

Minutes of the SASB Annual General Meeting in Darwin, 25 September, 2009

Meeting opened. 5.05 pm.

Apologies - None

Approval of minutes from previous meeting (held in 2007) - Minutes were not recorded.

President's report – Lyn Cook

Volker Framenau thanked for his work as President and Sam Brown for his role as newsletter editor.

Acceptance of President's report proposed: Andrew Thornhill, seconded: Penny Mills; accepted unanimously.

Treasurer's report – Steven Cooper, Honorary Treasurer

Thanks to Volker Framenau there has been a substantial saving in recent years because the SASB website is hosted for free by bur.st, and the cost is essentially the payment of \$88 we make to Melbourne IT for the continued use of the domain name. The Society relies on the continued profits from conferences for its income and for any student bursaries we offer. Although it appears we made a big profit in the last two years, in reality we have only derived new income of about \$2000 which limits our capacity to support activities such as supporting student bursaries. This leaves us with the question as to whether we should introduce membership fees?

SOCIETY OF AUSTRALIAN SYSTEMATIC BIOLOGISTS - Financial statement

30 Nov 2007- 25 Sep 2009 (ABN: 91 696 841 350)

	\$	Subtotal \$
ASSETS AT 30 NOV 2007		
Westpac cheque account	3,148.32	
TOTAL ASSETS		<u>3,148.32</u>
INCOME		
Brisbane seed refund (\$2k) and profit	4,545.00	
Interest	38.84	
TOTAL INCOME		<u>4,583.84</u>
EXPENDITURE		
Student bursaries Brisbane (Mike Crisp)	470.00	
Melbourne IT (domain name)	88.00	
		<u> </u>

TOTAL EXPENDITURE	558.00
INCOME-EXPENDITURE	4,025.84
ASSETS AT 25 Sep 2009	7,174.16

Acceptance of Treasurer's report proposed: Pete Cranston, seconded: Michael Braby; accepted unanimously.

Secretary's report – Andrew Thornhill

In the years between 2007 to 2009 the SASB gained around 52 members. The figure is not precise because records were muddled when we conducted our lost members email audit through the first edition of the SASB newsletter. There are now around 300 addresses on the SASB email list; this figure could change if more lost members email addresses were updated. Membership details are currently compiled in an Excel spreadsheet and the idea of having an online members list was looked into by former SASB president, Volker Framenau. The project stalled when Volker had to relinquish his duties because of work commitments. While the current management system is OK an improved method could be time-saving in the future. Volker was also responsible for the maintenance of the SASB website and we need to find someone who can become the website updater as the current website is quickly filling with outdated information. The last news to report is that SASB began producing a newsletter thanks to the hard work of Sam Brown and that at least one Australian university library is keeping it in its catalogue.

Acceptance of Secretary's report proposed: Rob Raven, seconded: Christine Lambkin; accepted unanimously.

[Update: President and Secretary will take over website management.]

SASB Newsletter Editor's report – Sam Brown

There have been two issues of the Society newsletter *Banksia* published, in October 2008 and May 2009. We published a variety of articles including software and website reviews, technical advice and a discussion topic in each issue. Most of the newsletter material has been submitted by a handful of contributors, but it is hoped that more will start contributing as the newsletter becomes more established. It has not required a big workload, and I am more than happy to continue editing it. If anybody else wants to get involved, please feel free to get in touch.

The aim of the newsletter is to provide a vehicle for communication to and within the Society and to support systematic biology in Australasia. The only way the newsletter will achieve this second aim is if members of the society provide material of interest, and give feedback regarding the usefulness (or otherwise!) of the material and what they would like to see in it. May I encourage as many members as possible to contribute and

let me know what they want to see in their newsletter. Contributions can be anything - technical notes, opinion pieces, funny/interesting field or lab reports, lab profiles, job vacancies, news from around the world, ideas for competitions, etc, etc, etc. Photos of Australasian taxa are particularly encouraged to liven the newsletter. Photos of recently described species get extra points! The newsletter is in its infancy, and so it is an opportune time to start directing it on the course that is most helpful for you!

SASB student conference registration bursaries awarded to

Cathy Car, Karen Edward, Andrew Thornhill

Nominations and Election of officers

President - Bob Mesibov

Vice-President - Penny Mills

Secretary – Andrew Thornhill

Treasurer – Steve Cooper

Councillors – Mike Crisp, Michael Braby, Lyn Cook

All positions agreed by vote and accepted.

Christine Lambkin is thanked for her long service on the SASB Council.

Lyn Cook was thanked by new president Bob for filling the role of president of the SASB following Volker's standing down.

Business arising

What the future role of SASB could be

- extend taxonomy to the broader community
- a possible SASB training workshop; Christine Lambkin suggest it could possibly be sponsored
- bigger taxonomic presence
- acceptance of donations, with Bob to look into the possibility of tax deductability

SASB newsletter name

The name *Banksia* confirmed by vote.

Arrangements for next meeting

- IBCC joint conference in Melbourne at the end of November 2011
- Andy Austin suggested we look into how money is dispersed from the joint conference
- Make a decision on how profit is split before the conference and not after

Meeting closed 5:50pm