AUSTRALIAN SOCIETY OF PLANT SCIENTISTS

Australian Society of Plant Scientists
Annual General Meeting 2012

Wednesday 26 September 1800-1845
Hall D of Adelaide Convention Centre, South Australia.

Apologies
Pre-meeting: Ian Wardlaw, Ricarda Jost, Tim Cavagnaro, Christine Beveridge
At meeting: Matthew Turnbull.

Attendance
Executive: Ros Gleadow, Tim Colmer, Helen Irving, John Evans, Jim Reid serving as alternate for Christine Beveridge as Honorary Secretary.
Members: Milos Tanurdzic, Joanne Ernest, Denise Pernando, Joshua Mylne, Bernie Carroll, Darren Plett, Stuart Roy, Matt Gillman, Helen Bramley, Steve Tyerman, David Day, John Patrick, Tina Offler, Hui-Ming Zhang, Anne Rae, Yong,-Ling, Ruan, James Stangoulis, Hunghua He, Trevor Garnett, Margaret Barbour, Brent Kaiser, Aranti Agarwal, Xavier Sirault, Janet Wheeler, Rana Munns, Hans Lambers, Alexander Johnson, Caitlin Byrt, Rachel Burton.

1. **Confirm minutes from 2011**

Minutes were confirmed as tabled.
John Evans moved for acceptance. Xavier Sirault seconded. Accepted unanimously by members.

2. **President's report**

The President's report was tabled to the meeting by President Gleadow.
President Gleadow described her goals for the Society when she was elected President as improving involvement of the Society in public discourse about science, including involvement in Science Meets Parliament, Fascination of Plants Day, and social media. President Gleadow thanked Tina Offler for her ongoing efforts in compiling Phytogen. President Gleadow began discussing conference attendance, stating that Combio2011 in Cairns 2011 was small whereas the current meeting was well attended. President Gleadow thanked Rachel Burton, Margaret Barber and Kathleen Soole for their roles on the organising committee for Combio2012 in Adelaide. President Gleadow formally congratulated prize-winners at Combio2012, including the RN Robertson Award, Teaching Award, and mentioned that student oral presentation and poster prizes will be awarded at the closing ceremony. The ASPS Teaching Award for 2012 was formally presented to Alex Johnson. President Gleadow also promoted the RN Robertson travelling award for postgraduate students

wishing to travel to another laboratory for research. Rana Munns was invited to speak about progress on the second edition of Plants In Action, and she advised that the foundation chapters (chapters 1-6) are scheduled to be put online by the end of this year, with other chapters to follow as they are written. President Gleadow thanked Functional Plant Biology (FPB) for their ongoing support of ASPS, and mentioned the benefits of the Prometheus Wiki for online protocols. Rana Munns advised that FBP impact factor is now close to 3, and promoted FPB special issues and invites members to submit content and suggestions for special issues. President Gleadow thanks the executive, Helen Irving, Tim Colmer, Christine Beveridge, and John Evans for the activities during the past year, and thanked executive assistant Robert Shepherd for his help. President Gleadow advises that she has been working on improving inclusion of members within the Society, and wants to formalize the roles of discipline reps to ensure continuous engagement of the ASPS council. President Gleadow suggested that the new website will aid this objective of greater engagement, and advised that she had considered a formal ASPS student mentoring program, but has been unable to complete this due to time constraints.
President Gleadow moved for the President's report to be accepted. Jannet Wheeler seconded. Passed by the majority of members.

3. **Treasurer's report**

Financial statements from 2012 and the Treasurer's Report were tabled to the meeting by Treasurer Irving.
Dr Irving discussed membership dues as being the major source of income for the past year, as the Society has not yet received income for OzBio2010 or ComBio2011. The Treasurer advised that the societies finances are sound, but it has spent more than it has received as income in this financial period. Dr Irving advised that large expenditure for this period included IBC student travelling awards where a large number of one-off travelling awards were issued. Rana Munns questioned how much money the Society has in the bank (as that figure was not visible on the projection screen), and Dr Irving advised that as per the tabled documents, the total accrued balance for the society is $105,596, with $68,913 held separately in the RN Robertson Fund. Dr Irving advised that the financial audit for this period was complete. John Evans asked as to whether people are chasing the OzBio2010 and ComBio2011 funds owing to ASPS, and Dr Irving advised that she currently is.
Ros Gleadow moved for acceptance of the Treasurer's Report, John Evans seconded. Accepted by the majority of members.

4. **Election of new Council members**

President Gleadow advised that there are several open positions within the Society Council, including President, Plant-Microbe Interactions Representative, Plant Science Education Representative, and Student Representative. President Gleadow advised that as these various positions, with the exception of the Student

Representative, have received nominations for new Council members. No other nominees were presented by the members, so President Gleadow declared President-Elect Tim Colmer as the new society President, Brett Ferguson as the new Plant-Microbe Interaction Representative, and Gonzalo Estavillo as the new Plant Science Education Representative. President Colmer will seek to fill the Student Representative role following consultation at his home institution as the membership felt it could be useful to have a representative from Western Australia as the next ComBio will be held in Perth.

5. **Set annual subscription charges**

President Gleadow advised that the existing membership prices of $85 per annum or $155 biannually for members, $60 for 4-years for students, and $300 for sustaining members, would all remain unchanged for the coming year.

6. **Relationship of ASPS to other national and international societies**

President Gleadow sought advice from members whether the interaction and financial arrangements between the Society and other institutions, such as Science & Technology Australia and The Global Plant Council, should be questioned or altered to improve outcomes for society members. No opinion was offered by members, and President Gleadow advised that the existing relationships will stand for the coming year.

7. **Launch of new ASPS website**

President Gleadow advised that there was been a project underway to improve the Society website with the aim to make it more current, better integrated with social media, and easier to manage for council members. Robert Shepherd provided a brief demonstration of the beta website as it is currently under-construction. This presentation highlighted features of the website that included a new backed content management system (WordPress) that is more easily updated so as to keep content fresh, user generated event and job ads, links and cross-marketing with social media sites including Facebook and Twitter, dedicated pages to highlight members research and that can be directly edited by discipline representatives, a dedicated student resources page, a dedicated teaching page to provide education resources, online submission for awards, and the alternative format of Phytogen which can now be distributed as both a pdf and also as a blog format. President Gleadow invited comment from Phytogen Editor Tina Offler who advised that her Phytogen Editor's Report was available (see AGM section of website) which includes details of new sections of Phytogen including 'State of Affairs' and 'Recent PhD Graduates' stories. Dr Offler wished to thank all members who have contributed to Phytogen in the past, and encourages further contribution if Phytogen is going to provide a resource for members in the future. Dr Offler advised that she is happy to continue as editor of Phytogen, and President Gleadow formally thanks her on behalf of the society for her

efforts in this important role. Robert Shepherd advised that he will circulate the address of the draft website (asps.michaelmajor.com) for comment from members before the site goes live, and that it should be finalised within a month.

8. **Select venue for AGM 2013**

The location of ComBio2013 will be the Perth Convention Centre from the 29th September to 3rd October 2013. President-Elect Tim Colmer, and Hans Lambers and Martha Ludwig, are representing the ASPS interests on the Organising Committee. The next AGM will be held during ComBio 2013.

9. **Other business**

President Gleadow sought any other business from members, and no other issues were raised. John Evans thanked President Gleadow for her work for the Society. As there was no other business put forward, the meeting was closed at 6:50 pm.