

1999 AGM Minutes

New Zealand Society of Plant Physiologists

The Annual General Meeting of the New Zealand Society of Plant Physiologists Inc. was held at Massey University's Albany Campus, Auckland, at 1 p.m. on Thursday 1 July 1999.

1. Gavin Ross welcomed the 22 members present to the meeting. Apologies were presented for Jacqueline Rowarth, Keith Sharrock, Michael Thorpe, Mike Trought, Adrian Walcroft and David Whitehead.
2. The **minutes** of the 1998 AGM were accepted (**moved**: Ian Ferguson, seconded Peter Minchin; carried). **Matters arising**. Periodic NZSPP award: Gavin Ross reported that no progress had been made on Dennis Greer's proposal, but promised he would move it along. Ian Ferguson suggested we seek a wealthy sponsor.
3. Gavin Ross presented the **President's report**, (available on our website, <http://grunt.marc.cri.nz:81/~hrrkrs/nzspp/home.htm>). He noted the ongoing negotiations to establish a Primary Resource Association and our continuing reluctance to belong to (and pay dues to) this new body, as we are a discipline-based rather than industry-aligned Society. He noted that we had recently awarded two International Travel Awards (to Jason Johnston and Angela Wakelin) to present material at conferences in March/April 2000. Gavin closed by **moving** adoption of his report (carried unanimously).
4. The **Treasurer's report** was presented by Julian Heyes (also available on our website). Membership was stable at 145 members. Julian noted a number of significant differences in income and expenditure from 1997-8 but concluded that the Society was in good financial shape. Julian noted that Fluker, Denton & Co, Levin had again acted as our auditors free of charge but indicated they would not seek to continue in this role. He recommended that we alter our Constitution to allow the accounts to be reviewed rather than audited. Julian closed by moving adoption of his report (seconded Peter Minchin, carried).
5. **Election of officers**. Peter Minchin nominated Gavin Ross for President of the Society (seconded Paula Jameson); Dennis Greer nominated Michael McManus for Vice-President (seconded Paula Jameson); and Julian Heyes nominated Jocelyn Eason for Secretary/Treasurer (seconded Simon Coupe). For Council, Dennis Greer nominated Paula Jameson (seconded Peter Minchin); Gavin Ross nominated Andrew Allan (seconded Ian Ferguson), Dennis Greer nominated Adrian Walcroft (seconded Julian Heyes) and Paula Jameson nominated Marian McKenzie (seconded Jocelyn Eason). Peter Minchin moved that nominations be closed (seconded Dennis Greer; carried) so all the above were declared elected. Keith Sharrock continues in his role as Immediate Past President.
6. **Conference Venues 2000 and beyond**. Gavin advised the meeting that our venues are as follows: 2000: Wellington, 11-14 December, with ASPP, Australian Society for Biochemists and Molecular Biologists and NZSBMB. 2001: with NZSHS. During discussion some members expressed dissatisfaction with the details of the present meeting. It was resolved that we communicate to NZSHS the following views: that four concurrent sessions plus extensive plenaries was too crowded in a three day conference. We would prefer a four day meeting, with fewer (or evening) plenaries. We would require the Annals of Botany lecture to be a plenary; we would query why there were so few posters; and we would encourage organisers to ensure speakers set up and test their presentation mode before each session began. We were disappointed at the profile NZSPP received in conference promotional material and would request that our logo be used prominently in all printed material.
7. **Notice of Constitutional Amendment**. Sandy Lang moved (seconded Dennis Greer, carried)

that an SGM of the Society be called with appropriate notice to amend the Constitution to allow for the accounts to be reviewed rather than audited, because of the increasingly stringent requirements now placed on auditors. Suitable revised words for the Constitution may be (Section VIII, clause 7): ‘A suitably qualified independent person shall be elected by Members at each Annual General Meeting for the ensuing year, to check and review the annual accounts of the Society’.

8. **Publications liaison.** Julian Heyes reported that he had attended a one day meeting of the Australian Journal of Plant Physiology Editorial Advisory Committee in June 1998. The Journal’s plans for increasing frequency of publication were moving forward. The Managing Editor, Laurie Martinelli, had reconfirmed the Journal’s invitation for an office bearer of NZSPP to sit on this Committee. Julian explained the duties were to act as a liaison person between the Journal and the Society’s membership; to advocate for members to publish in the Journal; to assist the editor as required e.g. with decisions on suitable referees or with situations where referees did not agree; and to participate in meetings of the Committee in Melbourne (travel and one night’s accommodation paid by AjPP). At Gavin’s suggestion, the meeting confirmed its support for Jocelyn Eason to assume this role as the incoming Secretary.
9. **Any other Business**
 - (a) ISHS Meeting, Nelson: Dennis Greer circulated the first announcement of this meeting and reported that the Environmental Working Group of ISHS would be in attendance. It was moved by Peter Minchin (seconded Ian Ferguson, carried) that the Society pay the registration fee of one student member to present material at this meeting, to a maximum value of \$500, with the Secretary to call for applications as appropriate.
 - (b) Michael McManus thanked the Society for their input to the successful Seed Symposium held at Massey in February 1999.
 - (c) Students attending the AGM were reminded that they would be presented with their travel subsidy cheques at the Conference Dinner that evening.

The meeting closed at 2 p.m.