ASPS Treasurer's Report for the Period 1 May 2025 – 30 Apr 2026

Prepared by Joseph Pegler (ASPS Honorary Treasurer, University of Newcastle)
Presented at the AGM on Wednesday 30 September 2026, at ComBio, Sydney

Thank you to outgoing ASPS Honorary Treasurer (2023 – 2025), Dr Mark Waters

I would like to extend my sincere thanks to Dr Mark Waters for his outstanding service as ASPS Honorary Treasurer from 2023 to 2025. During his tenure, Mark helped maintain the Society's strong financial position and provided invaluable stewardship of its finances. I am also extremely grateful for his continued support and guidance during the transition to my appointment as Honorary Treasurer in January 2026. His generosity with his time, knowledge, and advice has made the handover much smoother.

Balances

I am pleased to report that the Australian Society of Plant Scientists (ASPS) remains in a strong financial position. Total society assets increased from $404,822 in 2024/2025 to $414,719 in 2025/2026, reflecting continued financial stability despite normal year-to-year fluctuations associated with conference activities. At the end of the reporting period, ASPS held $211,991 in cash reserves and $198,281 in the RN Robertson Fund, bringing total assets to $414,719. At the commencement of my tenure, I have placed $150,000 of cash reserves into a CBA Business Investment Account earning 4.55% interest, substantially improving returns on Society funds which were previously attracting 0.30% interest.

Income

Total income for 2025/2026 was $75,765, comprising conference income ($36,824), membership subscriptions ($17,040), investment and interest returns (largely associated with the RN Robertson Fund, $17,693), and other income including sponsorships ($4,208). Membership income increased substantially compared with the previous year, reflecting continued engagement with the Society and growth in membership. The launch of the new ASPS website in the coming month is expected to further support membership growth and enhance engagement with the Society.

Expenditure

Total expenditure for the year was $65,917, resulting in a net surplus of $9,897. Major expenditures included student travel support, conference-related activities, website development, Society memberships, and Science Meets Parliament participation. The Society provided 43 ASPS/ComBio Travel Awards totalling $18,723, two Carers' Support Awards totalling $1,948, and continued support for RN Robertson Travel Awards and other Society prizes. Website and administrative costs were elevated during the year due to investment in redevelopment of the ASPS website.

Audit

The financial transactions have been audited (Aaron Turner) and the Auditor's report is available with the financial summary. As of 2024, Incorporated Associations are no longer required to lodge an annual return with Access Canberra, but must keep audited statement of accounts for at least seven financial years and provide them if requested.

Membership

A summary of our current membership is provided in the table below. Membership numbers are growing, with student membership remaining particularly strong, providing confidence in the Society's future sustainability and impact.

Category	16/17	17/18	18/19	19/20	20/21	2021/22	22/23	2023/24	2024/25	2025/26
Ordinary	127	132	127	96	142	151	167	121	119	158
Student	224	201	118	84	171	193	173	192	158	180
Retired	*31*	*31*	*7*	*40*	*15*	*11*	*26*	*19*	*13*	13
Corresponding	*12*	*13*	*12*	*12*	*12*	*12*	*24*	*19*	*18*	22
Life	*6*	*6*	*7*	*8*	*7*	*15*	*17*	*14*	*15*	19
Honorary	*2*	*2*	*4*	*3*	*3*	*1*	*5*	*3*	*2*	2
Sustaining	*0*	*0*	*0*	*2*	*0*	*0*	*0*	*1*	*0*	0

Summary

ASPS continues to return the benefits of its strong financial position directly to members through support for student travel, carers' support, professional development opportunities, and other initiatives that promote plant science within Australia. Overall, ASPS remains financially secure and well positioned to continue supporting its members and advancing plant science.

All the best,



Joseph L. Pegler

Australian Society of Plant Scientists Honorary Treasurer