Phytogen November 2019

ASPS AGM today. Vote now! ASPS constitutional vote link.

28 November 2019

ASPS members,

The ASPS Annual General Meeting is today. The AGM agenda and reports are available through the ASPS website HERE. https://www.asps.org.au/about/agm

ASPS needs you to vote for a change in constitution to appoint state-based representatives

We need 2/3 rd of financial members to vote so please click on this link today

https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/8KH6FV5

For more details click HERE.

To be part of the discussion click HERE.

To renew your membership so you are a financial member click HERE. You can request a new password be sent to your registered e-mail address.

Financial members are current Ordinary memberships of 1, 2 or 4 years or hold current student membership. Life and retired members are also included in this survey.

Nominate for ASPS Executive Committee or Council

20 November 2019

Dear ASPS members,

As another year passes between meetings our Honorary Treasurer, Rosemary White, comes to the end of her term. We would like to thank Rosemary for all her efficient and hard work during her term in this position and hope she stays an active member.

This means that we are now looking for nominations for this position as part of our new Executive Committee and Council.

If you are interested in this position, please fill the ASPS Council nomination form and email it to secretary@asps.org.au and if you have any questions, please do not hesitate to ask.

Kind Regards,

Kathleen Soole

President ASPS

ASPS constitutional vote link. Vote now!

18 November 2019

ASPS members,

ASPS needs you to vote for a change in constitution to appoint state-based representatives

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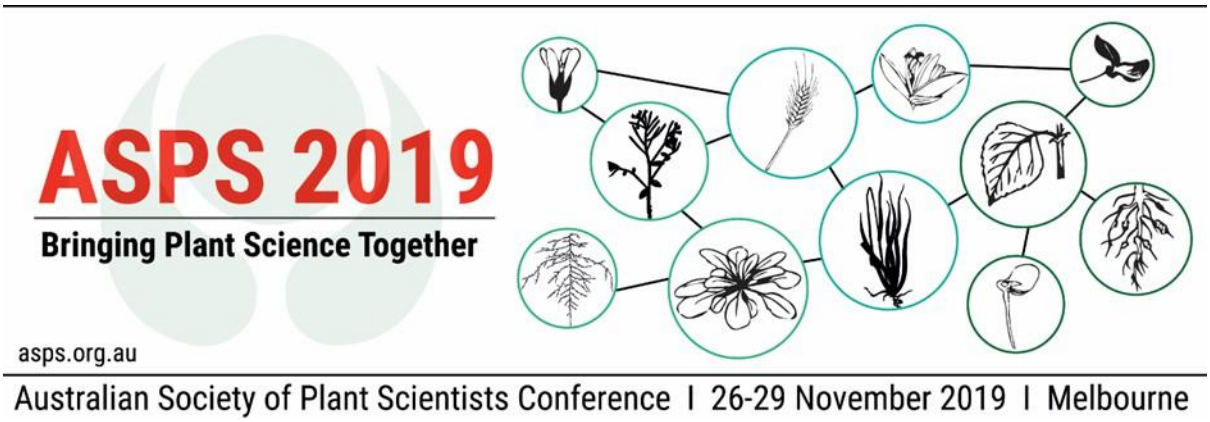
To renew your membership so you are a financial member click HERE. You can request a new password be sent to your registered e-mail address.

Financial members are current Ordinary memberships of 1, 2 or 4 years or hold current student membership.

Phytogen-November is ASPS2019 at La Trobe University

10 November 2019

We look forward to seeing you on the 26th November. Follow this link for the schedule.



Below you will read about an upcoming constitutional vote. We want lots of discussion before voting on the day of the AGM (28th November 2019), therefore please join this google group:

https://groups.google.com/d/forum/australian-society-of-plant-scientists

The link will take you to Google Groups. If you have a gmail account, 'Sign in to view this group' and then you will be able to post a reply. Otherwise to post, create a gmail account. You can follow steps on this support page for help: https://support.google.com/groups/answer/1067205?hl=en It also details how it is possible to add alternate email addresses if you don't want to always have to remember a gmail account.

