

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of the Australasian Mycological Society

Wednesday 26th September 2012, 5:30pm

Flecker Botanic Gardens, Cairns

Present: Dee Carter (Chair), Diana Leemon, John Dearnaley, Sandra Abell-Davis, Peter McGee, Tom May, Teresa Lebel, Frank Gleason, Melanie Weckert, Peter Johnston, Ceri Pearce

Apologies: Elaine Davison, Richard Robinson, Eirian Jones

1. Minutes of the 2011 AGM

Minutes accepted as read

Moved: Peter McGee

Seconded: John Dearnaley

2. President's report

Dee Carter tabled the president's report to the meeting (the full report is at the end of these minutes). Dee had been on sabbatical in Zurich, Switzerland for the past 12 months but had kept the AMS council running with regular Skype council meetings. The AMS was in a healthy financial position with 97 members. Dee looked forward to the current conference and next year's meeting with the Australian Society for Microbiology (ASM) in Adelaide. The AMS website was working well but improvements or additions were always welcome. The society's journal, "Australasian Mycologist" continued to be a problem. A call for nominations for the Daniel McAlpine Medal (awarded by the International Mycological Association) was expected soon. AMS members were asked to consider eligible early career mycologists for nomination. As her term as president had come to an end, Dee thanked the council and AMS members for their support over the last three years.

3. Re-nomination and nomination of council positions

Four council positions were to continue over 2012-2013 – these were: Treasurer (Sandra Abell-Davis), Secretary (John Dearnaley), Councillor (Richard Robinson), Councillor (Eirian Jones). The secretary indicated that one nomination had been received for President, namely Diana Leemon. The meeting congratulated Diana on her election as AMS president. Only one nomination was received for Vice President, namely Peter McGee. The meeting congratulated Peter on his election as AMS Vice President.

4. Financial Report from Treasurer, Sandra Abell Davis

The treasurer indicated that current AMS bank balance was \$18,348.77, with a net profit over 2011/2012 of \$4,309.25. AMS membership had risen from 67 members in 2011 to 97 members in 2012. The "PayPal" approach to membership renewal was working well with 41 members paying via this mechanism. PayPal was cheaper for the society whereas credit card payments were costing the society. A motion was put to remove the credit card option for membership payment

Moved: Teresa Lebel
Seconded: Diana Leemon

The full treasurer's report is attached to the end of these minutes. It was proposed that the treasurer's report be accepted by the meeting.

Moved: Peter McGee
Seconded: Teresa Lebel

5. Journal report from managing editor, Dee Carter

Dee Carter tabled the journal managing editor's report to the meeting. Dee had taken over as managing editor of Australasian Mycologist when David Orlovich had stepped down. In her time in this role she had noted a serious lack of interest in the journal from AMS members with few submissions forthcoming. A possible reason for this was the lack of journal profile/impact factor which was a consideration in the current ERA dominated scientific environment. It was likely that, at best, a single issue of the journal would be produced for 2012. This reduction in regular issues would potentially jeopardize the journal's ISI listing. Frank Gleason suggested that we should produce special themed issues. Dee mentioned that a planned Festschrift edition on John Walker had not eventuated, but it is possible that a Festschrift volume could be produced in honour of David Ellis in 2013. Both Peter McGee and Frank Gleason stressed the importance of local scientific journals for publication of results by Australian researchers. Frank suggested that granting entities included a clause that funded researchers must publish some of their findings in an Australian journal. Tom May suggested that the name "Australasian" be dropped from the journal title so as to encourage more international submissions. Melanie Weckert suggested that the journal increase its scope to encompass other Asian countries, although it was highlighted that both Japan and China now have their own mycological journals (Mycoscience and Mycology respectively). Ceri Pearce noted that the mycological community in Australia was possibly too small for a local specialised journal and that a large number of quality international journals were available for publishing. Teresa Lebel concurred and mentioned that the Royal Botanic Garden's botanical journal, "Muelleria" was also struggling to survive. Peter Johnston noted that the Fungal Network of New Zealand ran a successful website which had foray reports, mycological news and a "blog" component. Discussion took place as to whether the journal should be discontinued and be replaced by an online newsletter. The outcome of these discussions suggested that the journal should remain (for the time-being) as Australasian Mycologist and that it should be an online only entity for the publication of refereed scientific articles, thesis summaries and conference abstracts/plenary addresses. It should not contain field records or mycological news as such and these could be listed elsewhere on the AMS website or be submitted to FungiMap. The AMS should not be too concerned with maintaining the journal's ISI listing and as long as articles continued to be published annually, Australian Mycologist would persist.

6. Next AMS meetings

Diana Leemon indicated that the 2013 meeting of the AMS was to occur in conjunction with the ASM in Adelaide. Both David Ellis and David Catcheside had indicated an interest in giving plenary talks. It was suggested that the AMS have combined meetings with FungiMap in even years – a meeting in Brisbane in 2014 was suggested. Frank Gleeson indicated that AMS meetings should not be mid-year as they clash with the northern hemisphere summer conference season. Teresa Lebel suggested autumn meetings are ideal as they coincide with

the fungal collecting season in Australia. It was mentioned that September AMS meetings were problematic as many Australian scientific societies had meetings at this time.

There was “no other business” and the meeting concluded at 6:45pm.