ASPS Treasurer's Report for the Period 1 May 2012 – 30 Apr 2013
Prepared by Helen Irving (ASPS Honorary Treasurer)
Presented at the AGM on Wednesday 2nd October 2013

This will be my last report as treasurer as I am stepping down from this role this year. However, I am pleased to report that the balance of funds within the society is still strong and due to our improved web page we have improved our income from online advertising. This May 2012 / April 2013 audit period the Society had a deficit of $550.10 compared to a deficit of $8,757.60 the year before. There are basically two main sources of income for ASPS, being the ASPS membership subscriptions and a proportion of the profits from each ComBio meeting have been our major sources for a long time. We also obtain some income from our bank interest and advertising.

Income from ComBio is calculated from the number of registrants attending the meeting from each of the participating societies. Our most recent payment was for the 2010 OzBio meeting at Melbourne (about 16% attendees were ASPS members). We are yet to be paid for ComBio2011 (~17% were ASPS members but the profits are likely to be small for that meeting as it was held in Cairns and overall attendance/trade participation was lower) and ComBio2012 held in Adelaide (~20% were ASPS members).

The number of ordinary members has stabilized at a significantly higher number compared to the low point reached in 2006/7. The current total of 398 members comprises 153 ordinary members, 210 student members, 14 retired members, 10 corresponding members, 7 Life members, 2 gratis members and 2 sustaining members (at 3 September 2013). There are about 80 members whose membership lapsed at the end of 2012 that will be followed up with reminder emails in December (along with those whose membership lapses at the end of this year). The ASPS Executive decided in 2010 that retired members of ASPS need not pay a membership fee but we benefit from keeping in touch with our long time members who retire and they may donate to the RN Robertson Fund. The membership fees are at ordinary member 1 year $85.00; 2 years $155.00 and student member 4 years $60.00.

Table 1: ASPS membership in the Ordinary and Student categories over the last eight years.

Category	12/13	11/12	10/11	09/10	08/09	07/08	06/07	05/06
Ordinary	153	212	244	238	283	209	166	184
Student	210	192	164	151	176	151	158	175

The Society recognises the importance of student participation for its long-term wellbeing. Student membership is encouraged through special awards (RN Robertson Fund) and attendance at ComBio is encouraged by subsidising a considerable part of their travel, accommodation, registration costs and the annual dinner ASPS dinner. Last year 13 students received support from ASPS to attend ComBio2012 meeting in Adelaide at a cost of $5,200 (and in 2013 we are supporting 14 students to travel to ComBio). Furthermore, ASPS rewards active participation by students in the ComBio program by recognising outstanding posters and oral presentations with monetary prizes. Last year we provided four poster prizes and one oral prize at ComBio thereby increasing our student prizes by 2 at our annual meeting (and this is continued in 2013).

We use our resources to invest in plant science communication by providing seed money for conferences and in the last year we provided seed money (a second aliquot) to the International Conference of Arabidopsis Research (ICAR2013) to be held in Sydney on 24-

28 June 2013. In some instances this investment returns dividends such as the case with ICAR2013 where we will receive a proportion of the profits but our main goal is to support meetings that highlight plant science and its importance in the global environment.

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*. The total number of sustaining members has dropped and I have had little success at raising it this last year. Functional Plant Biology deserves a special mention because not only is it our longest Sustaining Member but it also instigated the Best Paper Award for student ASPS members and remains the generous benefactor of the Society's prestigious award to young scientists, the Goldacre Medal.

The ASPS website, www.asps.org.au has been updated over the last year or so largely through the efforts of Rob Shepherd (our executive assistant). The new behind scene ease of use will allow it to function well and continue to serve as convenient gateway to pay membership and advertising fees (we have increased the amount of advertising this last year also). The website was designed and is now maintained by Michael Major Media Pty Ltd and I wish to acknowledge the important input of Rob Shepherd into taking care of the process of updating the website to make the behind scenes aspect of it work better.

The financial transactions have been audited 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 by our Public Officer. In summary, I am pleased to report that the Society's finances remain sound. The balance in our accounts was $72,497.05 in the RN Robertson Fund administered by the University of Western Australia at April 30 2013 and as of 30 September 2013, $107,341-45 in our bank accounts. Also $33,000 of the bank account has been earmarked for the Robertson Fund from a decision at the 2009 AGM. A further $21,351.12 was donated by our sponsors for maintenance and production costs associated with the online versions of Plants in Action 1 and 2 and we spent $5000.00 of this during this financial year to support Plants in Action 2. We acknowledge our sponsors: Australian Centre for International Agricultural Research (ACIAR), Australian Centre for Plant Functional Genomics (ACPFG), The University of Western Australia and the University of Western Sydney. It is also important to acknowledge the fantastic efforts of the Plants in Action editorial team for their roles in obtaining this funding, particularly Susanne Schmidt and Rana Munns.

