

**2016 Annual General Meeting of Australian Society of Plant Scientists**

**Agenda**

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| **DATE:** | Thursday 6th October 2016 |
| **TIME:** | 18.15-19.15 |
| **VENUE:** | Plaza P2, Brisbane Convention Centre, Brisbane, QLD |
| **PRESENT:** | John Evans (JE) (chair), Sergey Shabala (SS), Brent Kaiser, Matthew Gilliham (MG) (minutes), Chris Cazzonelli, Alex Johnson, Matt Tucker, Thomas Roberts, Muhammad Sohail, Rebecca Ford, Barry Pogson, Rana Munns (RM), Janet Wheeler (JW), Diep Ganguly, Zhoghua Chen, Trevor Garnett, Sam Henderson, Suzanne Schmidt, Murray Badger, Bob Furbank (BF), Oula Ghannoum, Giorgio Deguzuan, Kyle Upton, Ronan Broad, David Collings, Yong-Ling Ruan, Caitlin Byrt, Bo Xu, Haian Qu, Bronmwyn Smithies, Michael Djordjevic (MD), Brett Williams, Grace Tan, Sagdevan Mundree, Steve Tyerman, John Christopher, Rachel Burton, My Linh Hoang, Sharmin Rahman, Aruni Buddhika, Xemise Fernanando, Andrew Merchant, Mohammad Hossain, Jim Reid, Sammantha McGaughey, Madeline Mitchell, Megan Shelden, Harpei Liu, Brett Ferguson, April Hastwell, Jason Able, Lana Shabala, Mohammad Alnayef, Michael Dodt, Rachel Hogan, Mongbai Zhang, Xitong Chu, Ella Brear, Belinda Fabian, Rodrigo Pires, Anita Wesdowski, Mike Haydon, Rosemary White. 67, quorum achieved. |
| **APOLOGIES:** | Martha Ludwig, Gonzalo Estavillo, Sebastian Pfautsch, Tim Colmer, Ros Gleadow, Christina Offler, Peter Solomon, Ulrike Mathesius |

