

**Minutes of the ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING of the Australasian Mycological Society**  
**Thursday 17 November 2011, 6:30 pm**

**School of Molecular Bioscience, University of Sydney, NSW**

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**Present:** Dee Carter, Peter McGee, Wieland Meyer, John Pitt, Leona Campbell, Anna Simonin, Yu-Wen Lai, Diana Leemon

**Apologies:** John Dearnaley, Ailsa Hocking, Sandra Abell-Davis, Elaine Davison, Richard Robinson

**1. Scientific Presentation:**

AMS President Dee Carter welcomed everyone and introduced Anna Simonin who gave a presentation of the work she undertook while at UC Berkeley titled: "Genetically controlled network architecture in the filamentous fungus *Neurospora crassa* constrains nutrient and nuclear flow"

**2. Minutes of 2010 AGM**

Minutes accepted as read

Moved: John Pitt

Second: Wieland Meyer

**3. President's report**

Dee Carter presented the report to the meeting; the full report is available at the end of these minutes. Particular attention was drawn to the following items:

- The constitutional changes first proposed at the 2010 AGM have now been passed at a special general meeting
- Nai Tran-Dinh (webmaster) has had some problems recently with logging into the AMS website. He is looking into making changes to the site to make it easier to upload files and to make other amendments.
- Dr Ceri Pearce has been awarded the Daniel McAlpine Medal, which is the newly created IMA early career award for the Australasian region.

Moved that the report be accepted : Diana Leemon

Second: Peter McGee

**4. Amended Constitution:**

The minutes from the special AMS meeting held in Denmark, WA to consider the AMS constitutional changes were accepted.

Moved: Dee Carter

Second: John Pitt

## **5. Re-nomination and nomination of council positions**

Only 1 nomination was received by the due date for each of the following positions:

### *Council Positions*

*President:* Dee Carter, proposed by Diana Leemon, seconded by John Dearnaley

*Vice-President:* Diana Leemon, proposed by Sandra Abell-Davis, seconded by John Dearnaley

*Treasurer:* Sandra Abell-Davis, proposed by Diana Leemon, seconded by John Dearnaley

*Secretary:* John Dearnaley, proposed by Diana Leemon, seconded by Dee Carter

*Councillor 1:* Richard Robinson, proposed by Diana Leemon, seconded by John Dearnaley

There were 2 nominations from the floor for the second councillor position:

(i) Eirian Jones, proposed by Anna Hopkins, seconded by Dee Carter

(ii) Rebecca McDougall, proposed by Anna Hopkins, seconded by Dee Carter

*Councillor 2:* Eirian Jones was elected to this position by a majority vote.

### *Non-Council Positions:*

*Membership secretary* – David Ratkowsky no longer wishes to continue in this role. It was decided that no new appointment will be made, and that the Treasurer and Secretary will liaise to send messages to the membership.

*Webmaster:* Nai Tran-Dinh will continue in this role

*Journal Editor:* Still vacant (see further discussion below)

## **6. Treasurer's report**

The financial report from Anthony Francis was presented and accepted.

Moved: Diana Leemon

Second: John Pitt

The good work done by Anthony on sorting out the financial affairs of the society was noted as much appreciated.

**7. Journal report** – There was no journal report, but considerable discussion was held on the future of the journal:

It was noted that Sapphire McMullen-Fisher had written to the council before the AGM concerned about the future of the journal and made some suggestions for boosting the journal: She suggested that subject editors could get more involved to recruit papers, this might bring more papers to the journal, reduce the work of the editor and speed up the process of getting papers published in the journal.

It was also suggested from the floor that the journal might benefit from a new name, and perhaps the whole journal needs to be rethought and re-worked.

The PLoS ONE method of publication was suggested as a model that the AMS might consider for its journal. It was also suggested that Honours, Masters and parts of PhD theses could be published in the journal once they were signed off by the supervisor as being suitable for publication. Other types of reports that could be

added to an online journal included good research reports by undergraduates, reviews, essays, editorials, etc.

The following motion on the journal was carried unanimously:

“That AMS use the journal in future to disseminate scientific information on fungi such as research papers, theses, sections of theses, student research reports, reviews or other materials the society believes to promote mycology”

Moved: John Pitt

Second: Leona Campbell

A further motion on the journal was also carried unanimously:

“That the journal should be made online only, with a portal through the AMS website”

Moved: Dee Carter

Second: John Pitt.