Finally I wish to acknowledge the encouragement and assistance of our former president Ros Gleadow and our current president Tim Colmer who have made my job easier by their tireless efforts for the Society.

Helen Irving
Honorary Treasurer ASPS
ComBio 2013 Perth

Financial Summary
THE AUSTRALIAN SOCIETY OF PLANT SCIENTISTS INC.
Statement of Receipts and Payments, and Accumulated Funds
Year ended 30 April 2013

Receipts:	**1 May 2012 to 30 April 2013**	**1 May 2011 to 30 April 2012**
Bank Interest (**Note 1**)	$3,247.87	$4,613.47
Annual ASPS Dinner	$3,745.00	$0.00
Web Advertising	$2,848.00	$320.00
2nd Edition "Plants in Action" Sponsorship (**Note 2**)	$0.00	$2,128.54
Membership Subscriptions (**Note 3**)	$10,915.00	$10,280.00
Sustaining Membership (**Note 4**)	$300.00	$0.00
Goldacre Sponsorship	$2,000.00	$2,000.00
Robertson Donations	$0.00	$0.00
Refund from Conference seeding (UoA)	$2,500.00	$0.00
Other receipts	$108.38	$0.00
ComBio receipts (**Note 5**)	$11,289.15	$0.00
Robertson Fund for Travel awards	$0.00	$4,400.00
Total Receipts	**$36,953.40**	**$23,742.01**
Payments:	**2012 / 2013 12 months to 30 April 2013**	**2011 / 2012 12 months to 30 April 2012**
Annual Dinner	$4,855.00	$0.00
Audit Fees	$310.00	$310.00
Bank Charges & Adjustments (**Note 6**)	$393.97	$1,248.11
Goldacre Award	$2,239.80	$2,020.00
Website Operating Expenses	$4,029.40	$395.00
Executive/Website Assistant	$4,421.15	$2,242.50
FASTS Membership	$1,700.68	$1,647.00
Membership Global Plant Council (and travel)	$742.50	$0.00
Promoting ASPS (FPB/teaching prize winners) (**Note 7**)	$695.00	$1,350.00
Promoting ASPS (Student Prizes ComBio)	$1,150.00	$900.00
Promoting ASPS (Student Travel ComBio)	$5,200.00	$4,150.00
ComBio costs (support for speakers)	$0.00	$2,000.00
Conference seeding (ICAR2013)	$2,500.00	$2,500.00
IBC2011 Student Travel Awards	$0.00	$9,200.00
Plants in Action (**Note 2**)	$5,000.00	$0.00
RN Robertson Fund Student Travel Awards (**Note 8**)	$3,500.00	$4,400.00
Registration Science meets Parliament	$650.00	$0.00
Other charges	$116.00	$137.00
Total Expenditure	**$37,503.50**	**$32,499.61**
SURPLUS (DEFICIT) FOR THE PERIOD	**-$550.10**	**-$8,757.60**

ACCUMULATED FUNDS AT 30 April 2013	30/04/2013	30/04/2012
Commonwealth Bank of Australia	**$105,406.07**	**$105,956.17**
RN Roberston Fellowship (**Note 8**)	**$72,497.05**	**$68,913.55**

The Society does not have any other assets or liabilities as at 30 April 2013

NOTES TO AUDIT CATEGORIES

NOTE 1: Bank interest
Interest on BOS account

NOTE 2: Sponsorship of Plants in Action
No additional Sponsorship during 2012-2013

NOTE 3: Membership Subscriptions
Total subscriptions will vary from year to year, because of changes in the number of student members and members paying for 1 or 2 years membership.

NOTE 4: Sustaining Membership
ASPS has 2 Sustaining Members.
Functional Plant Biology (CSIRO Publishing) paid 2012
Australian Centre for International Agricultural Research (ACIAR) as part of PiA payment 2010/11

NOTE 5: ComBio Receipts
In 2012/13, we received **OzBio2010** receipts
In 2011/12 we received **no** ComBio receipts

NOTE 6: Bank charges
These include Bank and eWay charges (eWay charges also included a 3 year renewal fee in 2012)

NOTE 7: FPB and teaching prizes
Includes registration at ComBio for the 2012 ASPS teaching award

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.
ASPS has responsibility for selecting recipients and awarding grants from these funds.
In 2012/13, Travel grants were awarded to Heidi Dalton (Monash University) and taken from the the BOS account for the RN Robertson fund (RN Robertson Fund 2 containing $35,000)

To the members, Australian Society of Plant Scientists Incorporated

I have audited the financial statements of the Australian Society of Plant Scientists Incorporated for the year ended 30 April 2013. These consist of Statements of Receipts and Expenditure, Accumulated Funds and Notes to the accounts.

The statements are prepared on cash basis. Thus, the statements record only those transactions that have resulted from receipts or payments of cash.

