



NZ Society of Plant Physiologists

1996 AGM Minutes

The AGM was held on Wednesday 28 August 1996, starting at 4.30 pm, in Farmers' Hall, Ruakura Research Centre, Hamilton, with 20 members in attendance. Apologies were presented for Peter Bannister, Ian Brooking, Paula Jamieson, Bill Jermyn, Jane Lancaster, Sandy Lang, Peter Lovell, Gavin Ross, Angela Snowball, Jill Stanley, Ian Wardlaw and David Whitehead, plus Jacqueline Rowarth for lateness. It was **moved** (Debbie Care, seconded Peter Minchin) that these be accepted; carried.

1. The **minutes** of the 1995 AGM were accepted (**moved**: Keith Sharrock, seconded Rod Bielecki; carried), with correction of the name 'Photoassimilate Transport Workshop' to 'International Conference on Assimilate Transport and Partitioning', in item 7

2. **Matters arising.**

Item 7, student support for presentations at Postharvest '96: Julian Heyes reported that the \$500 allocated at last year's AGM was shared equally between three students. The presentation was made at the start of a plenary speech, giving good profile for the Society, and was received with grateful thanks by the students.

Item 9, ASPP textbook: Rod Bielecki reported that there has been a delay while the ASPP secretariat moved offices, but this project is nearing completion. A contract with a publisher is under negotiation.

Item 10.3: Members were reminded to let the Secretary know of overseas visitors before they come, so this could be publicised in our newsletter. Rod Bielecki gave advance notice of the ISHS Board Meeting in February 1997 and suggested we check with Ian Warrington for names of attendees.

Item 10.4: e-mail network for NZSPP. Mike Trought reported that some members were concerned about the misuse of publicly-available e-mail address lists. The Secretary reported that around 90 % of members had now supplied e-mail addresses which meant electronic messages could now be sent around the majority of members if that were felt desirable. It was **moved** (Peter Minchin, seconded Rod Bielecki; carried) that discussions be held with Nancy Beck to see if NZSPP could have a World Wide Web entry on the HortNet. Mike Trought resolved that we would ask members to indicate if they did

NOT want to be listed on a Society e-mail network in the next newsletter.

3. Mike Trought presented the **President's report**, which made mention of his concerns about the continuing impact of political changes on biological sciences in NZ. He also referred to his satisfaction with our joint meeting with ASPP last year and looked forward to their visiting us in 2000. He commended the student support provided by the Society and thanked the Council for their assistance. He closed by thanking Rod Bieleski for agreeing to deliver our keynote address in 1996, and **moving** adoption of his report (seconded Julian Heyes; carried unanimously).
4. The **Treasurer's report** was presented. Membership has stabilised at 137 this year. Our accounts were heavily in the red as anticipated, but we still had assets of \$9,372.61 at the end of the financial year. No change to the membership fees is needed. The Treasurer made special mention of the generosity of Fluker, Denton & Co, Levin for continuing to audit our accounts free of charge. He **moved** adoption of his report and retention of the auditors (seconded Rod Bieleski; carried). It was **moved** (Julian Heyes, seconded Michael Thorpe; carried) that two awards of \$250 be offered in February each year for student members to present material at any international conference; these awards to be readvertised in September if they were not both awarded in February, with unallocated funds continuing to roll over for subsequent application rounds. It was recognised that the sum is not large, but it was felt this could provide leverage for students attempting to gain funds from other sources.
5. **Election of officers:** Mike Trought nominated Keith Sharrock for President of the Society (seconded Rod Bieleski). Rod Bieleski moved nominations be closed (seconded Julian Heyes, carried); so Keith was declared elected. Mike Trought continued to chair the meeting as immediate past president. Julian Heyes was nominated for secretary/treasurer (Mike Trought, seconded Michael Thorpe). Michael Thorpe moved nominations be closed (seconded Mike Trought, carried), and Julian was declared elected. The following nominations were made for Council: David Whitehead (nominator/seconder Mike Trought/Adrian Walcroft); Jocelyn Eason (Julian Heyes/David Lewis); Gavin Ross (Rod Bieleski/Peter Minchin), Karin Klages (Peter Minchin/Mike Trought) and Paula Jameson (Rod Bieleski/Jim Dunlop). Two things were pointed out: that our Constitution states there should be no more than four members of Council, and that no-one had yet agreed to act as Vice-President. It was moved (Julian Heyes, seconded Rod Bieleski; carried) that nominations be closed and the Vice-President be selected from amongst these names. The team was therefore declared elected. Gavin Ross was nominated as first choice for Vice-President (Peter Minchin/Keith Sharrock). Mike Trought thanked Michael Thorpe for being perhaps the longest-serving Past President; and Ian Brooking, for three years' service on Council.
6. A previously-notified amendment to the Constitution was brought before the AGM by the proposer (Mike Trought, seconded: Julian Heyes). The intention was to modify the Constitution in such a way as

to formalise the status of Life Members and encourage members to nominate Life Members annually. The three necessary changes are italicised below:

(a) Amend clause 3.

