ASPS Treasurer's Report/Financial Summary: 1 May 2016 – 30 Apr 2017
Rosemary White (ASPS Honorary Treasurer)

BUDGET

ASPS is financially stable. Year-to-year variations are largely due to the size and timing of ComBio income.

Accumulated funds	$143,847
R.N. Robertson fund	$87,086

ASPS INCOME

ASPS has three main sources of income:

1. Conference profits:	ComBio 2015	$17,065
	ComBio 2016	$7,237
	Seed fund refund:	$2,000
2. ASPS membership subscriptions:		$18,940
and web-based advertising:		$712
3. Bank interest and donations:		$994

Membership of 402 at 30 September, 582 at the same time in 2016.

Current membership fees: ordinary member: 1 year $100.00; 2 years $180.00; 4 years $340.00 and student member: 2 years $50.00.

ASPS currently lacks sustaining members ($300 per year).

EXPENDITURE

ComBio 2016	
Speaker travel expenses	$1,530
Student travel awards (15 students)	$7,500
Student poster prizes	$800
Research and Conference Travel Support	
R.N. Robertson Travel Award to Nicole Dakin, UWA	$3,527
Student attendance at ASPS annual dinner (ComBio)	$1,160
CSIRO's 'Developing Crops of the Future Workshop' in Kiama, NSW	$2,000
C_4 photosynthesis conference in Canberra	$3,000
ASPS Operating costs	
Web-site maintenance (Michael Major Media Pty Ltd)	$867
Database management, day-to-day website maintenance (Janet Wheeler)	$2,663
Other ASPS activities	
Science Meets Parliament; Florian Busch, Jay Bose	($2,942)
Science and Technology Australia	$1,867
Global Plant Council	$1,437
Plants in Action v2	$5,000

ASPS Treasurer's Report for the Period 1 May 2016 – 30 Apr 2017
Prepared by Rosemary White (ASPS Honorary Treasurer)
Presented at the AGM on Thursday 6th October 2017

BUDGET

The financial position of the Society, for the financial year May 1 2016 - April 30 2017, remains sound. As in other years, some flexibility is needed as expenses for ASPS activities do not always coincide with annual cycles of income returns. In 2016/2017, this culminated in a profit of $14,564.41 in comparison with the operating deficit of $11,826.63 in 2015/2016. These differences arise almost entirely from differences in conference income from the two previous years. As of 30 April, 2017 our accumulated funds in the Commonwealth Bank totaled $143,846.84 and the RN Robertson Fund $87,085.50 (which includes $2,928.66 interest). Bank interest from our Commonwealth accounts totaled $994.16. Note that $29,000 of the Commonwealth Bank account belongs to the Robertson Fund based on a previous decision made at the 2009 AGM.

ASPS INCOME

ASPS has three main sources of income: 1) a proportion of the profits from conferences we support (i.e. ComBio); 2) ASPS membership subscriptions and web-based advertising and 3) bank interest and donations. We received $17,065.16 in conference proceeds from ComBio 2015 in Melbourne and $7,236.54 proceeds from ComBio 2016 in Brisbane.

We received $18,490.00 in membership subscriptions and renewals and $728.00 in web- based advertising. The number of paid/updated ASPS members as of Sept 30, 2017 is 402 (582 in 2015/2016) consisting of 127 ordinary members, 224 student members, 31 retired members, 12 corresponding members and 6 life members (see below). The two gratis members are the American Society of Plant Biology and the New Zealand Society of Plant Biologists.

Category	16/17	15/16	14/15	13/14	12/13	11/12	10/11	09/10	08/09	07/08	06/07
Ordinary	127	237	107	101	153	212	244	238	283	209	166
Student	224	292	345	229	210	192	164	151	176	151	158
Retired	31	35	36	28	14	14					
Corresponding	12	12	6	10	10						
Life	6	6	7	7	7						
Gratis	2	0	1	1	2						
Sustaining	0	0	0	0	2						
Lapsed*	-157		-25	-60	-80						
Total	402	582	502	316	318	418	408	389	459	360	324

* Lapsed between October 2016 and October 2017

The current membership fees are ordinary member: 1 year $100.00; 2 years $180.00; 4 years $340.00 and student member: 2 years $50.00.

Sustaining members of ASPS are important as the organization or company supports our Society by paying $300 per annum. In return for this fee they have their name, logo and web link placed on our website and they receive free advertising space in our e-newsletter Phytogen. We currently have no sustaining members. This is an area that needs our collective attention in order to expand our profile amongst potential industrial partners.

EXPENDITURE

ComBio 2016

The society is a strong supporter of the annual ComBio conference as a way to showcase the multidisciplinary aspects of Australian Plant Science and as an important gathering place to meet colleagues and to develop research collaborations. ComBio also allows for the society to attract high-impact plant science researchers to Australia as plenary speakers and mentors to our student and early career members. In 2016/2017, ASPS provided $1,530.00 for ComBio 2016 (Brisbane) for speaker travel expenses.

