

Minutes of the 55th Annual General Meeting of the New Zealand Microbiological Society, Inc.

Meeting held during NZMS2010 'small things, BIG ideas' Auckland University, 02. December 2010

Meeting opened: 13:30

1. **Present** | 35 members indicated their attendance by signing in. In addition, the following officers were in attendance to facilitate the meeting:

President:	Adrian Cookson
Vice President:	Steve Flint
Secretary:	Ralph Jack
Treasurer:	Richard Muirhead

2. **Apologies** | None were proffered.

3. **Minutes of the Previous Meeting** | The minutes of the 54th Annual General Meeting were published in NZ Biosciences and on 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

Seconded: Iain Lamont

carried unanimously

Matters arising from the previous meetings minutes: Nil

4. **Correspondence Received** | Two requests have been received requesting that NZMS consider (cost-free) affiliation to international societies: (i) systematic of prokaryotes and (ii) society for chemotherapy.

Matters arising from the correspondence received: Stephen ON pointed out that at least the society for systematic of prokaryotes has its meeting as part of the IUMS meeting, this year in Saporro and that the society has a wide range of members involved in all areas of prokaryote study.

Motion: that the society take advantage of the offers and affiliate.

Moved: Stephen On

Seconded: Maureen O'Callaghan

carried unanimously

5. Presidents Report | The Presidents Report for 2009-10 was published in NZ Biosciences and on the NZMS Website in advance of the AGM.

Matters arising from the presidents report: Adrian pointed out the need for students to join NZMS in advance if they wished to receive funding to attend the annual meeting. On questioning regarding the pre-requisites for grants-in-aid, Adrian pointed out that if students were members for 6 months, and applied for support this was generally successful. Stephen ON mentioned that many other societies require at least one year membership prior to application for support and that our pre-requisite of 6 months was therefore generous. Gillian Lewis supported this view and suggested it should be an aim of the society to support those that wish to be members and participate in the society.

6. Annual Report of the Society | The Annual Report for 2009 was published in NZ Biosciences and on the NZMS Website in advance of the AGM.

Matters arising from the annual report: Nil

7. Treasurers Report (Financial Statement) | The Treasurers report for 2009 was published in NZ Biosciences and on the NZMS Website in advance of the AGM. The treasurer, Richard Muirhead, presented the audited statement of accounts. Points noted were that subscriptions were down by 50% for the previous financial year. Moreover, interest rates and hence investment returns were also down due to the financial crisis and recession. On a brighter note it was advised that the previous years conference had posted a \$12 000 surplus and that the society currently had a total surplus of about \$178 000.

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

Moved: Andrew Hudson

Seconded: Gillian Lewis

carried unanimously

Matters arising from the annual report: Nil

8. Newsletter Editors Report | The Newsletter Editors report for 2009-10 was published in NZ Biosciences and on the NZMS Website in advance of the AGM. Greg Cook spoke to the report and indicated that the NZSBMB, the other society involved in the newsletter together with NZMS had essentially contributed nothing in the last five years to its production. It was his feeling that, although the newsletter costs the society nothing, it had limited future and probably was being overtaken by the website. Greg also indicated that he was resigning after 10 years in the post and was warmly applauded for his past efforts as a vote of thanks.

Matters arising from the annual report: Nil

9. Webmasters Report | The webmasters report for 2009-10 was published in NZ Biosciences and on the NZMS Website in advance of the AGM.

Matters arising from the webmasters report: Nil

10. Reports from Convenors of Special Interest Groups |

Microbial Ecology: Mike Taylor reported that the SIG had hosted a meeting earlier in the year with NZMS support, attended by about 100 and highly successful. A full report will be forwarded for inclusion on the website.

Education: Christine Fenton reported the success of the practical workshop for secondary school teachers and tabled a report for inclusion on the website. The workshop was partially supported by NZMS and there was a pledge from a variety of people present to offer further financial and hands-on support so that these workshops could be held again.

Eukaryotic Microbiology: Justin reported on the success of the satellite meeting held in conjunction with NZMS2010. Around 115 attended and there were 8 international speakers. NZMS contributed towards the costs of running the meeting. Jan Schmitt will host a similar meeting next year in conjunction with NZMS2011.

Molecular Microbiology: Iain Lamont reported that a recent mail out to those reporting and interest in molecular microbiology had shown that only about 8 were interested in re-activating the SIG.

11. Reports from Delegates to Meetings | Iain Lamont, NZMS representative to both ASM and the IUMS commented that there was a need to strengthen ties with ASM and suggested the society should investigate the sorts of initiative used by the Australian Society for Microbiology in its ties to ASM, including student exchanges and specific ASM prizes. Iain also asked that any members attending the IUMS meeting in Saporro make themselves known so that the society might be represented at IUMS.

12. Forthcoming Meetings |

NZMS2011: Steve Flint indicated that organisation was well under way and that flyers for the 2011 annual scientific meeting had been included in the conference packs at NZMS2010. An organising committee, a conference organiser and a website are already in place.

NZMS2012: This meeting will be in Dunedin. Ralph Jack will be the convenor. More information will be released on the NZMS website as it comes to hand.

13. Election of Officers | The following were elected un-opposed to the executive of the NZMS:

President:	Adrian Cookson
Vice President:	Steve Flint
Secretary:	Ralph Jack
Treasurer:	Richard Muirhead
Newsletter Editor:	Nicholas Heng (nominated G. Cook, seconded R. Jack)
Committee:	Stephen On Maureen O'Callaghan Mike Taylor
Student Rep:	Raphael Aggio

14. Election to Honorary Membership | A nomination for election to honorary membership was considered by the membership. The Secretary, Ralph Jack, briefly outlined the process involved in election to honorary membership and also read the information relating to the nomination. Adrian Cookson confirmed that the executive unanimously supported the nomination.

As a result, **Dr. Diana Martin, FRSNZ, ONZM** was elected by unanimous decision to honorary membership of the society.

15. General Business |

Iain Lamont raised the prospect of the society supporting student international travel and some discussion followed. Adrian outlined the suggestions he had been following up with Hatch Stokes of the Australian Society for Microbiology and the possibility of forming an exchange with the Australian society. It was agreed that detailed discussion would flow between those involved and further information would be made available via the website. Discussion was cut short due to a conflict between the AGM and the annual scientific meeting.

Meeting closed 14:30

Minutes prepared by Secretary
Ralph Jack, February 2011