

## **Minutes of the 51<sup>st</sup> Annual General Meeting New Zealand Microbiological Society (Inc.)**

[Held at the University of Waikato, Hamilton, 23. November, 2006]

Meeting opened: 17:00

**President:** Susan Turner  
**Vice-president:** Phil Bremer  
**Secretary:** Ralph Jack  
**Treasurer:** Robin Simmonds (absent, represented by Phil Bremer)

36 members also indicated their presence

### **Apologies:**

John Brooks, Judy Obrien, Diana Martin, Geoffrey Tompkins, Iain Lamont, Robin Simmonds, Ian McDonald

### **Minutes of the 50<sup>th</sup> AGM:**

The minutes of the 50<sup>th</sup> AGM, held during the 50<sup>th</sup> annual meeting, Otago University, November, 2005 were published in *NZ Biosciences*.

*Motion:* to accept the minutes as a true and accurate record

Jackie Aislabie  
Chris Sissons

**Carried** (unanimous)

### **Amendments to the Constitution:**

Suggested amendments to the constitution were previously published in *NZ Bioscience* and primarily concerned (briefly):

1. Increasing the length of tenure for the president from two to three years
2. Gender neutralization of the wording of the constitution
3. Permitting other forms of communication with the membership, *e.g.* email

*Motion:* to accept the proposed changes to the constitution

Andrew Hudson  
Hugh Morgan

**Carried** (unanimous)

### **Correspondence:**

Nil

### **Treasurers Report:**

In the absence of the treasurer, Phil Bremer stood in and summarised the content of the treasurer's report. The audited statement of financial record of the society was previously published in *NZ Bioscience*.

*Motion:* to accept the treasurer's report and audited financial statement

Phil Bremer  
Greg Cook

**Carried** (unanimous)

### **Newsletter Editors Report:**

Newsletter editor – Greg Cook

Greg reported that the new subcommittee system of associate editors was working well. He also thanked Christine Fenton, convenor of the Education SIG for her reports on activities and noted that some reports from other SIG had also been forthcoming. It was reiterated that students winning prizes for presentations at the annual meeting were expected to provide an article about their presentation/research for inclusion in *NZ Bioscience*. It was also suggested that it would be useful if the Distinguished Speaker could provide an article for *NZ Bioscience* based on their oratory. Finally, it was agreed that the members of the subcommittee should be named (with email addresses) on the website to bring attention to their role and to promote communication of items of interest for the magazine.

### **Reports from Delegates to International Conferences:**

Nil

### **Reports from Special Interest Groups (SIG):**

Nil

Christine Fenton (Education) indicated that a report would follow by email. Justin O'Sullivan (Eukaryotic Microbiology) drew attention to the report already published in *NZ Bioscience*.

### **Forthcoming Meetings:**

Chris Sissons reported that the 2007 annual meeting will be held in Wellington, and that planning was underway. The meeting is to be combined with the New Zealand Society for Biochemistry and Molecular Biology (NZSBMB) and would take place on the Victoria University Campus, probably from 20. -23. November 2007. Chris also noted that it would be likely to coincide with the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Department of Biochemistry at the Victoria University of Wellington.

There was also a discussion of the venue for the 2008 annual meeting. It was noted by the president that there was an invitation to hold a joint meeting together with the Australian Society for Microbiology (ASM) in Melbourne, for which planning was well under way by the Australian Society. However, Sue also summarised the perceived downside to holding such a joint meeting, namely:

1. timing - the meeting would be mid-semester (June/July) when many of us have teaching commitments that prevent attendance,
2. different financial imperatives – the Australian Society is dependent on generating a significant profit in order to fund its other activities, whilst our society is more interested in helping members to attend by attenuating costs wherever possible and
3. NZMS would have little to no control over the program content as the planning for the conference was already well under way.

It was also reported back from the executive meeting held earlier in the day that the recommendation of the executive was that the NZMS annual meeting should be held in NZ every year as this represented the interests of NZMS members to the greatest extent.

*Simon Swift:* Joint meetings with ASM may offer the opportunity to participate in a larger and potentially 'better' conference, particularly for those looking for a meeting with a stronger medical 'flavour'. Such meetings may also attract more/higher quality international speakers.

*Sue Turner:* it might be possible to offer some members scholarships to travel to a joint meeting with ASM or that it might also be conceivable to organise 1-2 day SIG seminars as an alternative to joint meetings in order to maintain ties with ASM.

*Hugh Morgan:* questioned the possibility of obtaining reciprocal member rates in order to mitigate some of the cost in attending each others conferences.

*David Ackerley:* suggested that any scholarships that NZMS offered should be reserved for students as this was one of the objectives in promoting microbiology.

*Greg Cook:* questioned whether we as a society were heading down a road of losing ties with the ASM as we are moving away from the primary means of contact, namely joint meetings.

*Sue Turner:* pointed out that joint meetings do get considerably better trade support.

*Jackie Aislabie:* felt that joint meetings effectively have to be held either in Australia or Auckland, because of the financial imperatives dictated by the ASM need to generate income.

An alternative of holding a meeting in Christchurch in 2008 was further discussed with Andrew Hudson volunteering to act as convenor of organisers. It was also mentioned that Combio would be held in Christchurch in 2009, but most felt it would not be advantageous to join this meeting. The executive undertook to solicit further feedback regarding Combio through *NZ Bioscience*.

*Motion:* Decline the invitation for a joint NZMS/ASM meeting in Melbourne in 2008 and discuss other options

Sue Turner  
Phil Bremer

**Carried** (unanimous)

**Election of Officers:**

*Immediate past president:* Susan Turner

*Secretary:* no nominations, position retained (Ralph Jack)

*Treasurer:* no nominations, position retained (Robin Simmonds)

*Newsletter Editor:* no nominations, position retained (Greg Cook)

*President:* Phil Bremer

Greg Cook  
Adrian Cookson

**Elected unopposed**

*Vice-president:* Adrian Cookson

Not recorded  
Not recorded

**Elected unopposed**

*Committee Member:* Stephen on

Not recorded  
Not recorded

**Elected unopposed**

*Student committee member:* Brent Seale

Steve Flint  
Phil Bremer

**Elected unopposed**

**General Business:**

**Website:** Ralph made a plea for information to continue improving the website and raised the possibility to use the student pages for links to people attending overseas conferences, for example for people looking to share rooms or to reduce costs of attendance in other ways.

**SIG:** there was a general feeling that the SIG need reinvigorating. For example it would be useful if the SIG could contribute to the speaker selection for the annual meeting. It was pointed out that there are funds available to support SIG activities. The executive will discuss this issue further and move to suggest ways in which SIG activities might be promoted – the discussion will be moved through *NZ Bioscience*. It was also pointed out that the website is a powerful tool to coordinate and promote SIG activities and Ralph indicated his willingness to assist in this aspect.

**Other:** Phil Bremer moved to thank the outgoing president Sue Turner for her excellent service to the Society for which she received the ovation of those present.

Meeting closed: 18:10

Ralph Jack  
Secretary  
30. August, 2007