The Society recognises the importance of student participation for its long-term wellbeing. Student membership is encouraged through special awards including the RN Robertson Fund and through subsidising a considerable part of their travel, accommodation, registration costs and the annual ASPS dinner when attending and presenting at ComBio. In 2016/2017, 15 students received support from ASPS to attend the ComBio2016 meeting in Brisbane at a cost of $7,500.00 ($500.00 per student) to the society. Furthermore, ASPS rewards active participation by students in the ComBio program by recognising outstanding posters with monetary prizes. Last year we provided four student poster prizes at ComBio 2016 ($800 in total).

Research and Conference Travel Support

The R.N. Robertson Travel Award ($3,526.70) was awarded to Nicole Dakin in 2015/16 and accrued in the 2016/2017 ASPS budget. A further $1,160.00 was used to underwrite the attendance of students to the annual ASPS dinner during ComBio 2016 in Brisbane.

The Society helps to facilitate scientific meetings that support Australian plant science and its scientists. In 2016/2017, ASPS supported five $400 travel bursaries for PhD students attending the CSIRO initiated 'Developing Crops of the Future Workshop' in Kiama, NSW. ASPS also provided $3,000 in seed funds to the C_4 photosynthesis conference held in Canberra.

ASPS Operating costs

The ASPS website requires continual improvement, data management and web servicing. Over the past two years, most of this was carried out via ad-hoc contract work by our web-site host (Michael Major Media Pty Ltd) and our web-site executive assistant Janet Wheeler. In 2016/2017, ASPS allocated $867.40 for on-going web-site development and modification and and $2,662.50 for database management, especially the membership database. I would like to express particular thanks to Janet Wheeler for prompt updates to the ASPS website and its member database, and who provides rapid responses to enquiries about both.

ASPS representation at government (Science Meets Parliament) events and through global societies (Global Plant Council, FASTS/STA) is important for developing networks and highlighting the importance of the plant science. In 2016/2017, the ASPS allocated $2,942.15 for two attendees (Dr Jay Bose (2016) and Dr Florian Busch (2017)) to travel and participate in the annual Science Meets Parliament festivities in Canberra (note that these costs will appear in the 2017/2018 report). ASPS allocated $1,436.78 and $1,866.60 for membership renewals for the Global Plant Council and FASTS (operating as STA), respectively.

In 2010-2011 funds ($36,327.87) were identified to support the revision and online preparation of Plants in Action version 2, managed through the University of Queensland. The funds reside within ASPS. In 2016/2017, ASPS allocated $5,000 to the University of Queensland for online graphic development. Following a recent additional tranche of $5,000 provided to UQ (see

2017/2018 Treasurer's report), there is currently $3,656.12 remaining in the ASPS, Plants In Action version 2 budget.

The financial transactions have been audited (Clarkson Williams Partners Pty Ltd, Fyshwick, ACT) and the Auditor's report is available for perusal with the financial summary at the AGM. Following the AGM, the Auditor's report and financial summary will be submitted to the Registrar General's Office in the ACT by our Public Officer (Prof. John Evans).

In summary, I am pleased to report that the society's finances remain strong and resilient. The society experienced growth in income relative to expenditure in 2016/2017, mainly due to the current cycle of ComBio returns. Income has been supported by a slight increase in memberships which needs to continue on an annual basis. There is room for improvement in particular facilitating long-term commitments by members to Society activities and ensuring we provide a proactive and engaging society to both new and existing plant scientists and supporters in Australia and overseas.

I would like to thank members of the executive (John Evans and Matt Gilliham), previous Hon. Treasurer Brent Kaiser and president Sergey Shabala for their support and guidance over the last year.

Rosemary G White
Honorary Treasurer ASPS
ComBio 2017 Adelaide

Financial Summary
THE AUSTRALIAN SOCIETY OF PLANT SCIENTISTS INC.
Statement of Receipts and Payments, and Accumulated Funds
Year ended 30 April 2017