The audit has been restricted to those items which are recorded in the financial statements. In other words, the audit did not, and could not, examine transactions which were not recorded in the Society's accounting systems.

Audit opinion

Subject to the above, I consider that the financial statements present fairly the results of operations, and the accumulated funds of the Australian Association of Plant Scientists Incorporated for the year ended 30 April 2013.

Russell Hearne FCPA
26 September 2013

Audit opinion – Australian Society of Plant Scientists Inc
Russell Hearne FCPA
58 Tyrrell Circuit Kaleen ACT 2617
hearnerussell@hotmail.com

ACT Government
Justice and Community Safety

ANNUAL RETURN – FORM AR 706

Associations Incorporation Act 1991
Associations Incorporation Regulation 1991

PURPOSE

This form is to be used when an association submits an annual return under the *Associations Incorporation Act 1991* (the Act). You can access the legislation at www.legislation.act.gov.au. You may also obtain further information and forms at www.ors.act.gov.au.

PRIVACY

The Act authorises the Registrar-General to collect the personal information required by this form for the purposes of registering an association under Division 3.1 of the Act. The Registrar-General prevents any unreasonable intrusion into a person's privacy in accordance with the *Privacy Act 1988* (C'wlth). The Registrar-General provides identifiable information to law enforcement organisations and authorised organisations that have legal authority to request information under prescribed circumstances.

CONTACT

Office of Regulatory Services Shopfront
255 Canberra Avenue, Fyshwick ACT 2609

Opening Hours 9:00am to 4:30pm Monday to Friday

General Enquiries (02) 6207 3000

Office of Regulatory Services Postal Address
GPO Box 158, Canberra City ACT 2601

Website www.ors.act.gov.au Email ors.bil@act.gov.au

Fax Number (02) 6207 0424

INSTRUCTIONS FOR COMPLETION

- Complete this form using a black pen only.
- Please print; ensuring writing is clear and legible.
- This office will not accept lodgement of this form if it is not completed in full.
- Payment can be made by cheque, postal order, credit card (visa or mastercard), cash or eftpos. We are unable to accept credit card payment over the phone or provide invoices for later payment. Where a fee is applicable we cannot process a lodgement unless accompanied by payment.
- Please retain your receipt as evidence of payment.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

- The incorporation of an association creates a legal entity, under the management of the committee members. The committee members are held accountable for ensuring that the association operates in compliance with applicable laws including the Act and the *Associations Incorporation Regulation 1991* (the Regulation).
- The public officer is responsible for acting as a point of contact between the association and the community and is expected to be able to represent the association in dealings with the Office of Regulatory Services.
- The Act prohibits any person from serving as a committee member or the public officer if that person is insolvent or bankrupt, unless the ACT Supreme Court grants leave under S 63 of the Act. A search should be conducted of the records held by the Insolvency and Trustee Service Australia (ITSA) before accepting the nomination of a person as a committee member.
- If the association, the public officer or a committee member fails to meet their statutory obligations under the Act (such as failure to lodge annual returns), the Registrar-General may make an application to the ACT Civil and Administrative Tribunal (ACAT) for the disqualification of the office-holder. The disqualification will be for a period the ACAT considers appropriate if satisfied that the extent of noncompliance justifies disqualification.

TRANSLATING AND INTERPRETING SERVICE

If you require further information or require advice, a language assistance service is available by phoning the Translating and Interpreting Service (TIS) on 13 14 50.

Approved Form AF 2012 11 approved by Brett Phillips, Registrar-General on 10 January 2012 under section 126 of the *Associations Incorporation Act 1991* (approved forms) and revokes form AF 2009-290.
Authorised by the ACT Parliamentary Counsel—also accessible at www.legislation.act.gov.au

ACT Government
Justice and Community Safety

ANNUAL RETURN – FORM AR 706

Associations Incorporation Act 1991
Associations Incorporation Regulation 1991

1. ASSOCIATION NAME	ASSOCIATION NUMBER
Incorporated	A0

2. PREFERRED POSTAL ADDRESS OF ASSOCIATION		
	STATE / TERRITORY	**POSTCODE**

3. ADDRESS OF REGISTERED OFFICE OF ASSOCIATION (If any)	OFFICE HOURS	
	FROM:	TO:
	STATE / TERRITORY	***POSTCODE***

4. NAME AND ADDRESS OF CURRENT PUBLIC OFFICER

(The public officer must be an ACT resident aged 18 years or older. If you do not want your residential address on the public record, please list an alternative address in the ACT)

TITLE *(Mr, Ms)*	GIVEN NAMES	SURNAME

HOME ADDRESS *(Property Name, Unit, Flat No, Street Number, Street Name)*		
CITY / SUBURB / TOWN	**STATE / TERRITORY**	**POSTCODE**

