



NZ Society of Plant Physiologists

1997 AGM Minutes

The AGM was held on Monday 25 August 1997 starting at 5.15 pm in Commerce 1 Lecture Theatre, Lincoln University, with 27 members in attendance. Apologies were presented for Ian Ferguson, Mike Trought, David Whitehead, Dan Cohen, Rod Bielecki and Debbie Care.

1. The minutes of the 1996 AGM were accepted (moved: Keith Sharrock, seconded Michael Thorpe; carried).

2. Matters arising.

Rod Bielecki advised that the textbook 'Plants in Action' should be published in December 1997.

3. Keith Sharrock presented the President's report, reviewing the effectiveness of the society's role in 'fostering the advancement' of plant physiology in NZ. He identified a range of ways we had fulfilled this role, in organising conferences (both in NZ and Australia), bringing in an overseas speaker, making a nomination for a national science award and developing a home page for the Society on the Web. He closed by moving adoption of his report (seconded Julian Heyes; carried unanimously).

4. The Treasurer's report was presented by Julian Heyes. Membership had stabilised at 142 members, many of those being students. Julian noted the generous funding received from the Annals of Botany to cover the costs of a keynote speaker delivering the Annals of Botany Lecture. The treasurer did not recommend any change to membership fees. He moved adoption of his report and retention of the auditors (seconded Dennis Greer; carried).

5. Election of officers:

Paula Jameson nominated Keith Sharrock for President of the Society (seconded Jill Stanley); Dennis Greer nominated Gavin Ross for Vice-President (seconded Jim Dunlop); and Dennis Greer nominated Julian Heyes for Secretary/Treasurer (seconded John Palmer). Paula Jameson moved that nominations for these positions be closed (seconded by Jill Stanley). This was carried, so the three nominees were declared elected. Jill Stanley nominated the current council for re-election (seconded by Peter Minchin); viz. Jocelyn Eason, Paula Jameson, Karin Klages and David Whitehead. Keith Sharrock moved that nominations be closed (seconded John Palmer). The nominees

were therefore declared elected. Mike Trought continues as Immediate Past President.

6. Conference Venues 1998 and beyond:

Keith advised the meeting that our venues are as follows:

1998: combined meeting with Australian Society of Plant Physiologists (ASPP) in Adelaide.

1999: New Zealand. It was proposed that we meet with NZIAS/NZSHS if possible, but that we point out to them the difficulty of finding overlapping vacation dates for all the universities. It was moved (Julian Heyes, seconded Sandy Lang, carried) that Council ask to meet with NZIAS/NZSHS at their annual convention, but in early July 1999 to allow University academic staff members to attend.

Also in 1999, there is to be the International Conference on Assimilate Transport and Partitioning in August, in Newcastle, Australia, which we are involved in organising. This will be preceded by a workshop in NZ organised by Michael Thorpe and Peter Minchin.

2000: We will participate in a major combined meeting with ASPP, Australian Society for Biochemists and Molecular Biologists, NZ Society of Biochemists and Molecular Biologists and Australian and NZ Society of Cell Biologists, probably in Wellington. There was concern raised about the cost of registration at this large gathering, and it was proposed that Council investigate increasing student subsidies and providing accommodation in Weir House for this conference (moved Keith Sharrock, seconded Paula Jameson, carried).

7. Student membership fees

Keith Sharrock floated the idea of a one-off \$15 membership fee for students which would give them three year membership. This was intended to reduce the administrative load in trying to find ex-students. The Secretary pointed out that he has begun asking one person in each University Dept to confirm annually that student members in their Department are still registered; and ceasing mailouts to ex-students who do not renew their subscription. No change was made to student membership fees.

8. Future Constitutional amendments

Keith Sharrock proposed that the wording of the constitution be made gender-neutral and a suitably revised constitution be presented to the next AGM.

9. Publications liaison.

Dennis Greer spoke about the Australian Journal of Plant Physiology. He said that there had not been a formal meeting of the Editorial Advisory Committee

since 1993, but Dennis had now completed his six-year term on that committee. The Journal was receiving a high number of submitted papers. Dennis offered to liaise with Laurie Martinelli over the selection of a new NZSPP representative on the Editorial Advisory Committee.

10. General business.

The issue of putting members' names on our Web site was discussed. It was felt that members must agree to this individually, and a form should be sent to all members asking for their permission.

It was moved (Keith Sharrock, seconded Sandy Lang, carried) that Council request that the combined conference proceedings from this 1997 meeting be placed on the Royal Society of NZ's 'Gateway to NZ Science' on the Web.

Paula Jamieson thanked Keith Sharrock and Julian Heyes for their efforts on behalf of the Society.

The meeting concluded at 6.35 p.m.