Receipts:	**1 May 2016 to 30 April 2017**	1 May 2015 to 30 April 2016	1 May 2014 to 30 April 2015
Bank Interest (Note 1)	$994.16	$1,905.59	$2,582.97
Web Advertising	$728.00	$512.00	$416.00
Membership Subscriptions and Renewals	$18,490.00	$13,654.00	$12,359.15
Goldacre Sponsorship (Functional Plant Biology) (Note 2)	$2,000.00		$2,000.00
Refund from Conference seeding	$2,000.00		$6,166.00
Other receipts			
ComBio Conference receipts (Note 3)	$24,301.70	$4,436.00	$37,288.20
Plants in Action (see also note 11)			$50.00
Total Receipts	**$48,513.86**	$20,507.59	$60,862.32
Payments:			
Annual Dinner (Student Support 2016)		$1,160.00	$891.00
Audit Fees	$660.00	$660.00	
Bank Charges & Adjustments (Note 4)	$524.47	$376.45	$1,461.68
Goldacre Medal (2016)	$250.00	$2,239.50	$2,239.00
JG Wood Lecture (2016)	$850.00		
Website Operating Expenses (Note 5)	$807.40	$2,094.60	$133.95
Executive/Website Assistant (Note 6)	$2,662.50	$4,150.00	
STA Membership (formerly FASTS)	$1,866.60	$1,842.20	$1,805.60
Global Plant Council Membership (Note 7)	$1,436.78	$2,707.41	$1,126.13
Promoting ASPS (5 Student Poster Prizes ComBio 2016)	$1,000.00	$600.00	$600.00
Promoting ASPS (15 Student Travel grants ComBio 2016)	$7,500.00	$7,000.00	$10,745.00
ComBio costs (support for speakers and activities)	$2,365.00	$1,530.45	$3,000.00
RN Robertson Fund Student Travel Awards (Note 8)	$3,526.70		$3,000.00
Promoting ASPS (C4 Photosynthesis meeting, CSIRO Workshop, other) (Note 9)	$5,500.00	$2,000.00	
Registration Science meets Parliament (Note 10)		$3,203.61	$1,805.36
Promoting ASPS (Plants in Action/UQ) (Note 11)	$5,000.00	$2,695.00	
Other charges (ACT Registration) (Note 12)		$75.00	
Total Expenditure	**$33,949.45**	$32,334.22	$26,807.72
SURPLUS (DEFICIT) FOR THE PERIOD	**$14,564.41**	($11,826.63)	$34,054.60

ACCUMULATED FUNDS AT EOFY	**30/4/17**	30/4/16	30/4/15
Commonwealth Bank of Australia	**$143,846.84**	$142,631.72	$140,766.60
RN Roberston Fund (Note 8)	**$87,085.50**	$84,156.84	$80,455.87

The Society does not have any other assets or liabilities as at 30 April 2017

NOTES TO AUDIT CATEGORIES

NOTE 1: Bank interest

Interest on BOS account: note that this has declined steadily from 1.30% on 1 April 2016 to 0.60% since 31 January 2017

NOTE 2: Goldacre Sponsorship (Functional Plant Biology)

Invoice for 2016 Goldacre paid by Functional Plant Biology (CSIRO Publishing)

NOTE 3: ComBio receipts

Combio 2015 (Melbourne); $17,065.16
Combio 2016 (Brisbane); $7,236.54

NOTE 4: Bank charges

These include Bank and eWay charges.

Note 5: Website Operating Expenses

Michael Major, website support, maintenance, programming, web hosting

Note 6: Executive/Website Assistant

Janet Wheeler, website editing and membership database management

Note 7: Membership Global Plant Council

ASPS membership fee for 2017

NOTE 8: RN Robertson Fund

Funds for the RN Robertson Fund sit within the University of Western Australia's bank account, and they are invested within the University's investment portfolio. The ASPS account currently contains a "float" of $31,000 from the RN Robertson Fund. The RN Robertson Fund supports an annual travel fellowship. ASPS has responsibility for selecting recipients and awarding grants from these funds. In 2015/16 a travel grant of S3,526.70 was awarded to Nicole Dakin (University of Western Australia), and in 2016/7, a travel grant of $4,000 was awarded to Jesse Beasley (The University of Melbourne) from the ASPS account float. The latter will appear in the 2017-2018 statement. Note that the interest rate on this account has dropped from 4.6% to 3.48%.

NOTE 9: Promoting ASPS (CSIRO Workshop other)

ASPS provided $3,000 to support the C4 Photosynthesis meeting in Canberra; $2,000 to support a CSIRO workshop "Gene Editing of Crops" in Kiama, NSW; and $500 to the March for Science.

Note 10: Registration Science meets Parliament

Jay Bose (University of Adelaide) was the ASPS representative to SmP in 2016 ($2,127.15), and Florian Busch (Australian National University) was the representative to SmP in 2017 ($815.00). Both costs will appear in the 2017-18 statement.

Note 11: Promoting ASPS (Plants in Action/UQ)

Payments to support Plants in Action Online edition graphic services. In 2010-2011 funds ($36,327.87) were identified to support the revision and online preparation of Plants in Action, managed through the University of Queensland. The funds reside within the ASPS account. There is currently $8,656.12 remaining in this allocation.

Note 12: ASPS Registration in the ACT

ACT Registration must be paid annually, immediately after the AGM in October, in order for ASPS to remain a registered non-profit society. In 2017 this was paid ($78.00) from a personal account, since refunded, and the receipt for this will appear in the 2017-18 statement.