



## NZ Society of Plant Physiologists

### 1998 AGM Minutes

The Annual General Meeting of the New Zealand Society of Plant Physiologists Inc. was held in Adelaide Convention Centre, Adelaide, at 6 p.m. on Tuesday, 29 September 1998. There were 22 members in attendance. Apologies were presented for Dan Cohen, Jim Dunlop, Kevin Gould, Paula Jameson, Michael McManus, Craig Penfold, Jacqueline Rowarth, Jenny Smith, Mike Trought, Adrian Walcroft, Dianne Webster and David Whitehead.

1. The **minutes of the 1997 AGM** were accepted (**moved**: Keith Sharrock, seconded Gavin Ross; carried).
2. **Matters arising**  
The President explained that we have obtained NZSPP members' abstracts from the 1997 conference in electronic format, but they are not yet mounted on our website; he hoped this task would be completed shortly. It was moved (Michael Thorpe, seconded Julian Heyes; carried) that members abstracts for both the 1997 and 1998 conferences be mounted on our website as soon as possible.
3. Keith Sharrock presented the **President's report**. He noted the high level of support NZSPP offered for student travel this year (\$3,000); continuing developments on our website; our role in conference organising; and an invitation to join a proposed NZ Primary Production Association (which we had declined). He closed by **moving** adoption of his report (carried unanimously).
4. The **Treasurer's report** was presented by Julian Heyes. Membership was stable at 145 members. Julian noted that our generous support of a range of activities, including student awards, science symposia, and contributions to specialist conferences, was continuing to eat into our reserves. He noted that this was a result of our conscious effort to use our funds for promoting plant physiology; but forecast a \$2000 deficit in the present financial year. He thanked Fluker, Denton & Co, Levin for again auditing our accounts free of charge and moved adoption of his report (seconded Jay Mann, carried).
5. **Election of officers**  
Keith Sharrock nominated Gavin Ross for President of the Society (seconded Ian Ferguson); Julian Heyes nominated Michael McManus for Vice-President (seconded Keith Sharrock); and Jay Mann nominated Julian Heyes for Secretary/Treasurer (seconded Keith Sharrock). Michael Thorpe moved that nominations for these positions be closed (seconded by Peter Minchin). This was carried, so the three

nominees were declared elected. For Council, Julian Heyes nominated Paula Jameson (seconded Jay Mann); Julian Heyes nominated Jocelyn Eason (seconded Dennis Greer), Gavin Ross nominated Andrew Allan (seconded Ian Ferguson), and David Whitehead had sent a written nomination for Adrian Walcroft (seconded Keith Sharrock). Dennis Greer moved that nominations be closed (seconded Michael Thorpe; carried) so these four people were declared elected. Keith Sharrock automatically became Immediate Past President and offered the AGM chair to Gavin Ross, which was accepted.

6. **Conference Venues 1999 and beyond**

Gavin advised the meeting that our venues are as follows:

1999: Auckland, 30 June-2 July, with NZIAS/NZSHS. **Kevin Gould and Gavin Ross** are 'job-sharing' on the organising committee.

2000: Wellington, 11-14 December, with ASPP, Australian Society for Biochemists and Molecular Biologists and NZSBMB. The meeting welcomed Bill Jordan, conference organiser and NZSBMB member. He explained that this meeting would have a similar structure to the combined 1998 meeting, and that preliminary meetings had been held between Society officials at this Conference. The chosen venue is the Wellington Festival and Convention Centre; accommodation will be available at a range of prices from hotels to University Hostels. Societies will participate on a full profit and loss share basis, based on the Society affiliations of registrants. There are to be four Conference chairs: Tony Burgess, President of ASBMB; Bill Jordan for NZSBMB; and representatives of ASPP and NZSPP. The programme would be determined by a subcommittee with representatives of all four societies and plenary speakers would be invited out of Conference funds (US\$3,000 per speaker). Every effort would be made to provide more oral slots than in 1998. Gavin Ross thanked Bill Jordan for his efforts and clear exposition. During discussion, it was agreed that we should aim to meet with ASPP approximately once every three years.

The meeting was also informed of other international conferences in which members have organising roles:

In 1999, the International Conference on Assimilate Transport and Partitioning will run from 15-20 August, in Newcastle, Australia, with Michael Thorpe, Peter Minchin and Julian Heyes on the Organising Committee. This will be preceded by a workshop in NZ organised by **Michael Thorpe and Peter Minchin**.

In 1999, the Australasian Postharvest Conference will run from 3-8 October in Waitangi, NZ, with **Michael Lay-Yee** as Chair and **Gavin Ross, Ian Ferguson and Errol Hewett** on the Organising Committee.

In 2001, the XII International Conference on Photosynthesis will be held in Brisbane, Australia, with **Dennis Greer** on the Organising Committee.

In February 1999, there is also to be a Seed Symposium at Massey University organised by **Michael McManus**.

**7. Membership fees**

Peter Minchin moved that full membership fees for NZSPP be set at \$25 from the 1999 year, and associate fees at \$10 (seconded Dennis Greer, carried unanimously). For clarification, the Secretary explained that associate members are students or retired members. Associate members' fees were set at \$5 in 1982; and full members' fees had been at \$15 since 1990.

**8. Constitutional amendments**

Keith Sharrock moved that Karin Klages' revisions which made the constitution gender-neutral be adopted (seconded Peter Minchin; carried). It was pointed out that the changes were minimal; the full text is available on our website.

**9. Publications liaison**

Julian Heyes was the Australian Journal of Plant Physiology Editorial Advisory Committee member for NZSPP *ex officio* in 1998. He attended a meeting in Melbourne in April and was impressed with the strong position of the Journal and its plans for growth. He encouraged members to send their best papers to the Journal and noted its high citation impact factor.

**10. Website improvement**

Keith Sharrock was thanked for his efforts in establishing and maintaining this site. He asked for members to notify him with suggestions for improvements. Allan Woolf moved (seconded Peter Minchin, carried) that members who have not yet given approval for their contact details to be listed on the website be approached again, with as clear and simple a message as possible to attract their attention and get a response.

**11. Any other Business**

(A) Jay Mann raised the possibility of the Society paying an honorarium to the Secretary. Julian did not feel this was necessary but could be considered in the future, depending on the circumstances of a new Secretary.

(B) Dennis Greer raised the idea of NZSPP offering a science award comparable to ASPP's Goldacre Medal. The award would carry with it the requirement to present a talk at the annual conference. Dennis moved (seconded Julian Heyes, carried) that a subcommittee be established to prepare a proposal for a periodic NZSPP award for next year's AGM.

(C) Karen Wilson thanked the Society on behalf of the students present for our support in assisting students to attend this meeting, and said what a marvellous opportunity it had been for contact with a wide range of scientists.

(D) The textbook 'Plants In Action' is expected to be published in February 1999. Macmillan Education Australia is the publisher and NZSPP members will receive a 15% discount on the price (A\$74.95 hardback). Order forms are available from the Secretary.

(E) The NZSPP dinner was to be held on Thursday evening; all welcome.

The meeting closed at 7.25 p.m.