

Minutes of the AGM of the Fungal Network of New Zealand.

LOCATION, OR E-MEETING:

Canterbury University Field Centre, Westport

DATE:

9th May 2006

CHAIR:

David Orlovich

MINUTES:

Jerry Cooper

MEETING COMMENCED:

7:45PM

NUMBER OF MEMBERS PRESENT:

42. A list of attendees at the foray is included in the appendix, tabled along with the AGM agenda

APOLOGIES:

Fran Kell, Peter Buchanan, Bettye Rees (via Pam Catcheside)

Jerry also received apologies from Jacqui Brooks

MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING:

This being the first meeting of FUNNZ there were no previous minutes to consider formally although the minutes of the informal meeting held at Ohakune on 7th April 2005 were tabled.

MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES:

No matters arising from the minutes of the Ohakune meeting

CALL FOR ADDITIONAL AGENDA ITEMS:

The structure of the foray – proposed by Geoff Ridley.

AGENDA ITEMS:

- COUNCIL REPORTS:
 - President's Report

David Orlovich (President) presented a verbal report. He thanked those organizing this year's foray. The TFBIS project (see appendix) was acknowledged as supporting the aims of the society. The decision to incorporate this year's FUNNZ fees into the foray costs was presented to the membership.

- Secretary's Report

Jerry Cooper (Secretary) drew attention to his tabled report (see appendix) and the presentation on the TFBIS project at the start of the foray. No further comments were added.

- Treasurer's Report

Paula Wilkie (Treasurer) drew attention to the tabled Statement of Accounts (see appendix). Paula explained the issue of few membership subscriptions (9) being received by the 2005/2006 financial end of year (Feb 28th). The decision to incorporate 2006/2007 subscription into the foray fee will require those to be carried over to 2007/2008. The need for subscriptions at the level of \$15 waged and \$10 unwaged was reiterated to the membership. The call for membership for 2007/2008 will go out later in the year.

Ross Muir proposed the acceptance of the Statement of Accounts, Petra White seconded and the motion carried.

- BUSINESS ITEMS:

- FURTHER DISCUSSION ON FUNNZ MEMBERSHIP

Ross Muir indicated that council had the right to waive fees for 2006/2007 [not clear if we waived the fee or incorporated into the foray cost?]. The question of the membership status of those not at the foray was raised [and what was the conclusion? That all members of the email list are members and we waived fees entirely, or only those at the foray are members? If latter then are we accepting membership payments for 2006/2007 or are we denying membership applications until 2007/2008, or what?].

Jenny Shorten raised the issue of dealing with overseas memberships. Jenny suggested the use of 'PayPal' for processing membership fees. Use of PayPal would incur a cost. Don Horne recommended that Council should decide an appropriate course of action and inform the membership. This decision is needed from Council in advance of March 1st. Innes Ritchie asked if people could come to the foray but not be members of FUNNZ, and if not then what benefit are there? David Orlovich expressed views that the Society was young and would mature. The membership would receive benefits of membership in the form of newsletters, etc, in addition to voting rights at the AGM. Geoff Ridley said that no members means no organizing committee and therefore no forays. Don Horne requested that we inform all potential foray participants of the decisions on membership. Innes Ritchie suggested a 2-tier subscription with reduced membership fees for foray attendees. However, proposed membership fees are small anyway.

- TFBIS PROJECT

Jerry Cooper referred to the presentation given on this project at the start of the foray, and the procedures that would take place during the foray to maximise data capture. Details of the project and the application were tabled at the meeting. There was no further discussion.

- NEXT FORAY

There is an offer from Fran Kell to organise the 2007 foray at Tatum Park, Horowhenua (<http://www.tatumpark.co.nz/camps-scouts-school-camps.html>). There was a discussion about alternative sites on the eastern side of the ranges. Barbara Paulus proposed a location near Masterton in the Wairarapa. The membership accepted these proposals and will delegate the final decision to Council.

○ ELECTION OF OFFICERS:

- President – David Orlovich (2005-2006)
- Vice President – Peter Buchanan (2005-2006)
- Immediate Past President (N/A)
- Treasurer – Paula Wilkie (2005-2006)
- Secretary – Jerry Cooper (2005-2006)
- Councillor – Geoff Ridley (2005-2006)
- Councillor – Clive Shirley (webmaster) (2005-2006)

Jerry Cooper's desire to step down as Secretary was noted. Clive Shirley's resignation from the position of Councillor was noted. Paula Wilkie's desire to step down as Treasurer in 2007 was noted. Nominations for the positions of Secretary & Councillor were requested from the floor. Nominations were received for Petra White as Secretary (proposed David Orlovich, seconded Jerry Cooper), Jerry Cooper as Councillor (proposed David Orlovich, seconded Geoff Ridley). These nominations were approved and unanimously supported by the meeting. In addition, the Council co-opted Shirley Kerr.

