

Minutes of the 53rd Annual General Meeting of the New Zealand Microbiological Society Inc.

[Held at Canterbury University, 21st November 2008]

Meeting opened: 13:00

President: Phil Bremer
Vice President: Adrian Cookson
Secretary: Phil Bremer acting for Ralph Jack
Treasurer: Robin Simmonds

33 members indicated their attendance.

Apologies:

Justin O'Sullivan, Greg Cook, Ralph Jack, Hugh Morgan, Sue Turner, Lisa Wong

Minutes of the Previous Meeting:

The minutes of the 52nd Annual General Meeting were published in NZ Biosciences and the NZMS Website in advance of the AGM.

Motion: That the published minutes be accepted as a true and accurate record of the previous AGM.

Moved: Phil Bremer, Adrian Cookson, Carried

Annual Report

The Annual Report for 2007 was placed on the NZMS Website in advance of the AGM.

Phil Bremer highlighted that we had a total membership of 443 comprised of 342 ordinary members, 84 student members, 7 retired and 10 honorary members. He also noted that not all of the \$ 5,550 allocated to students as grants in aid for the 2007 was claimed.

Treasurers Report:

Robin Simmonds presented the audited statement of accounts.

Chris Sissons question the low value for depreciation on the laptop and Robin Simmonds explained that the laptop was purchased late in 2007.

Motion: that the treasurers' report and audited statement of accounts be accepted.

Moved: Phil Bremer, Graham Fletcher, Carried

Newsletter Editors Report:

Phil Bremer presented this report on behalf of Greg Cook who was unable to attend. In his report, Greg stated that he was happy to stay on as newsletter editor and that he was as

usual finding it difficult to obtain materials to forward to the NZBiosciences editor.

Iain Lamont suggested it would be useful if all students winning a prize at the conference were required to contribute an article based on their work for NZ Bioscience and the Orator might also be expected to provide an article. Phil Bremer commented that we currently have a policy expecting this but it is difficult to enforce especially if the students leave NZ.

Several people mentioned that they do not receive a copy of NZBiosciences while others said that they receive 2 copies.

Christine Fenton mentioned that the material she submits does not always get published in a timely manner.

SIG Reports:

Education: report tabled by convener Christine Fenton.

Christine highlighted the following

The SIG would like to run a "Hands on Workshop" for teachers at the 2010 conference

A draft of a booklet to correct errors in what NCEA student are taught regarding microbiology has been produced and reviewers are required. Iain Lamont, Gillian Lewis and Wendy Williamson volunteered to help.

Quotes to fund publication of the booklet to be obtained and a request will be submitted to the NZMS Executive.

After discussion Andrew Hudson voiced the meetings consensus that those present would be comfortable with supporting the publication of the booklets as long as their cost did not exceed \$2000. Phil Bremer stated that a motion was not required the Executive can decide on funding once a quote has been obtained.

Iain Lamont suggested that the Mike Baxter fund could be used to support the Education SIG as the goal of the Mike Baxter Fund was to promote microbiology to secondary school pupils. It was agreed that in 2009 he treasurer would look into this.

Phil Bremer thanked Christine for her efforts on behalf of the Education SIG.

Eukaryotic: Phil Bremer presented a verbal report on behalf of Justin O'Sullivan. Justin indicated that he was keen to continue as the SIG conveners and that the SIG was planning to hold a workshop at the 2010 conference.

No other SIG reports were presented

Reports from Delegates

Iain Lamont: American Society for Microbiology. Iain presented a verbal report on his role as NZ Liaison to Julian Rood the Australia/New Zealand/Oceania Ambassador to ASM. Booklets explaining the function of ASM and the benefits of membership are available and were distributed. International Society of Microbiology IUMS. The next IUMS congress will be in Sapporo, Japan in 2011

Report on 2009 Meeting

Andrew Hudson the NZMS delegate to Combio08 stated that conference planning was going well. The conference will be held at the Convention Centre in Christchurch from the 6th – 10th. December.

Election of Officers

The following were elected un-opposed

President: Phil Bremer

Vice President: Adrian Cookson

Secretary: Ralph Jack

Treasurer: Richard Muirhead (nominated by Phil Bremer, Robin Simmonds)

Committee: Stephen On

Chris Sissons

Steve Flint

Murray Taylor (nominated by Gillian Lewis, John Brooks)

Student Rep: Vacant

Phil Bremer thanked the retiring Treasurer, Robin Simmonds and the retiring student representative, Brent Seale for their valuable contribution to the NZMS over the last few years.

Honorary Membership:

Phil Bremer presented a nomination from Ralph Jack that Professor John Tagg be granted the award of Honorary Membership.

The nomination stated that John has made an outstanding contribution to Microbiology in this country as an academic researcher and teacher. He has also had many years of involvement in Hands-on-Science. Within NZMS, John was an officer of the society for a number of years serving as annual conference organiser, treasurer, newsletter editor and president and, more recently, taking a leading role in documenting the history of NZMS and microbiology in this country. In addition, he has been instrumental in the success of the biotech start-up BLIS Technologies, the company he co-founded in 2000.

Moved: Phil Bremer, Iain Lamont, Carried

General Business

Phil Bremer described how the process of awarding Honorary Membership involves a nomination to the NZMS Executive. The Executive then decides whether or not to put the nominee forward to the AGM for the general membership to approve. Phil was of the opinion that this was an awkward arrangement especially if the person being nominated was attending the AGM. After much discussion the consensus of the members present was that the status quo should be kept.

Richard Muirhead suggested that the treasurer be given the option of either accepting the current Honourium of \$1250 directly or as a reimbursement of costs associated with attending the NZMS AGM. After discussion from the floor the following motion was put

forward.

Motion: That the treasurer of the NZMS has the choice of receiving \$1250 from the society as either a honourium or as reimbursement of costs associated with attending a conference.

Moved: Richard Muirhead, Phil Bremer, Carried

Phil Bremer discussed the important role the NZMS student representative plays in the society, particularly in helping to organize student events at the conference. Given the importance of the student representative attending the annual meeting the following motion was tabled.

Motion: The NZMS covers the registration costs for the NZMS Annual Meeting for the NZMS Student Representative.

Moved: Phil Bremer, Chris Sissons, Carried

Given the passing of the above motion Phil Bremer moved:

Motion: That the NZMS cover the registration cost of Brent Seale the current student representative for the NZMS annual meeting in 2008.

Moved: Phil Bremer, John Tagg, Carried

SIGs: Due to a lack of interest the following SIGs were disestablished:

Medical Microbiology and Infectious Disease

Immunology and Serology

Industrial Microbiology and Biotechnology

Microbial Ecology

Microbial Systematics

Molecular Microbiology

Plant-Microbe Interactions

Virology

Any of these may be resurrected in the future, or new SIGs created, if there is enthusiasm from a significant number of members and a suitable convenor.

The following SIGs were continued with conveners appointed for a two-year term

Food Microbiology, water- and Food-Borne Disease: Lynn McIntyre

Eukaryotic Microbiology: Justin O'Sullivan

Molecular Microbiology: Iain Lamont (on behalf of SIG convenor Jack Heinemann) said he will circulate an email amongst members to determine if there is enthusiasm for continuing this SIG.

Richard Muirhead thanked the society for support Richard Kay to attend the conference. He mentioned that it was money well spent as a Professor's Kay attendance attracted a number of delegates to the conference.

Meeting closed 2.08 pm

Phil Bremer