HOME TELEPHONE NUMBER	MOBILE TELEPHONE NUMBER
( )	
WORK TELEPHONE NUMBER	**EMAIL ADDRESS**

5. PARTICULARS OF ANNUAL RETURN

(Please attach the financial statements and audit report)

Starting date of association's financial year		Ending date of association's financial Year	
Date audit completed		Date of Annual General Meeting (AGM)	
If the accounts were not presented at the AGM, please specify the date of the general meeting at which the audited accounts were passed			

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6. REGISTER OF MEMBERS

Address in the ACT at which the register of members may be viewed	Number of Current Members	
	STATE / TERRITORY	*POSTCODE*

7. FINANCIAL INFORMATION

Name of Financial Institution	Branch Location

8. CATEGORY OF ASSOCIATION

Please tick if the association's gross receipts exceed $500,000 as such association is 'prescribed' under S.74 of the Act. In this case the auditor must be a registered company auditor under the *Corporations Act 2001. (Commonwealth).*	
Please tick if the association's gross receipts and/or assets exceed $150,000 or the association has more than 1,000 members or has a licence issued under the *ACT Liquor Act 2010*, the association is prescribed under S.74(3) of the Act. The auditor must either be a registered company auditor under the *Corporations Act 2001 (Commonwealth)* or be a current member of the Institute of Chartered Accountants in Australia or the Institute of Public Accountants or CPA Australia. The auditor cannot be • an officer of the association, • a partner, employer or employee of an officer of the association, or • a partner or employee of an employee of an officer of the association.	
Please tick if the above do not apply. The association is not prescribed and the auditor need not hold qualifications. Accounts may be audited by a person who is not an officer/committee member of the association and a person who has not prepared or assisted in the preparation of the accounts.	

9. PARTICULARS OF AUDITOR

TITLE *(Mr, Ms)*	GIVEN NAMES	SURNAME	QUALIFICATIONS OF AUDITOR (If applicable)
Mr	Russell	HEARNE	FCPA

ADDRESS

58 TYRRELL CIRCUIT KALEEN ACT 2617.

10. SIGNATURE OF AUDITOR

(Please provide this only if the auditor has not signed and dated the audit report)

I have audited the attached financial statements of the association. In my opinion:

a) the financial statements of the association are properly drawn up;
   i. so far as to give a true and fair view of the matters required by subsection 72(2) of the Act to be dealt with in the accounts for the financial year reported on;
   ii. in accordance with the provisions of the Act; and
   iii. in accordance with proper accounting standards
b) proper accounting and other records have been kept by the association
c) the audit was conducted in accordance with the rules of the association.

DATE AUDIT COMPLETED	24 Sept 2013.

R Hearne	26 Sept 2013.
Auditor's Signature	Date

11. NAME AND ADDRESS OF EACH CURRENT COMMITTEE MEMBER (The committee listed should be those elected as a result of the AGM. If you do not want your residential address on the public record, please provide an alternative address which can include a PO box. If more than 7 committee members please copy this page)

COMMITTEE POSITION	TITLE *(Mr, Ms)*	GIVEN NAMES	SURNAME
ADDRESS			**DATE OF APPOINTMENT**

COMMITTEE POSITION	TITLE *(Mr, Ms)*	GIVEN NAMES	SURNAME
ADDRESS			**DATE OF APPOINTMENT**

COMMITTEE POSITION	TITLE *(Mr, Ms)*	GIVEN NAMES	SURNAME
ADDRESS			**DATE OF APPOINTMENT**

COMMITTEE POSITION	TITLE *(Mr, Ms)*	GIVEN NAMES	SURNAME
ADDRESS			**DATE OF APPOINTMENT**

COMMITTEE POSITION	TITLE *(Mr, Ms)*	GIVEN NAMES	SURNAME
ADDRESS			**DATE OF APPOINTMENT**

COMMITTEE POSITION	TITLE *(Mr, Ms)*	GIVEN NAMES	SURNAME
ADDRESS			**DATE OF APPOINTMENT**

COMMITTEE POSITION	TITLE *(Mr, Ms)*	GIVEN NAMES	SURNAME
ADDRESS			**DATE OF APPOINTMENT**

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Authorised by the ACT Parliamentary Counsel—also accessible at www.legislation.act.gov.au

12. STATEMENT BY PUBLIC OFFICER AND COMMITTEE

(Must be completed by the public officer and two committee members)

As a current office-bearer of this association, I certify under 79(1)(e) of the Act that the particulars shown on this form are true and correct, and reflect the association's compliance with those provisions of the Act that apply in relation to:

i) the preparation of the annual statement of the association's accounts; and

ii) the auditing of the accounts and the presentation of the audited statement of accounts at the annual general meeting of the association.

Signature	Print name, Position
Signature	Print name, Position
Public Officer Signature	Print name

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