

MINUTES

AUSTRALASIAN MYCOLOGICAL SOCIETY

COUNCIL MEETING 1997

Held at University of Adelaide, Adelaide, 29 September 1997.

Meeting opened at 5 p.m.

Present: Jack Simpson (chair), Peter Buchanan, David Ellis, Cheryl Grgurinovic, Heino Lepp, Tom May.

1. Minutes of 1996 Council meeting

Accepted.

2. Treasurers Report

Heino Lepp reported that subscriptions totalled approximately \$1800. The four Newsletters each year cost about \$400 each, and with other fixed expenses such as auditing (\$100) the income barely exceeds expenses. Heino recommended an increase in subscriptions. It was also noted that there is an annual drop out rate of members of about 10 per cent, and that there can be quite a delay before subscriptions arrive. Councillors agreed that the concessional rate should be extended to pensioners.

MOTION: Increase subscriptions 50 per cent, and extend concessional rate to pensioners. Moved Heino Lepp, Seconded David Ellis. Carried.

3. Election of Office Bearers

Tom May reported that, although a note in *Australasian Mycological Newsletter* 16(2) p. 41 indicated that current office holders were unable to nominate for their current positions; this was incorrect, and according to the rules of the Society, the President and Vice-President can hold their positions for 3 consecutive years, and other Office bearers and Councillors can remain on Council for up to six consecutive years. Thus the term of the current President and Vice-President expires at the 1998 AGM, although at that time they can nominate for other positions. A single nomination was received for each 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.

4. Special Interest Groups/Subcommittees

(a) Conservation Subcommittee

MOTION: That a Conservation Subcommittee be set up. The membership be the same as the current IUCN, Species Survival Commission, Committee for Fungi, Australasian Regional Committee. The Conservation Subcommittee to continue to report to IUCN. Moved Jack Simpson, Seconded Cheryl Grgurinovic. Carried.

(b) There is a need to establish a further subcommittee to raise the profile of and promote mycology. Issues to be discussed include ways of funding mycology, and the prospects for an Australian National Institute of Fungal Biodiversity. TM to seek members of this subcommittee.

5. Meetings

1998. No scientific meeting is planned. The NZ fungus foray is in the central North Island, and difficult to get to. Seems best to just have an AGM/Council meeting in 1998.

1999. The scientific meeting will be held in conjunction with the IUMS Congress of Mycology, Sydney, August 16-20. There will be a plenary session in the IUMS Congress on biodiversity and biogeography of Australasian fungi, and a number of symposia. There should be a day for students and other AMS members to present papers and posters.

2000. Could have a scientific meeting joint with the NZ Foray.

AGM must be held once a year, and according to the constitution must be held between July and November inclusive. In a year where there is no Scientific meeting (as for 1998), or it is held in the first half of the year (as may be the case in 2000), the AGM can be held at some place and time convenient to council members. When there is a Scientific meeting without an AGM, a General Meeting can be held at the time of the Scientific Meeting, to enable members to discuss issues. The quorum for an AGM is five, including at least two Council members. The quorum for Council is four, or else three with at least one proxy.

200th anniversary of systematic mycology in Australia is in 2000 (*Aseroe rubra* described in 1800). TM suggested that a publication celebrating this could include a survey of the state of systematic mycology in the region, covering all major groups of the mycota. Year 2000 (Federation of Australia anniversary) projects are a possible source of funding. This publication could result from the 1999 conference, or be additional or separate.

IMC 2006. IMC 2002 is in Oslo. Eric McKenzie chairs a committee putting together an Australasian bid for IMC 2006. Support is sought from APPS, ASM. Should also approach lichenologists. In regard to conference organisation—John Pitt is enthusiastic about the organisers of IUMS Sydney Congress. Tour hosts are not favoured by David Ellis, due to problems with contracts and budget. There should be the ability to confirm receipts. A decision on how to arrange the IMC must lie with the Conference Organising Committee. It will be necessary to have an Australasian city chosen before the Jerusalem IMC. Auckland is not a possibility due to lack of accommodation. The best time seems to be September, because this is traditional. An autumn date remains a possibility.

6. Patron

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

MOTION: That Jack Warcup be made patron of the Australasian Mycological Society. Moved Jack Simpson, Seconded David Ellis. Carried.

7. Web Page

CG happy to set up web page. ABRS staff will be having training on web pages, and ABRS happy for web page to sit on ABRS server.

MOTION: Cheryl Grgurinovic to set up Australasian Mycological Society web page. Moved David Ellis, Seconded Heino Lepp. Carried.

8. Payments by NZ members

Suggested options are:

(1) pay into Landcare or Foray account, then (a) PB to send on to AMS account, or (b) retain in NZ, and then use for direct support of Society activities in NZ, with pro forma receipt available for auditing. Would need to check if (b) was acceptable from an accounting point of view.

(2) set up a NZ subaccount. Option (2) would only be viable with a reasonable sum of money due to bank fees. NZ exchange rate is currently about 0.87.

MOTION: New Zealand members of the Australasian Mycological Society send subscriptions to Peter Buchanan at the same amount in \$NZ as the \$AUD subscription rate. Peter to send the bulk subscriptions to the Treasurer before the end of each financial year. Moved Jack Simpson, Seconded Peter Buchanan. Carried.

9. Renewal form

It was agreed that it would be useful to have the amount of the subscription shown on the renewal form.

10. Sustaining Members and Advertising

DE gave the example of the American Mycological Society and the Australian Society of Microbiology, where sustaining members pay \$100–\$400 per annum. The introduction of sustaining members may necessitate alterations to the Constitution. Should look out for commercial opportunities, such as advertising in the *Newsletter*, or inclusion of book fliers. Items that are educational, or relate to publications by financial members to remain free of charge.

MOTION: That the Society allow sustaining members, with an annual subscription of \$100. Moved David Ellis, Seconded Cheryl Grgurinovic. Carried.

11. IMA Asian Group

There has been no response from IMA Asian group to enquiries from AMS.

12. Local chapters

Should encourage meetings in major centres.

Meeting closed 7.15 p.m.

T.W. May