It was noted that Sapphire McMullen-Fisher has been doing the layout for the journal in the past and has offered to continue to support the journal in this way.

It was agreed that AMS should thank Sapphire for her assistance and support in this difficult time with the journal.

Moved: Peter McGee

Second: Diana Leemon

The president will undertake to contact the journal editorial committee to make sure that all fields of mycology are covered.

## **8. AMS scientific meeting 2012**

Diana Leemon reported on the progress of plans for a scientific meeting in 2012.

Sandra Abell-Davis had begun planning a three day AMS meeting in Cairns

Wednesday Sept 26 through until Friday Sept 28, at either JCU or at the new facility in the Flecker Botanical Gardens. It is proposed that the meeting have two and a half days of oral presentations, including short oral poster presentations, and a half day field trip/foray.

If there is enough interest in workshops these could be held early in the week before the meeting.

Anyone interested in either running or attending a workshop is encouraged to contact Sandra or Diana.

Wieland Meyer also noted that the 2013 meeting of the Australian Society for Microbiology will be held in July in Adelaide, and that there is support from the ASM organising committee to include a mycology symposium, possibly along similar lines to that held in Sydney in 2010.

## **9. Other Business**

It noted that we need to begin thinking about our nomination for the next round of IMA awards to be presented at IMC10 during 2014. It was suggested that AMS should raise the idea with a number of other organisations that represent Australasian mycology, including the New Caledonian mycological society.

The idea of building closer links with other societies associated with mycology such as ASM and Fungimap was raised, especially in regard to the potential for joint scientific meetings.

The meeting was closed at 9:30 pm.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Dee Carter', with a small dot at the end of the final stroke.

Dee Carter

**President's report – Dee Carter  
November 2011**

Compared to the period leading up to our last AGM, where we initiated changes to the constitution, created a new website for AMS and organized a scientific meeting, the current reporting period has been relatively quiet. However, the council has been working to implement some of the changes proposed at the last AGM, along with some other activities, and we can report the following progress:

**Changes to the constitution:**

At our last AGM there was general support for changes to the constitution that would make the organization and running of some aspects of the society easier to manage. However, members noted that they needed to see the redrafted changes to the constitution so that these could be voted on specifically. Tom May kindly volunteered to help re-draft the constitution, incorporating the changes that the membership had agreed to. These were:

- i) That the **Notice of AGM** and other meetings be reduced from 4 months to 1 month (*Constitution 24.1*)
- ii) The **Nomination of council bearers** be changed from 4 months to 2 weeks before an AGM (*Constitution 13.1a*)
- iii) **The need for ballot papers** for nominations to council (should these exceed the places available) to be sent prior to the AGM be removed. Instead these would be decided by vote at the AGM (*Constitution 13.1 g and h*).

A special meeting of the AMS was organized to coincide with FungiMap, which was held in Denmark, WA, on July 15 2011. There were 12 attendees, including Vice President Diana Leemon and Councilor Sandra Abell-Davis, and 8 proxy votes were received. All of the above changes were passed by a 19:1 majority vote, and were therefore carried. The new constitution was then drafted and the changes were lodged with the office of Regulatory Services in the ACT. On October 17 we were officially notified that the changes had been accepted, and the AMS now has a new constitution. The new constitution is posted on the AMS website.

**Website:**

Nai Tran-Dinh has worked hard to keep the site up to date, and all appears to be functioning reasonably well. One result of the new site is I now get quite frequent requests to identify unusual fungi and we plan to put a "What the fungus?" page on the site where some of these can be shown. The site also hosts our journal, which is freely available to members and the public. Another new initiative to be added to the site is the ability to pay membership fees by PayPal. Councilor Sandra Abell-Davis (who has been nominated to become our next treasurer) is currently looking into implementing this. This will make be a significant improvement to the payment process, as receipts will be automatically generated upon payment and we will be able to accept payment from overseas without any conversion fees.

We welcome comments and ideas for any further improvements to the site.

**IMA award**

The International Mycological Association recently initiated new, early career awards to coincide with the International Mycology Congress meetings. Although the IMC9 meeting has already taken place the IMA decided to retrospectively align awards with this meeting. Dr Ceri Pearce was the selected nominee from Australasia for the Daniel McAlpine Medal, based on her research and her contributions to the local mycological community, most notably through her help with organizing IMC8 in Cairns. We congratulate Ceri on receiving this prestigious award.

