

Minutes of SASB meeting -5 pm to 6 pm, 3rd of December, 2013, Law lecture theatre 101, The University of Sydney, Sydney

Meeting opened: 5:00pm

Attendance list: Steve Cooper, Penny Mills, Andrew Thornhill, Nerida Wilson, Shane Ahyong, Bob Mesibov, Lyn Cook, Mike Crisp, Andy Austin, Bill Humphreys, Simon Tierney, Andrew Mitchell, Michael Rix

Apologies: Mark Harvey, Kevin Thiele

Approval of minutes from previous meeting (held in 2011)

proposed: Steve Cooper, seconded: Bob Mesibov; accepted unanimously.

Matters arising from previous meeting

Steve thanks Nerida Wilson and Shane Ahyong for the help in organising the joint ASBS/SASB/IBC 2013 conference.

President's Report – Steve Cooper

Two years has flashed by very quickly and while not a lot appears to be happening in the society at times, behind the scenes there have been several people that have put in a huge amount of effort.

First, a big thanks to Robin Wilson and his team for hosting the 2011 meeting in Melbourne. The meeting was small, but had some excellent symposia (including one on species concepts, with an excellent, thought provoking, keynote presentation by Lyn Cook). Also of note is that the meeting returned a good profit to the society, which has been used to fund five student bursaries (part funded by the IBC group too) for attending the Sydney conference and provide seed funding for this conference as well.

Also, behind the scenes, some great work has been done in organising the Sydney meeting over the last two years. Thank you to Bob Mesibov for initially developing the idea of a joint meeting with the Australian Systematic Botanist Society (ASBS) and then Andy Austin for persuading Nerida Wilson and Shane Ahyong and a team from the Australian Museum to join with Peter Weston and ASBS to initiate the conference organisation for Sydney. The result is one of our biggest meetings for many years, with more than 180 delegates, 107 oral presentations and 27 posters, but most importantly it has attracted many of the top systematics and evolutionary biology researchers in the country.

Another big contributor to SASB over the last two years has been Samuel Brown who single-handedly produced the society's newsletter known as the Banksia. As well as editing the Banksia, Sam has contributed many of the articles within it, including highly

instructional information on how to use the drawing program Inkscape and using the WEB site Flickr to obtain photos, as just a couple of examples. It is now coming up to issue number 10, which is a phenomenal effort by Sam, who is currently a PhD student at Lincoln University. However, Sam who is now well into his PhD, wishes to stand down from this position and so we are in urgent need of someone who is willing to take on this editing role in the future.

In the public correspondence area, SASB wrote a letter of support for a new project associated with the Atlas of Living Australia (ALA), known as the “Australian Virtual Taxonomic Laboratory”. I’m pleased to say that this project has been recently funded through an initiative known as the National eResearch Collaboration Tools and Resources (or NeCTAR) and we look forward to seeing the development of tools that are aiming to support the systematics community, as well as the continuation of the ALA.

Last, I would like to thank all the SASB council for their support over the last two years, particularly Andrew Thornhill as secretary, Penny Mills as vice president, Bob Mesibov for looking after the Web site, and Andy Austin, who once again organised a highly successful Post-Grad workshop on Systematics in Adelaide in June this year.

Steve Cooper

SASB President (2012-13)

Acceptance of President’s report proposed: Bob Mesibov, seconded: Andrew Thornhill; accepted unanimously.

Treasurer's report – Steve Cooper

SOCIETY OF AUSTRALIAN SYSTEMATIC BIOLOGISTS - Financial statement
6 Dec 2011 - 3 Dec 2013 (ABN: 91 696 841 350)

| | \$ | Subtotal \$ |
|--|----------|-------------------|
| ASSETS AT 5 Dec 2011 | | |
| Westpac cheque account | 6,522.28 | |
| TOTAL ASSETS | | 6,522.28 |
| INCOME | | |
| profit from Melbourne conference | 2,200.00 | |
| Interest | 40.60 | |
| TOTAL INCOME | | 2,240.60 |
| EXPENDITURE | | |
| Student bursaries Melbourne conference | \$781.99 | |
| Melbourne IT (domain name) | 44.00 | |
| Systematics without Borders float | 2,500.00 | |
| TOTAL EXPENDITURE | | 3,325.99 |
| INCOME-EXPENDITURE | | - 1,085.39 |
| ASSETS AT 03 Dec 2013 | | 5,436.89 |

SASB Treasurer's Report, December, 2011

SASB received good income from the Melbourne conference which has helped to keep the society financial and able to provide three student bursaries (+ two from IBC) and a float for the Sydney conference. The student bursaries are not reflected in the current balance, but amount to \$1500. With the return of the float the society should have a balance of around \$6,436.89.



Steven Cooper, Honorary Treasurer

Audited by Prof. S. C. Donnellan



Date: 27/11/2013

Acceptance of Treasurer's report proposed: Steve Cooper, seconded: Penny Mills; accepted unanimously.

Secretary's report – Andrew Thornhill

In the years between 2011 to 2013 we have gained 47 new members. There are still many lost or outdated emails for members which are noticeable when I do a mail out. I continue to mail out jobs and conference announcements when they are sent to me and Bob updates the website with these jobs. I still receive compliment on Banksia because people mistakenly assume that I am responsible so I would like to thank Sam Brown for all of the hard work he has done to create Banksia. Finally I would like to thank Steve for being president and treasurer for the last two years.

Acceptance of Secretary's report proposed: Andrew Mitchell, seconded: Steve Cooper; accepted unanimously.

Nominations and election of officers

President: Andy Austin

- proposed: Steve Cooper, seconded: Mike Crisp; accepted unanimously.

Vice-President: Penny Mills

- proposed: Steve Cooper, seconded: Andy Austin; accepted unanimously.

Secretary: Andrew Thornhill

- proposed: Penny Mills, seconded: Bob Mesibov; accepted unanimously.

Treasurer: Simon Tierney

- proposed: Steve Cooper, seconded: Lyn Cook; accepted unanimously.

Councillors: Andrew Mitchell, Bob Mesibov (webmaster), Michael Rix, Nerida Wilson, Shane Ahyong, Lyn Cook, Steve Cooper (assistant treasurer)

- proposed: Andy Austin, seconded: Steve Cooper; accepted unanimously.

Any other business

Banksia – Sam Brown is stepping down from his role as Banksia editor. Should we now move to an email newsletter with the content containing jobs/conferences/publications. We would need a co-ordinator to do this. Steve and Andy will talk to their students to see if any of them are interested.

Membership Fees – Andy Austin raised the point that SASB does not have enough funds to do things that they would like to do. SASB also relies too much on profits from conferences. If a conference was to make a loss then the society would be liable to pay the money for this loss and this could potentially wipe-out the money that the society has in the bank. Andy proposes that a modest fee of ~\$25 be introduced to safeguard the SASB and to also raise the amount of money that it has. This would require setting up a payment method of credit card/bsb/paypal. The SASB would also need to be incorporated. It was concluded that Steve, Andy and Simon would investigate the feasibility of moving towards paid membership and report back.

Arrangements for next meeting: Perth (organiser Mark Harvey) tentative 30th November/ 4th December, 2015

Meeting closed: 5:45pm