

NZMS Annual Report, 2006

Meetings of the Society

The 51st Annual Meeting of the Society was held at Waikato University, Hamilton from 21.-24. November, 2006. The meeting convenors were Hugh Morgan and Ian McDonald.

36 members attended the 51st AGM of the Society, which was held on 23. November, 2006 at 17:00 in Lecture Theatre S.1.04, Waikato University, Hamilton, and closed at 18:10. The executive Committee met during the lunch break of the same day.

Executive Committee

The 2006 Executive Committee of NZMS comprised the following members:

Susan Turner, Auckland (President)

Phil Bremer, Dunedin (Vice-President)

Ralph Jack, Dunedin (Secretary)

Robin Simmonds, Dunedin (Treasurer)

Greg Cook, Dunedin (Newsletter Editor)

Chris Sissons, Wellington (Committee Member)

Steve Flint, Palmerston North (Committee Member)

Adrian Cookson, Palmerston North (Committee Member)

Membership

As at 31. December, 2006 the society comprised 329 ordinary members, 86 student members, 7 retired members and 10 honorary members, making a total membership of 432.

Finance

The 2006 balance sheet will be presented at the 52nd annual general meeting, to be held during the 52nd annual meeting of the society, Victoria University of Wellington (27.-30. November, 2007). The audited financial statement is also printed in the current issue of *NZ Bioscience*.

Overseas Visitors

Guest speakers for the 51st annual meeting of the society sponsored either fully or in part by NZMS included:

Dr. Didier Mazel, *Bacterial Genome Plasticity Unit, Pasteur Institute, France*

Prof. Alison Murray, *Desert Research Institute, University of Nevada, USA*

Prof. Peter Schoenheit, *Institute of General Microbiology, Kiel University, Germany*

Dr. Fiona Thomson-Carter, *Environmental Health, ESR, Wellington*

Prof. Don Cowan, *Department of Biotechnology and Advanced Research Centre for Applied Microbiology, University of Western Cape, South Africa*

Prof. Etana Padan, *Institute of Life Sciences, Hebrew University of Jerusalem, Israel*

Prizes and Awards

Student presentation awards at the 51st annual meeting were made to Jonathan Gauntlett (Otago University) and Shona Pryor (Waikato University), whilst poster prizes were awarded to Jeremy Owen (Victoria University of Wellington) and Sarah Addisson (SCION, Rotorua).

Grants-In-Aid

The costs of attending the annual meeting for a number of students were offset by the award of grants-in-aid; the total value of awards was \$5 400. These awards aided all nine student members from across the country that applied to attend the 51st annual meeting.

NZMS Orator

The NZMS Distinguished Speaker for the 51st annual meeting was Prof. Richard Bellamy from the School of Biological Sciences, University of Auckland. The society honoured the orator with the traditional framed award.

Magazine and Other Publications

Four issues of *NZ Bioscience* were published in 2006, in April, June, August and November; these appeared as volume 15, issues 1-4. No other significant publications from the society were brought to the attention of the executive.

Website

The 'new', upgraded website (<http://www.nzms.org.nz>), originally launched in mid 2005, has been running successfully for some two years. The movement of the hosting service for the NZMS webpages to the RSNZ server has proved both fiscally and practically very worthwhile and has allowed the standard of the website to considerably improve. Although still a work in progress, parts of the website have proved particularly useful, for example considerable information regarding positions and scholarship in microbiology has been advertised on the site. Analysis of the tracking details for the site show that a considerable number of views come from overseas, indicating that there is international interest in the activities of our society; the main pages visited appeared to be the jobs/scholarships pages and other general information pages. There are pages available to each of the SIG, however it is noteworthy that very few SIG have advertised their activities *via* the website. Similarly, the pages designed for the use of students have been only minimally utilised.

Ralph W. Jack
Secretary
30. August, 2007