If you wish, you can 'Subscribe to this group', you can enter any email address you like, then you will be sent an email for you to confirm your subscription and then you will receive emails when there is activity.

We hope you will join the Google Group to post replies and contribute to discussions related to the ASPS. We also encourage new members and students to participate. If you have difficulties joining the discussion or wish to take up membership, please contact Dr Janet Wheeler

(janet.wheeler@latrobe.edu.au) or one of our website and communications team (https://www.asps.org.au/about/website-communications-sub-committee-2)

ASPS AGM and constitutional vote

Dear ASPS members,

The 2019 Australian Society of Plant Scientists Annual General Meeting (AGM) will take place during our annual conference ASPS2019 at 6.00 pm Thursday 28th November 2019 in the Victoria rooms, AgriBio Building, La Trobe University Bundoora, Victoria.

This year at our AGM, I am going to propose a change to the structure of the ASPS committee and Council which will require a change to our Constitution.

I would like to propose that we change from having Discipline Reps to State and Territory-based Reps. As part of this change I would like to propose that a role for the State Reps would be to encourage an informal gathering in their State or Territory, to promote plant science, young scientists and the Society each year. I could envisage that we could provide a small amount of funding each year to the rep to help facilitate this. The process for this can be defined at the AGM.

I am proposing this as I feel that the concept of Discipline-focused reps is somewhat redundant in an era of multi-discipline research. Further, we currently do not have all States represented in our current rep system. For example for 2019, NT, Queensland and Western Australia do not have local ASPS representation. I believe that this change in committee composition would ensure that this lack of representation would not occur and enable ASPS to be promoted more widely, the Society would be more visible and be able to provide more to its members, which in turn would lead to an increase in membership.

Of course we would retain other office bearers such as Plant Science Education and the Student Reps.

To move this process forward we need to change the following item in the Constitution of ASPS Inc;

21. **THE COMMITTEE**

22. **a**. the office bearers of the Society who shall be the office bearers of the Committee;

23. where possible other members, each representing a subject discipline or a specific group (e.g.postgraduate students). The subject disciplines shall encompass the broad spectrum of the society's scientific and educational interests together with due regard for each State and Territory being represented.

So I am proposing that Item 21 in the constitution be reworded to the following where I have marked in bold the change in text;

21. **THE COMMITTEE**

22. **a**. the office bearers of the Society who shall be the office bearers of the Committee;

23. where possible other members, each representing a ***State or Territory of Australia*** or a specific group (e.g.postgraduate students). **The subject disciplines shall encompass the broad spectrum of the society's scientific and educational interests together with due regard for each State and Territory being represented.**

This can only be done via the following process as outlined in the Constitution;

26. **ALTERATIONS TO THE CONSTITUTION**

This Constitution may be altered or amended a. by resolution at an Annual General Meeting, provided that all members have the opportunity to vote by post or by proxy and b. the resolution is passed by at least a two thirds majority of financial members voting.

So, this will be an item at the AGM to be held during ASPS 2019. As not all members are attending this meeting or the AGM, we have organised an online voting system which will be open before the AGM (to be held on 28th November 2019) and close the morning of that day. Further we will have open a discussion forum, so that members can voice their opinion about the proposed resolution and others can view it if the wish.

If the Society wishes to accept this change, then I suggest that we keep the two systems running through 2020 or until the end of any Discipline Reps term and for 2020 we find people to nominate as reps in the States and Territories where ASPS is not currently represented.

I hope that you, as a financial member of ASPS Inc., will take the time to consider this and vote as we need 2/3 of financial members to approve it before we can move forward.

Details on voting including a link will be e-mailed through to you in the coming week.

Kathleen Soole

President – Australian Society of Plant Scientists (www.asps.org.au)