

2004 AGM Minutes
New Zealand Society of Plant Physiologists

The Annual General Meeting of the New Zealand Society of Plant Physiologists Inc. was held in the Seminar Room, Hortresearch, Tennant Drive, Palmerston North, at 11:10 am on Wednesday 20 October 2004.

1. Julian Heyes welcomed the 21 members to the meeting (Matthew Turnbull, Ranjith Pathirana, Erin O'Donoghue, Jan Binnie, Sheryl Somerfield, Andrea Pickering, Michael McManus, Jocelyn Eason, Rainer Hofmann, Bernard Forde, Jianmin Guo, Thamarath Pranamornkith, Yongjin Shang, Marion McKenzie, Don Hunter, Nena Alvarez, David Brummell, David Lewis, Ralph Bungard, David Woolley, Mike Clearwater). Apologies were presented for Ken Ryan, Adrian Walcroft, Ian Warrington, David Whitehead, Paula Jameson, John Clemens, Debbie Care, Jim Crush, Dennis Greer, Jill Stanley, Eric Walton, Peter Minchin, Ian McIvor, Lyn Watson and Julian Eaton Rye.
2. The **minutes** of the 2003 AGM were accepted (**moved**: Matthew Turnbull, seconded Jan Binnie; carried).
3. **Matters arising**. There were no matters arising
4. Julian Heyes presented the **President's report** (attached) Julian closed by **moving** adoption of his report (carried). Matthew Turnbull moved a vote of thanks to Julian Heyes for his stewardship of the society as president (seconded Mike Clearwater; carried).
5. The **Treasurer's report** was presented by Mike Clearwater (attached). Mike closed by moving adoption of his report (seconded Julian Heyes, carried).
6. Election of Officers. Julian Heyes thanked Michael McManus for his six years of service on the executive of the society. He then explained that the normal pattern, provided there was unanimous agreement, was for the vice-president to adopt the president's role. A new vice-president is then often selected from existing members of the council. However, this year no current council members had expressed a desire to move into the vice-presidents role. When approached, Julian Eaton-Rye (Otago University) had expressed a willingness to be nominated for the role. Julian Heyes therefore nominated Julian Eaton Rye as Vice-President (seconded Michael McManus). Julian Heyes nominated Michael Clearwater as secretary / treasurer (seconded Matthew Turnbull), Michael McManus nominated Matthew Turnbull as President (seconded Marion McKenzie). For council Michael Clearwater nominated Marion McKenzie (seconded Julian Heyes), Michael McManus nominated John Clemens (seconded Rainer Hofmann), Matthew Turnbull nominated Eric Walton (seconded David Lewis), Julian Heyes nominated Debbie Care (seconded David Lewis). Julian Heyes moved that nominations be closed and that all of the above be declared elected (carried unanimously).
7. **Conference Venues 2005 and beyond**
Julian Heyes addressed previous conference venues and partner societies. In the past decade there has been a cycle of meeting every three years with Australian and New Zealand Societies (ASPB, ASBMB, NZSBMB) at the COMBIO

meeting. In the intervening years NZSPP has normally met at least once with NZSHS, and occasionally with a variety of other societies.

2000 Combio Wellington (also Combio in 1995 and 1998)

2001 NZSHS NZIAS Lincoln

2002 NZMS NZSBMB Christchurch

2003 Combio Melbourne

2004 NZSHS ASHS Coolum Australia

Following this cycle our current commitment is to meet with NZSHS (now NZIAHS) in Christchurch, 22-24 June 2005.

2005 NZIAHS Christchurch?

2006 Combio in Australia (Venue?)

2007?

2008?

2009 Combio in New Zealand

The turnout of NZSPP members at Coolum this year was disappointing, potential reasons include the Australian location, the timing in September (clashes with NZ teaching schedules), and the horticultural focus (difficult to justify for our non horticultural members).

