

2000 AGM Minutes

New Zealand Society of Plant Physiologists

The Annual General Meeting of the New Zealand Society of Plant Physiologists Inc. was held at the Wellington Festival and Convention Centre, Wakefield Street, Wellington, at 5:30 pm on Wednesday 13 December 2000.

1. Gavin Ross welcomed the 34 members present to the meeting. Apologies were presented for Ian Wardlaw and Debbie Care.
2. The **minutes** of the 1999 AGM were accepted (**moved**: Ian Ferguson, seconded Andrew Allan; carried).
3. **Matters arising.** Constitutional changes: Jocelyn Eason reported that no steps had been taken to alter the NZSPP constitution to allow the accounts to be reviewed rather than audited as suggested by Julian Heyes in his Treasurer's report and moved by Sandy Lang at the 1999 AGM (8. Notice of Constitutional Amendment). New auditors have been retained for the annual audit of the NZSPP books. PricewaterhouseCoopers have agreed to carry out the annual audit of NZSPP financial statements free of charge.
4. Gavin Ross presented the **President's report** (attached). Gavin closed by **moving** adoption of his report (carried unanimously).
5. The **Treasurer's report** was presented by Jocelyn Eason (attached). Membership has increased to 170 members. Jocelyn noted a number of significant differences in income and expenditure from 1998-9 and concluded that the Society was in good financial shape. Jocelyn noted that PricewaterhouseCoopers, Palmerston North had acted as our auditors free of charge and that they had indicated they would continue in this role. The auditors recommended in their report that monies paid out as student subsidies should be receipted, so in future all student recipients of travel and conference subsidies will be asked to sign receipts upon receiving their cheques. Jocelyn closed by **moving** adoption of her report (seconded Jim Dunlop, carried).
6. **Election of officers.** Dennis Greer nominated Michael McManus for President of the Society (seconded Ian Ferguson); Michael McManus nominated Julian Heyes for Vice-President (seconded Paula Jameson); and Dennis Greer nominated Jocelyn Eason for Secretary/Treasurer (seconded Julian Heyes). For Council, Paula Jameson nominated Mathew Turnbull (seconded Michael McManus); Dennis Greer nominated Adrian Walcroft (seconded Julian Heyes), Dennis Greer nominated Andrew Allan (seconded Ian Ferguson) and Paula Jameson nominated Marian McKenzie (seconded Julian Heyes). Gavin Ross **moved** that nominations be closed (seconded Jocelyn Eason; carried) so all the above were declared elected. Gavin Ross continues in his role as Immediate Past President.
7. **Conference Venues 2001 and beyond.** Michael McManus advised that NZSPP have previously held joint conferences with ASPP, NZSHS, NZIAS and NZBMB/ASBMB. He advised that discussions between NZSPP and ASPP council members would take place at the ComBio 2000 Dinner later that evening, to determine when NZSPP could meet again with ASPP. During discussions members expressed a requirement for NZSPP to be flexible so that conferences with all the above listed societies could be held in the future. Some members noted that the location of conferences is important as travel costs can be restrictive when the conference is held in western parts of Australia. Jocelyn advised the meeting that the next NZSPP meeting venue is in Lincoln in 2001 with NZSHS.

8. **Life Membership.** Gavin Ross reported that NZSPP had two new life members. Life Membership had been bestowed upon Ian Ferguson and Julian Heyes at the NZSPP Dinner held at the Duxton Hotel, Wellington, Tuesday 12th December.

- (a) Ian Ferguson in recognition of distinguished services to Plant Physiology in New Zealand.
- (b) Julian Heyes for services to New Zealand Plant Physiologists through the active and tireless promotion and administration of the Society.

Gavin Ross reported that during the year the question of what life members were entitled to had been raised. He asked the meeting whether discounts for life members to attend the annual conference was supported, particularly for those life members who were retired but were still interested in attending the conference. In the discussion that followed some members said they preferred to subsidize students to the conferences rather than the life members who were at the end of their career. Julian Heyes noted that NZSPP Associate Members included both students and unwaged and the meeting agreed that the issue of conference registration subsidy was one relating to waged vs unwaged members rather than life members. Gavin Ross **moved** that members of the society who have retired are eligible to attend the annual NZSPP conference and pay at the reduced student rate (seconded Marian McKenzie, carried). Jay Mann showed his appreciation at being able to attend ComBio 2000 at student rates.

9. **Web site.** Gavin Ross reported that the NZSPP website was inadequate and required regular updating. The meeting agreed that a good website should have an up-to-date membership list, links to other websites (other societies, Conferences, Journals), and should contain society news and student award information. The website files are currently held on a HortResearch server. Andrew Allan agreed to send a list of requirements for a potential NZSPP web master to Jocelyn Eason who will email members to determine whether NZSPP has a member with the appropriate skills who is willing to take on the job of updating our website. If this fails to produce a candidate for the position, Marian McKenzie said she would be happy to take on the job, but starts at ground zero with no knowledge of how to set up websites.

10. **New Zealand Royal Society Submission on Genetic Engineering.** Gavin Ross thanked Andrew Allan and Michael McManus for collating information from NZSPP members and submitting it to the New Zealand Royal Society. The material has been incorporated into the New Zealand Royal Society's Submission on Genetic Engineering, which can be found on the Royal Society's website <http://www.rsnz.govt.nz/news/gene/>

11. **Any other business**

- (a) Dennis Greer advised the PS 2001 meeting (12th International Congress on Photosynthesis) will be held at the Brisbane Convention and Convention Centre August 18-23, 2001.
- (b) Dennis Greer noted the presentation of the prestigious medals by ASPP (Robertson and Goldacre Medals) and suggested NZSPP should consider a similar award. The meeting agreed in principle to an NZSPP award being made at the annual conference and that the award should have a lecture associated with it. The new NZSPP Council will look at developing some kind of regular recognition of society members in this way during the next year.
- (c) Michael McManus thanked Gavin Ross as the outgoing President for keeping NZSPP at the fore front of NZ science.
- (d) Michael McManus thanked Jocelyn Eason for her contribution, on behalf of

NZSPP, to ComBio2000.

- (e) Michael McManus thanked Paula Jameson for her long standing contribution to NZSPP (Paula did not stand for re-election to the NZSPP Council this year).

The meeting closed at 6:11 pm.