AUSTRALIAN SOCIETY OF PLANT SCIENTISTS

Annual General Meeting
28 September 2011 at 17:45 in Meeting Rm 5
Cairns Convention Centre

Minutes

1. Apologies

Apologies were received from Steve Tyerman, Tim Cavagnaro, Ricarda Jost, Joshua Mylne, Tim Colmer, Ulrike Mathesius, Belinda Medlyn, Christine Beveridge, Susanne Schmidt, Kathy Soole and Jim Reid.
There being 33 in attendance, a quorum was reached.

2. Minutes of last AGM, Sept 30, 2010, Melbourne

Rana Munns moved that the minutes of the 2009 meeting be accepted as a true record of the meeting, seconded by Spencer Whitney. Accepted

3. Business Arising from the Minutes

There was no business arising from the minutes.

4. President's report

Ros Gleadow spoke to her report (see 2011 President's report www.asps.org.au)

5. Treasurer's Report

Helen Irving presented her report (see 2011 Treasurer's report www.asps.org.au)

- The society had a surplus of $20,029.87 for the year 2010/2011, largely associated with donations for Plants in Action 2.
- Membership increased slightly. There are 244 ordinary members, 164 student members, 29 retired members, 10 corresponding members, 2 Honorary members, 6 life members and 2 Gratis members.
- 23 students received grants around $10,000 to attend the International Botanical Congress in Melbourne. 9 students will receive support to attend ComBio in Cairns.

Susanne von Caemmerer moved that the Treasurer's report be accepted, seconded Janet Wheeler. Accepted.

6. Election of officers

Nominations were received for the following positions

ASPS COUNCIL FOR 2010-2011

Council Position	Nominated
President	A/Prof Ros Gleadow

	Monash University, Melbourne
President Elect	A/Prof Tim Colmer University of Western Australia, Perth
Hon Secretary	Dr Christine Beveridge UQ, Brisbane
Hon Treasurer	Dr Helen Irving Monash University, Melbourne

Discipline Representatives:

Genetics & Molecular Biology	Dr Oliver Berkowitz Murdoch, Perth
Cell biology	Dr Zhonghua Chen UWS
Plant-microbe interactions	Dr Uli Mathesius ANU, Canberra
Whole plants	Dr Tim Cavagnaro Monash, Melbourne
Plant development	Prof Jim Reid University of Tasmania, Hobart
Environmental & Ecophysiology, global climate change	Dr Belinda Medlyn Macquarie University, Sydney
Plant Science Education	Dr Kathleen Soole Flinders University
Student representative	Jessica Bovill ACPFG, Adelaide
Public Officer	Dr John Evans, ANU
FASTS Representative and Global Plant Council	Prof Barry Pogson, ANU
Phytogen Editor	Assoc Prof Tina Offler Newcastle University
Functional Plant Biology	Dr Rana Munns, Editor in Chief

The meeting unanimously approved the new Council.

7. Future meeting locations

2012 Adelaide

It is hoped that an Ecofizz satellite meeting can be organised (action B Medlyn, T Cavagnaro)

2013 Perth

2014 Gold Coast? The location of the 'Sydney' meeting is unclear with the high costs of the Darling Harbour venue and its possible redevelopment.

8. Student Travel Grants

Council had discussed the issue of student travel grants and decided in favour of restricting these to support attendance at ComBio. This year, an exception had been made by providing grants

to assist students to attend the International Botanical Congress in Melbourne in lieu of the society sponsoring the IBC and symposium speakers. It was suggested that bringing forward the travel grant application process and announcing the offers early in the year would assist students to leverage financial support from other sources.

The case for whether a student could apply more than once to travel to a ComBio was discussed. The general feeling was that this was acceptable.

Dr Janet Wheeler suggested that instead of attending a ComBio, students could apply for a grant to attend an international conference outside Australia in their specialist area as this would be beneficial towards establishing contacts for future employment. This proposal needs to be considered further by Council.

9. Annual subscriptions

Annual subscriptions for next year were set at $85 for one year or $155 for two years for full members and $60 for four years for students.

This resolution was moved by Narayana Upadhyaya, seconded by David Tissue and unanimously approved.

10. Student Poster Awards

1) Poster #65 Michael van der Kwast 'Bimolecular fluorescent complementation analysis of the plant specific histone deactylase family and its interaction with 14-3-3 proteins in *Arabidopsis thaliana.'*
2) Poster #87 Sandra Schmoeckel 'Regulation of AtHKT1;1 expression, a gene encoding for a sodium transporter in plants.'
3) Poster #82 Jessica Bovill 'Characterisation of the barley V-PPase (HVP10), a candidate gene for salinity tolerance.'

Posters were judged by Zhonghua Chen, Chevaun Smith, Megan Shelden and Brent Kaiser. The winners were congratulated and the judges thanked for their efforts.

11. Phytogen

Tina Offler encouraged people to submit educational material to Phytogen. Links to useful sites, to Plants in Action and teaching materials would help those involved in teaching.

12. Robertson travelling fellowship

Members were reminded that applications for this award could be submitted at any time and appraised when necessary. Please encourage suitable people to consider applying. Tax deductable donations to the fund are welcomed.

13. Science Meets Parliament

As a member of FASTS (now renamed Science and Technology Australia), ASPS can send two members to the annual Science Meets Parliament event that FASTS organise. Traditionally we have covered to costs for one member from ACT and another from elsewhere in Australia. This year, John Rathjen and Prem Bhalla attended. The event introduces you to the life and demands of politicians and the news cycle on the first day with a dinner in the great hall of Parliament House. On the second day, there are visits to politicians and the Press Club. This event is an eye opener and young scientists are encouraged to attend. If you or someone you know is interested in attending, please contact the ASPS secretary.

14. ASPS dinner

The traditional society dinner will be memorable for the 70 people that came. Graham Bonnett chose a Greek tavern and ensured a relaxed atmosphere by arranging for a belly dancer to perform at the start. One by one, she succeeded in dragging many from their seats to try and match her moves or simply shake out the Conference Seat Syndrome. The venue was deafening, so clearly there was no shortage of conversation. The food was delicious and the tables groaned with the quantities. Once again, ASPS members have voted with their feet and seem to prefer this dinner as good value and an excellent way to catch up with colleagues. A vote of thanks was given in appreciation to Graham for single handedly choosing the venue, organising tickets and collecting the money.

The meeting closed at 18.45 pm