| **No.** | **Item** | **Comments** | **Actions** | **Timeframe** |
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| **1.** | **Welcome and Apologies** | Apologies were noted as above.  JE – welcomed people and thanked them for coming, we have quorum.  Asked for another other business - none |  |  |
| **2.** | **Reminder: only current ASPS members are allowed to vote. (JE)** |  |  |  |
| **3.** | **Confirm minutes from 2015 (JE)** | JE – moved for adoption  Rana Munns adopted motion  Seconded by Brent Kaiser |  |  |
| **4.** | **Presidents Report (JE)** | JE – tabled report – stated mission.  ASPS is a lean operation – all honorary positions.  Thanked Martha Ludwig for her efforts  Thanked Brent Kaiser for service  Thanked Janet Wheeler for website and database  Thanked Barry Pogson – Global Plant Council Rep.  Thanked Rebecca Ford from Griffith, and Bernie Carrol for UQ for their efforts in putting together plant program for COMBIO 2016.  Thanked QUT for sponsorship of dinner, thanked Myling Wang for different and special experience.  Note that Peter Goldacre Award was received by Sam Periyannan  Thanked Bob Furbank for a great Robertson lecture of C4  Diep Ganguly – Best paper for Functional Plant Biology  Awards from Roberston fund for travelling fellowships were given, repotrrt from Millicent Smith on Phytogen Blog  No teaching award – no nominations  Science in Parliament attended by Hannah Osbourn and Yong Ling Ruan  Next year meeting in Adelaide – then Sydney –then alternate years for big meeting – 2 year cycles.  COMBIO to be held in Adelaide in 2017 – also 50 years since ASPS started, so could combine 50 year celebrations.  JE last year of office. Society is a good focal point for thriving plant sciences | Special effort to seek nominations for teaching award, it hasn’t had any nominations in several years.  Call for Science meets Parliament contact Secretary  Science meets Business –expressions of interest for next year.  Correction – ASPS started in 1958, so 60 year celebration could be held in Sydney in 2018. |  |
| **5.** | **Treasurer’s Report & Membership Fees (BK)** | BK – tabled report  Consistent membership for last 10 years – around 500  Thanks Janet for sorting out membership database and getting subscriptions up.  Called for seed money for conferences.  Called for questions – no questions |  |  |
| **6.** | **Website and Communication Sub-committee; Outreach, Visibility and Education (CC, JW)** | JW – about engaging society and plant scientists –  Called for images from members to show on website  Gonzalo has given us a facebook and twitter profile  Contact Chris for blogs on Phytogen – Chris and Tina can help you shape your profile  Called for questions – no questions | ALL: Please provide images for website, contact Chris Cazzanelli for content for Phytogen. |  |
| **7.** | **Functional Plant Biology Report (SS)** | SS - Tabled paper.  FPB – not a society journal legally, but associated with our society – hope members of society contribute to journal  Reached 2.1 in 2014, but 2.5 in 2015, top Q!, ranks 50/209  5-year impact factor is 3.0 >10 year citation life  Thanked Rana for her efforts as Editor in Chief.  Special issues helped increase IF – Rana organised first.  New Special issues to come. Call for articles for 2 special issues.  Jill Farrant Review Editor.  Call for more Australians to publish in FPB  Thanked JE for his efforts as President |  |  |
| **8.** | **Plants in Action Report (RM)** | RM tabled report –  3 new chapters – Water, Nutrients, sunlight plant production  New features on new website – responsive to any device  Thanked UQ for hosting for nothing – and IT assistant Stephane Guillou |  |  |
| **9.** | **Election of new members of the Executive Committee and new Discipline Representatives (JE)** | 1. President – Sergey Shabala 2. Honorary Secretary – Matthew Gilliham 3. Honorary Treasurer – Rosemary White 4. Plant-Microbe Interactions Discipline Representative – Rebecca Ford 5. Student Representatives  - Sam McGaughey (Adelaide)  - Viviana Rosati (Melbourne)   No voting required as only one nominee for each position. | See new student member. |  |
| **10** | **Relationship of ASPS to other national and international societies (JE, BP)** | Covered in tabled Presidents Report |  |  |
| **11** | **Set venue for AGM 2017 (JE)** | JE – AGM in Tuesday of COMBIO night, first night of COMBIO | Correction. Will be held on Thursday of COMBIO in Adelaide. |  |
| **12** | **Other Business (JE)** | JE - Future of COMBIO discussion  Asked for discussion  Jason Able – not current member – why do we have the joint meeting – welcomed to moving to national plant based conference, allows basic and applied talks – open up more membership  JE – idea is to get other societies to join in the meeting – i.e. agronomy society, crop science, open to bringing others. Can be problems being big and small conferences. ASPMB have shifted our focus – we need a plant conference.  JA – translational research – we need to embrace.  RM – ecologists?  JE – they are huge – so logistics may be difficult?  MD – reason it has been tagged on is because of Sally Jay – lightens load of organization. Part of their reason – requires new organizer – might increase burden  JE – yes we need new organizer – no academic will take on role. Maybe new perspectives  Suzanne Schmidt – conference chairs – do lots of work – modern technology has made it easier – great idea for fresh approach for plant focus, we had applied people drop off and ecologists – meetings are poorer because it is plant molecular biology.  JE – it is broad – this is an advantage, blown away by talk of random plenaries. Exposure for students  BF – shortening meeting provides opportunity for satellites. Might be good.  JE - ECR careers forum already a satellite  Question about Finances – can we have a no frills option.  JE – Key concern – we want to reduce. ASPMB, sustaining members want trade display. Another model to ditch trade display we don’t need big venue and costs change. Half people registered are preseting, we might more just attending? Yes we can have a no frills.  Steve Tyerman – dates of conference – may impact on price  JE might be better dates, have it in common week  Airfares are a problem in school holidays.  JE - SAGE initiative - [http://www.sciencegenderequity.org.au/sage-pilot/](https://owa.adelaide.edu.au/owa/redir.aspx?C=OCHTyZpR6V6dFPo4X2vlpT8EL1OGstYDuPiPytoGOJ65B8wFfu3TCA..&URL=http%3a%2f%2fwww.sciencegenderequity.org.au%2fsage-pilot%2f)  - Request for co-ordination (contact Secretary – Martha Ludwig)  Started in UK on Athena Swan – Gender equity. Hosted by Australian Academy. Society acknowledgement.  Suzanne Schmidt volunteered  JE - 50th Years of ASPS in 2017 – (further ideas – contact Martha Ludwig) |  |  |