concerned the identification of the higher fungi and their systematic relationships—principally agarics. Whilst some ecological aspects do play a role in systematics, the dynamics of fungal biodiversity are not usually considered other than in subjective or intuitive 'feelings' about species richness of particular habitats or the requirements of a species for one or more very well defined environments. It was therefore with a great deal of interest that I examined this book which considered the world of mycology from a very different perspective. The book sets out a series of protocols which allow the user to conduct a biodiversity survey of all fungi in a given region, and in addition, provides standardised procedures for sampling, storing and culturing the various fungi as well as the practical aspects of funding, staffing and equipping such a project.