Mathew Turnbull expressed a desire for larger meetings, with more societies including those outside of our traditional partners. He also expressed interest in the possibility of meeting with the NZ Ecological Society, a meeting that may be of interest to members who consider themselves physiological ecologists. If necessary the society could also consider running a session at the Ecological Society meeting, but not hold its annual conference there (Mike Clearwater). If a large meeting was to occur it may have to be in 2007 or 2008, given the short time frame for 2005 and the commitment to Combio in 2006 (Julian Heyes). The Royal Society is also trying to promote the idea of larger meetings focused around its annual conference (Julian Heyes). Michael McManus raised the possibility of meeting with NZSBMB in Queenstown in 2005. The society may also choose to meet with the molecular biologists / biochemists in 2005 to maintain links with these groups (Marion McKenzie). If we do meet with NZSHS in 2005 it will mean a horticultural focus for two years in a row (Mathew Turnbull).

Julian Heyes therefore proposed that the society executive gather more details about NZSBMB's plans for their meeting in 2005 and endeavor to meet with them next year. If this is not possible then the next option for 2005 will be NZSHS. Regardless of the outcome, NZSHS will have to be notified soon. Mathew Turnbull will approach the Ecological Society and enquire about the possibility of contributing to their meetings. The motion was seconded by Jan Binnie and carried unanimously.

8. **Update from the Functional Plant Biology Editorial Advisory Committee (EAC).** Mike Clearwater reminded members that the society has a representative on the Functional Plant Biology editorial committee. The journal is actively raising its international profile and encouraged submission of papers from members. They are also seeking suggestions for review topics. All manuscripts

and reviews are peer reviewed to the normal standard. Members with ideas for reviews can contact Mike Clearwater.

9. **Outstanding Plant Physiologists Award.** This years recipient is Ralph Bungard. Julian Heyes reviewed the purposes of the award and the importance of recognizing excellent work by our members. Members are encouraged to take notice of announcements concerning the awards offered by the society and actively nominate those members who deserve recognition.
10. **Annals of Botany.** This years Annals of Botany speaker at our annual conference was John Finley, from the USDA. John gave a presentation to the conference on the nutritional properties of broccoli and other vegetables. The Annals of Botany generously provides support for the society to bring an overseas speaker to our annual conference. This is an opportunity to bring a prominent scientist to our conference who may also be an existing or potential scientific collaborator for our members.

Julian reminded the meeting that it is important we arrange the speaker as soon as possible. As soon as we know the conference venue and theme for 2005 members should consider nominating potential speakers to the secretary.

11. **Potential change of society name.** Mathew Turnbull spoke to this item. He emphasized that his comments were not a criticism of the past work or existing role of the society, but it is his view that the current name of the society was a little narrow. It's meaning is not generally understood by other science groups or members of the public. He will therefore prepare a 'position paper' on the subject and circulate this to members for discussion.

Michael McManus stated that the interest in changing our name reflected a wider move across the country towards more molecular and biochemical work. The society would need to determine why a name change was needed – are we trying to broaden our focus or just change our name but retain our current range of interests?

Matthew felt that the society was bound by a common interest in plant function and that a name change was not an attempt to expand and take over the role of other societies. Rainer Hofmann suggested the name Society of Functional Plant Biology (also suggested by Peter Minchin via email prior to the meeting). The most likely potential names are NZ Society of Plant Biologists or NZ Society of Plant Scientists.

Julian reminded the meeting that a name change was a constitutional change requiring a special meeting and a postal vote.

12. Other business:

Michael McManus raised the issue of the composition of the EEB and CMP committees of the Marsden fund. This follows an informal survey of several society members earlier in the year by Mike Clearwater, after the results for the 2004 preliminary applications were announced. There was a general feeling that plant science applications achieved a very low success rate across both CRIs and Universities, and that this may be a reflection of the lack of plant scientists on

either committee (particularly CMP). Michael McManus suggested that the society could make a representation to the Royal Society on the subject. Matthew Turnbull offered to take a role in this.

The meeting closed at 12:24 pm.