A call for nominations for the IMC10 award is likely to be made soon, and when this happens we will inform members and ask for nominations, so please bear this in mind as a wonderful reward to some of our outstanding younger scientists. The requirement for nomination is that nominees must have received their PhD within the 10 year period immediately preceding January 1st of the year in which the award is given. As the next award will be given at IMC10 in 2014 the PhD must have been awarded no earlier than 2004.

### **Changes to council and other positions**

#### **Council positions -**

The following council members have either resigned from their position or reached the end of their term limit:

Eric McKenzie – finished term limit as secretary

Anthony Francis – resigned as treasurer

Sandra Abell-Davis – resigned as councilor

Anna Hopkins – resigned as councilor

I wish to thank them for their service that they provided to our Society in their council roles.

Particular thanks go to Anthony, who worked very hard to bring the Society finances back in line, and to Sandra, who is currently working to organize our next scientific meeting (and will hopefully rejoin us on the council in a new role as treasurer).

#### **Non-council positions –**

**Membership secretary:** David Ratkowsky has been membership secretary for a number of years and has been very efficient in sending our messages to the membership when required, as well as the occasional reminder to members to renew their membership. David wishes to resign from this position and we thank him for the excellent job that he has done. After discussion at our last council meeting it was decided that with better communication between the treasurer the secretary we could eliminate the need for a membership secretary. Instead, all general messages to the membership will be sent by the secretary, and any messages regarding financial matters will be handled by the treasurer.

**Journal Editor:** David Orlovich has resigned as editor of the AMS journal, Australasian Mycologist. David has been an outstanding editor and has worked very hard to produce very high quality issues of our journal. However, it must also be recognized that this is a very demanding role and the future of the journal depends on finding another motivated editor to take his place. Unfortunately, while the membership expressed a strong desire to keep the journal in its current format in a recent survey, support in the form of submitting or reviewing articles has not been strong. I would like to appeal to members who feel strongly about keeping the journal in its current format to consider taking on the role of editor, and also to submit quality papers and help with the reviewing process. Without this we may need to radically rethink how to best produce the journal, or even whether the journal is still viable. This is an item for discussion at the AGM, and I am sure will provoke plenty of lively debate!

I wish to thank the council for their very helpful meetings and discussions, particularly vice-president Diana Leemon who has been very supportive and has helped to keep things on track over the past year, while retaining her great sense of humour. Thanks also to Tom May and to our public officer, Ken Thomas, for help with changing the constitution.

And finally, thank you all for your continued support of AMS.

Dee Carter

10 November 2011

**AUSTRALASIAN MYCOLOGICAL SOCIETY INC.**  
**INCOME AND EXPENDITURE STATEMENT**  
**For the year ended 30th June 2011**

	<u>2010</u>	<u>2011</u>
<b>Income</b>		
Membership Subscriptions	5,160	4,480.00
Total Income	<b>5,160</b>	<b>4,480.00</b>
<b>Expenditure</b>		
Incorporation and Audit Fees	75	234.00
Australian Mycologist	2,331	2,538.20
Stationery and Other Postage	114	-
Subscriptions - IMA	307	-
Merchant Fees - Credit Card	285	449.60
Teleconferences	343	-
Web Site	2,302	107.40
Council Travel Subsidies	311	-
Conference Speaker	-	603.70
Prizes	-	300.00
Bank Account Service Fees	173	120.00
Total Expenditure	<b>6,241</b>	<b>4,352.90</b>
<b>Net Surplus/(Deficit) for year</b>	<b>\$ -1,081</b>	<b>\$ 127.10</b>

**STATEMENT OF FUNDS**

<b>As at 30 June</b>	<u>2010</u>	<u>2011</u>
Operating Surplus/(Deficit) for year	<b>-1,081</b>	127.10
Add Opening Balances at 1 July	14,994	13,912.40
Australasian Mycological Society Funds	<b>\$ 13,912</b>	<b>\$ 14,039.50</b>
 Represented by		
Commonwealth Bank Account	13,912	14,039.50
	<b>\$ 13,912</b>	<b>\$ 14,039.50</b>

**AUDIT STATEMENT**

**Australasian Mycological Society Inc.**

I have examined the records of Australasian Mycological Society Inc. for the period ending 30 June 2011 and have received sufficient information to form an opinion on financial records. The examination was limited to the amounts recorded in the books.

It is my opinion that the Income and Expenditure Statement and the Fund Summary are drawn up to present a true and fair view of the financial position of the organisation according to the information and explanations received.



Peter Franklin Auditor  
19 July 2011