ASPS Treasurer's Report for the Period 1 May 2020 – 30 Apr 2021

Prepared by Mike Haydon (ASPS Honorary Treasurer)

Presented at the AGM on Friday 26 November 2021

BUDGET

The financial position of the Society, for the financial year 1 May 2020 - 30 April 2021, is strong. This is in large part due to the significant income received from the profits of the ASPS conference in 2019 ($55,836.46). In addition, expenditure was relatively low expenditure in this year due to COVID-19, which meant usual contributions to conference operations and student awards were not required. In 2018/2019, this culminated in an end of year operating surplus of $72,830.82. However, $50,000 of the society's funds we moved into the RN Robertson Fund. In this context, the surplus is similar that in 2019/2020 ($13,842.12) and in contrast to deficits of $4,646.34 in 2018/2019 and $15,346.14 in 2017/2018. These differences arise largely from differences in the timing of conference income, which has become increasingly unpredictable since the change in the frequency of ComBio. Indeed, we are currently owed $16,662.26 from ComBio. As of 30 April, 2021 our accumulated funds in the Commonwealth Bank totalled $148,416.54 ($40,443.73 Transaction Account plus $107,972.81 Online Saver Account) and the RN Robertson Fund $149,565.38 (which includes $3,469.08 annual interest). Bank interest from our Commonwealth accounts totalled $138.14. Note that $13,250 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 (ComBio/ASPS); 2) ASPS membership subscriptions and web-based advertising and 3) bank interest and donations. We received $55,836.46.38 in conference proceeds from ASPS 2019 at La Trobe Uni. We are still owed $8,182.26 profits from ComBio 2018 (Sydney) which has been retained as seed funding for Combio 2022 (ComBio 2020 was postponed due to COVID) and have made an additional seed funding contribution of $8,480.

We received $13,560.00 in in membership subscriptions and renewals, compared to $13,210.00 in 2018/2019. Our membership status has been boosted by ASPS 2021, but this happened after the financial reporting period so is not reflected in this financial report:

Category	20/21*	19/20	18/19	17/18	16/17	15/16	14/15	13/14	12/13	11/12	10/11	09/10
Ordinary	142	96	127	132	127	237	107	101	153	212	244	238
Student	171	84	118	201	224	292	345	229	210	192	164	151
Retired	15	40	7	31	31	35	36	28	14	14		
Corresponding	12	12	12	13	12	12	6	10	10			
Life	7	8	7	6	6	6	7	7	7			
Gratis	3	3	4	2	2	0	1	1	2			
Sustaining	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	2			
Total (financial)	313	182	275	385	402	582	502	316	318	418	408	389

* November 2021

The current membership fees are ordinary member: 1 year $100.00; 2 years $180.00; 4 years $340.00; student member: 2 years $50.00; sustaining member $300.00.

EXPENDITURE

Expenditure was relatively low in 2020/2021 because many of the Society's usual activities were discrupted by COVID-19. For example, there was no conference in 2020 and our award lectures were hosted as an online *Plantae* webinar.

ComBio 2022

Combio 2020 (Melbourne) was postponed until 2022. ASPS provided $8,480 in seed funding because this will be our official annual meeting in 2022.

Research and Conference Travel Support

The R.N. Robertson Travelling Fellowship was awarded to Xiaoyang Wei (Newcastle) in 2021 but the award was delayed and payment fell outside of the reporting period for this financial year. The transfer of $50,000 into the RN Robertson Fund will permit up to $7,000 to be awarded each year from 2022.

ASPS supports the attendance of two society members each year at Science meets Parliament. The 2021 conference was online. The society paid for registration for Diana Ramirez (ANU) and Joseph Pegler (Newcastle) ($700.00).

Society Awards

The Goldacre Award is sponsored by CSIRO Publishing ($2,000) but the cost of the medal ($394.54) is paid by the Society. The Jan Anderson Award was part-sponsored by CSIRO Agriculture and Food ($1,000) but the other half was paid by the Society ($1,000) in 2020/2021.

ASPS Operating costs

The ASPS website requires continual data management and web servicing. Our website is hosted and maintained by Conetix ($420.00). No other costs were incurred in this financial reporting period.

ASPS is a member of Science and Technology Australia (STA) which runs Science Meets Parliament and the Global Plant Council (GPC). These memberships are important for developing networks and highlighting the importance of the plant science in Australia and internationally. We paid $1795.15 to STA in 2020/2021.

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, the society's finances are in good health. The society has generated a surplus in 2020/2021. This will ensure we can support our activities in 2022, which will include providing student travel awards for two conferences (ComBio in Melbourne, IPMB in Cairns).

Mike Haydon
Honorary Treasurer ASPS
ASPS AGM 2020

For discussion at the ASPS AGM.

1. RN Robertson Fund
2. Membership levels