

# Minutes of the 54<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting of the New Zealand Microbiological Society Inc.

[Held at the Christchurch Convention Centre, 9<sup>th</sup> December 2009]

*Meeting opened: 5 pm*

**President:** Phil Bremer  
**Vice President:** Adrian Cookson  
**Secretary:** Phil Bremer acting for Ralph Jack  
**Treasurer:** Richard Muirhead

24 members indicated their attendance.

## **Apologies:**

Greg Cook, Ralph Jack, Mike Taylor, Christine Fenton, Lynn McIntrye, Chris Sissons

## **Minutes of the Previous Meeting:**

The minutes of the 53<sup>rd</sup> Annual General Meeting were published in NZ Biosciences (Vo 18 No 3, September 2009) 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, Richard Muirhead, Carried

## **Annual Report**

The Annual Report for 2008 was published in NZ Biosciences (Vo 18 No 3, September 2009) and the NZMS Website in advance of the AGM.

## **Treasurers Report:**

Richard Muirhead presented the audited statement of accounts.

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

Moved: Richard Muirhead, Adrian Cookson, 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.

Phil Bremer proposed a vote of thanks to Greg for his continued efforts.

## **SIG Reports:**

**Education:** report prepared by convener Christine Fenton. Presented by Phil Bremer

In her report Christine expressed her frustration at the conflicting and confusing information that schools were provided with concerning the H1N1 pandemic. This confusion further highlighted the lack of basic microbiology knowledge in the school community.

On a more positive front the NZMS booklet on microbiology for schools has almost been completed.

Zoe Jordens commented on the increased demand for lab sessions as part of visits to Massey by year 10 high school students, for which they use a lab based on the Microbial World paper, and suggested the possibility of using the NZMS Education SIG as a forum to exchange active learning experiences & ideas.

**Eukaryotic:** Convenor: Justin O'Sullivan.

The Eukaryotic SIG is organising a conference in Auckland with a preliminary title of "New directions in yeast and fungal cell biology" to run Nov 29<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup> before the main NZMS meeting in Auckland 2010.

**Food Microbiology, Water and Foodborne Diseases:** Convenor Lynn McIntyre. Verbal report presented by Andrew Hudson.

In 2009 Lynn sent regular email updates to members of the SIG. These included forwarding the International Association for Food Protection Affiliate View Newsletter and IAFP Reports.

Andrew mentioned that the SIG was keen to organize seminars for overseas experts visiting NZ. If NZMS members were aware of researchers visiting NZ please contact Lynn and she will try to find funding to enable to give seminars at several locations around NZ.

**Molecular Microbiology:** Convenor Iain Lamont.

Iain emailed members in 2009 and there appears to be interest in re-establishing this SIG. Iain kindly agreed to continue to work to get the SIG up and running.

Phil Bremer thanked the four SIG leaders for their efforts in 2009.

## **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. Iain commented that one of his roles was to help facilitate NZMS delegates to attend the ASM meetings.

Iain stated that the Australian Society for Microbiology sponsor a student to attend the ASM conference and suggested that the incoming NZMS Executive look at a similar undertaking.

## **Report on 2010 Meeting**

John Brooks presented a brief report on the Planning for the 2010 conference on behalf of the conference committee. The conference will be held from 30 November - 3 December 2010 in Owen Glenn Building, University of Auckland Business School. Planning for the conference is well underway, some speakers had been contacted and a website established.

## **Election of Officers**

The following were elected un-opposed

**President:** Adrian Cookson (Nominated by Phil Bremer, Richard Muirhead)

**Immediate Past President:** Phil Bremer

**Vice President:** Steve Flint (Nominated Adrian Cookson, Phil Bremer)

**Secretary:** Ralph Jack

**Treasurer:** Richard Muirhead

**Committee:** Stephen On  
Maureen O'Callaghan (nominated by Adrian Cookson, Richard Muirhead)  
Murray Taylor

**Student Rep:** Raphael Aggio (nominated by Mike Taylor, Seconded by Silas Villas-Boas)

Phil Bremer thanked Chris Sisson for his valuable contributions to the NZMS over many years, particularly the major role he played in the organisation of many great conferences in Wellington.

## **General Business**

Special Meetings: Phil Bremer outlined how the NZMS Executive has allocated funds that SIG's can access to facilitate the holding of workshops or meetings.

Workshops Organised for 2010

The Microbial Ecology SIG has organised 1-day seminar for Friday 12<sup>th</sup> February at the University of Auckland. Convenors: Matthew Stott (GNS Science, Wairakei), Mike Taylor (Biological Sciences, University of Auckland).

The "New directions in yeast and fungal cell biology" organised by the Eukaryotic SIG as discussed above.

Adrian Cookson thanked Phil Bremer for his role of President over the last 3 years.

Meeting closed 6.05 pm

Phil Bremer