

SASB meeting - 5:45pm 5th of December, 2011, St Mary's College, The University of Melbourne, Melbourne

Meeting opened: 5:43pm.

Attendance list: Penny Gullan, Mike Braby, Lyn Cook, Robin Wilson, Sam Brown, Penny Mills, Pete Cranston, Gary Taylor, Michael Ricks, Mark Harvey, Andrew Thornhill, Bob Mesibov, Penny Greenslade, Steve Cooper, Andy Austin.

Apologies

Mike Crisp, Michelle Casanova

Acceptance of minutes from previous meeting proposed: Penny Mills, seconded: Sam Brown; accepted unanimously.

Matters arising from previous meeting

None

President's report – Bob Mesibov

The past two years have been fairly quiet ones for SASB.

They began with a rebuilding of the SASB website. The site now includes separate pages for

- job and scholarship notices
- tertiary-level systematics courses and training workshops
- journals which publish taxonomic and systematic papers, and
- upcoming conferences of interest to the SASB membership

The website thus acts as a bulletin board for SASB members and others, and supplements the announcements emailed directly to members by the Secretary. Contributions welcome!

The SASB domain, 'sasb.org', is still registered with MelbourneIT, but our nameservers and webpages were moved in 2009 from bur.st in WA to DeCompression in Queensland. Free hosting with DeCompression was arranged for us by Tristan Claridge, whom many SASB members will have met as the IT and audio-visual officer at conferences organised by Sally Brown over the past 10+ years.

The SASB newsletter 'Banksia' continues to be very ably edited by Sam Brown, with five issues produced since the last general meeting (November 2009, July and December 2010, June and [November] 2011). 'Banksia' is sent directly to members as a PDF and is also available for download from the SASB website.

One of the many interesting items in 'Banksia' was the outcome of a self-reporting survey of SASB member activities in 2010. I was impressed that nearly 80% of respondents had identified specimens on request during the year, and 50% had published a Code-compliant taxonomic work.

At the request of a number of systematists, SASB strongly objected in 2010 to the low journal rankings for systematics journals given by the Australian Research Council in its Excellence in Research for Australia (ERA) initiative. A full record of SASB correspondence with the ARC is on the SASB website. The ARC announced in 2011 that it was abandoning the journal ranking system.

The journal ranking debate was the only one over the last two years in which SASB took a position publicly. Through Vice-President Penny Mills, we also participated in a Taxonomy Australia (TaxA) meeting in May 2010.

I will be stepping down as President at the general meeting in December 2011, and would like to thank our Secretary Andrew Thornhill for his support over the past two years.

Acceptance of President's report proposed: Andy Austin, seconded: Penny Greenslade; accepted unanimously.

Treasurer's report – Steve Cooper

SOCIETY OF AUSTRALIAN SYSTEMATIC BIOLOGISTS - Financial statement 26 Sep 2009 - 5 Dec 2011 (ABN: 91 696 841 350)

	\$	Subtotal \$
ASSETS AT 25 Sep 2009		
Westpac cheque account	<u>7,174.16</u>	
TOTAL ASSETS		<u>7,174.16</u>
INCOME		
Interest	<u>52.12</u>	
TOTAL INCOME		<u>52.12</u>
EXPENDITURE		
Student bursaries Darwin conference	660.00	
Melbourne IT (domain name)	44.00	
TOTAL EXPENDITURE		<u>704.00</u>

INCOME-EXPENDITURE - **651.88**

ASSETS AT 05 Dec 2011 **6,522.28**

SASB Treasurer's Report, December, 2011

SASB received limited income in the last two years, due to the Darwin conference not making a profit. Despite this we have still sufficient funds in the account to fund 3 student bursaries for the Melbourne conference. Costs of running the Web site are now very small, but we should avoid diminishing our accounts much more so that we maintain an ability to pay seed funding for future conferences (where needed).

Acceptance of Treasurer's report proposed: Bob Mesibov, seconded: Mark Harvey; accepted unanimously.

Secretary's report- Andrew Thornhill

In the years between 2009 and 2011 the SASB gained just under 50 new members. We are still working on locating lost members but the situation has become much better in the last two years, and there are a lot less emails that bounce when a mailout is sent. In the last two years, Bob Mesibov took over as webmaster and drastically cleaned up the website and update much of the information on the site. Bob also introduced a jobs section and we now have many systematic jobs sent to us for both circulation through the SASB email list and placement on the web page. The SASB newsletter, Banksia, has been edited for the last two years by Sam Brown and I have received compliments on how good it is, in particular the ability of Sam to produce a number of editions in a year. Banksia is now stored on a number library catalogue records and all editions are available online at the SASB website.

Acceptance of Secretary's report proposed: Andy Austin, seconded: Robin Wilson; accepted unanimously.

Newsletter editor's report - Sam Brown

Since the last AGM, four issues of Banksia have been published with a fifth due for publication before the end of 2011. Recently published articles have included conference reports and announcements, computer program tutorials, field trip reports and the results of a survey on the taxonomic activity of members. Unfortunately, the numbers of contributions has declined lately, with only a few contributors providing the bulk of the material for publishing. The scope of Banksia is broad, and any articles that have relevance for systematics in Australia are more than welcome. The workload involved is not large, and I am happy to continue editing it. However, material for publication is required for the continued publication of Banksia.

Presentation of SASB student conference registration bursaries

Sam Brown
Mohammed Javidkar
Rebecca Kittel

Nominations and Election of new/same officers

President: Steve Cooper
Vice-President: Penny Mills
Secretary: Andrew Thornhill
Treasurer: To be determined by the council
Councillors: Lyn Cook, Bob Mesibov, Kevin Thiele, Daximant Lama, Catherine Burn, Andrew Mitchell, Andy Austin

All positions agreed by vote and accepted.

Mike Crisp and Michael Braby are thanked for their long service on the SASB Council.

New President Steve Cooper thanks outgoing president Bob Mesibov for all of his hard work during his time as SASB president.

Business arising

Paid advertising

Question from Lyn Cook – Have there been approaches for paid advertising on the website?

Bob Mesibov answer – No everything is free.

Next meeting

Andy Austin – Enquires about the next SASB meeting.

Bob Mesibov – The arrangement at the moment is informal with the Australasian Systematic Botany Society.

Andy Austin – Proposed to formalize the proposed meeting with ASBS in Sydney 2013. Would be a three way joint meeting ASBS/SASB/IBCC.

Finances

- Andy Austin suggests that the SASB could provide some kind of assistance with the postgraduate taxonomic workshops held at the University of Adelaide.

- Andy Austin raises the question on whether we should have membership fees and whether this would require extra work and be worthwhile.
- Obtaining members fees would require incorporation.
- A discussion was held on a donation system to try and raise funds for SASB (instead of membership fees) – something that the new committee could take on as an initiative.

Missing logo

Mark Harvey asks why the SASB logo was not included in the conference banner.

Robin Wilson answer – He was responsible for organising this and it was an oversight that the SASB was not included in the final version of the banner.

Arrangements for next meeting

Sydney, 2013 joint meeting with Australasian Systematic Botany Society (ASBS).

Meeting closed: 6:48pm