Membership of the Society shall be of *three* classes, viz Members, Associate Members *and Life Members*.

(b) Amend clause 4.1

Members *and Life Members* shall be entitled to attend all meetings of the Society, to take part in the proceedings thereof, to receive a copy of any reports and journals issued by the Society, to have full voting rights and to hold office.

(c) Add clause 5.3

Life membership may be given to persons who have contributed in an outstanding way to the Society or to plant physiology in New Zealand. Members wishing to nominate Life Members shall do so to the Secretary of the Society by April 30th each year with a brief written justification. Selection of Life Members shall be considered by a sub-committee of Council comprising the President, Vice President, Immediate Past President and Secretary. Recommendations for Life Membership shall be ratified by Council at least one month prior to the Annual General Meeting and announced at the Annual General Meeting.

There was some discussion about limiting the number of life memberships, but there was no formal motion as this was considered to be potentially too restrictive. Two amendments were moved. The first recommended substituting the words `Honorary Life Member' for `Life Member' (proposed Michael Thorpe, seconded Peter Minchin) to clarify that Life Membership is an honour, not something one can purchase. Other members felt this was implicit in the words `Life Member', especially since we have no provision for purchasing life membership. The second amendment (proposed Mike Trought, seconded Peter Minchin) suggested adding some words to clause 20.1: `The annual membership fees shall be decided by financial members at the Annual General Meetings. *Life Members shall not be required to pay membership fees to the Society.*' After considerable debate, Julian Heyes **moved** that the amendments be put (seconded Michael Thorpe; carried). The first amendment was lost, the second carried. The substantive motion was then put to the vote (as amended) and carried unanimously.

7. **Life Membership:** Mike Trought took great pleasure in announcing that the Council had awarded Life Membership of the Society to Rod Bielecki. A brief outline of his achievements would be made at the Annual Dinner that evening. Rod is the third Life Member, following Bernie Forde and Jay Mann.
8. **Student subsidies:** It was **moved** (Peter Minchin, seconded Jim Dunlop) that subsidies for student presenters at our own annual

conference remain at a total of \$1000, and that Council continue to exercise discretion as to how those monies are divided between presenters. This was carried unanimously.

9. **Conference Venues:** It was moved (Mike Trought, seconded David Lewis, carried) that we meet in 1997 with the NZIAS/NZSHS Convention in Lincoln. It was moved (Mike Trought, seconded Keith Sharrock) that Council be encouraged to discuss with ASPP the possibility of meeting with them in Adelaide in 1998. This was carried, with Peter Minchin recording his dissent. There was general agreement that Council should explore meeting in New Zealand in 1999, perhaps with the NZIAS/SHS Convention. The prospect of hosting ASPP at a combined meeting in 2000 was welcomed with Council being encouraged to explore suitable venues this year. Rod Bielecki asked that NZSHS be kept informed of our progress as it was possible that NZSHS may wish to consider inviting the Australian Society for Horticultural Science at the same time. In discussion it was noted that we do not yet know whether the Australian Society for Biochemistry and Molecular Biology, which traditionally meets with ASPP, would wish to come to NZ, in which case the NZ Society for Biochemistry and Molecular Biology may also show an interest.
10. **Publications liaison:** There was no report about AJPP. Rod Bielecki reported that NZJCHS was surviving. The Secretary drew members' attention to the fact that Ian Wardlaw, one of our members, is now Australasia Editor for Annals of Botany, and had supplied fliers for distribution at the Conference.
11. **General business.**
 1. Michael Thorpe attended an organising committee meeting for the International Conference on Assimilate Transport and Partitioning in 1999. He reported they were pleased with our Society's support.
 2. Keith Sharrock proposed a vote of thanks to Mike Trought for being such a good example of what a President should be. This was seconded by Julian Heyes and delivered with acclamation.

The meeting concluded at 5.45 p.m.