○ THE STRUCTURE OF THE FORAY

Geoff Ridley sought the membership's views on the organisation of the foray and in particular the length of the foray and the Colloquium scheduled for mid-week. Paula Wilkie indicated that the colloquium was the most popular part of the foray with numbers declining after midweek. Geoff asked if 5 days was too long? It used to be 3 days, over a weekend and including just 1 working day and therefore perhaps more appealing to those working. It is clear that many participants do not come for the entire foray and this detracts from the community involvement that FUNNZ should be promoting. Jenny Shorten mentioned that at some French mycological meetings the weekend is set aside for 'amateur' involvement with more serious work taking place during the week. Pam Catcheside mentioned that Fungimap have joint meetings including a wider range of natural history groups. Geoff Ridley commented that Fungimap has a defined purpose but FUNNZ currently has a more ad-hoc approach to forays. Pamela Atkinson questioned the high cost of the foray. David Orlovich responded that forays are run at cost using relatively cheap accommodation with the necessary facilities (such as workroom and benches for microscopes) and it is hard to see how costs could be further reduced. David Ratkowsky said that the forays should not be too short otherwise those coming longer distances would be able to justify the time and expense. Paula proposed moving the Colloquium to the beginning or end of the foray. 'Otago Naturalist' [who?] said that the timing of the colloquium in the middle of the foray was about right and maximises flexibility. The number of people attending indicated that cost was also about right. Innes Ritchie supported the Colloquium mid-foray as it gave chance for 2 days of foraying and then a rest before further collecting. Innes did not support any action that divide the non-professionals from mixing with the professionals. Jerry Cooper mentioned the history in the UK of division between professionals and non-professionals within society's like the BMS and the subsequent separate development of the Association of British Fungal Groups as a break-away entity. Jenny Shorten said we have an opportunity in FUNNZ to get the mix right and that we should be actively supporting new forayers. Jenny indicated that better information was needed for handing out to forayers about the local area. David Orlovich responded that this happens usually, together with an introduction

from local DOC staff, however this hadn't been organised for this foray. [Council have noted this as an action for them – Secretary]. Jenny Shorten requested that a foray list be compiled after the foray and distributed to members together with a narrative on unusual or interesting finds, and that this report should be placed on the website. Jerry Cooper responded that this had happened at the Ohakune foray with Petra White and Jerry Cooper preparing reports and it was the intention to do that at this foray, enhanced by the TFBIS project providing better information on foray collections. 'Otago Naturalist' asked if an evaluation sheet had been prepared to indicate satisfaction or otherwise at the foray. Ross Muir suggested that a Newsletter could be compiled regionally and collated nationally with snippets of information being forwarded to David Orlovich who would nominate somebody to collate the information. David Ratkowsky mentioned an incident that day involving local DOC staff whom they informed about their collecting activities and relevant permit. The DOC person responded that he didn't know anything about the foray. David suggested that everybody attending the foray be provided with a copy of the collecting permit to show on request. It was decided this was really an internal DOC communication problem and not one we should address. Innes Ritchie asked about local community involvement. She recounted the fact that Nelson people still remember the Nelson foray 2 years ago because of the degree of involvement from the local community. Paula Wilkie indicated that the local paper would be carrying a story and that usually the foray involves visits by local school children. This foray was unusual in not having that organised. Geoff Ridley cautioned that too much 'outreach' hinders the purpose of the foray and the enjoyment of the people attending and that there needs to be a trade-off. Pamela Atkinson requested that we have sufficient flexibility to take into account climatic conditions when timing the foray. David Orlovich agreed but pointed out that appropriate weather conditions are a lottery. Pamela Atkinson suggested that DOC should tell us when and where they had aerial drops of 1080 so those areas could be avoided. Biddy Pollard reiterated the need for local community outreach. Jenny Shorten suggested that we set aside one day with a good display table of collections. Don Horne requested the presence of forayers for the annual photograph the following morning at 8:45 (not 8:30!!). Ross Muir proposed a vote of thanks to the committee.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS:

None.

MEETING CLOSED:

8:45pm

ATTACHED PAPERS:

Final agenda for previous AGM:

MINUTES DISTRIBUTED TO MEMBERSHIP:

Draft version to Council 17th May 2006

Fungal Network of New Zealand
1st Annual General Meeting
Wesport, 10th May 2006

AGENDA ITEMS:

- APOLOGIES
 - Received from Fran Kell
- CONSIDERATION AND ADOPTION OF THE MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS AGM:
The minutes of the foray meeting held at Oahkune, 7th April 2005 will be tabled at the meeting. Please note this was not a FUNNZ AGM.
- MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES
- COUNCIL REPORTS:
 - President's Report
 - Secretary's Report
 - Treasurer's Report
- BUSINESS ITEMS:
 - FUNNZ project
 - Next foray
- ELECTION OF OFFICERS:
Note that the following FUNNZ Officer's were elected at the 2006 foray meeting prior to the incorporation of FUNNZ.
 -
 - President – David Orlovich (2005-2006)
 - Vice President – Peter Buchanan (2005-2006)
 - Immediate Past President (N/A)
 - Treasurer – Paula Wilkie (2005-2006)
 - Secretary – Jerry Cooper (2005-2006)
 - Councillor – Geoff Ridley (2005-2006)
 - Councillor – Clive Shirley (webmaster) (2005-2006)
- ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Appendix 1

President's Report – David Orlovich

To be tabled at the meeting

Secretary's Report – Jerry Cooper

One of our aims as a society is the attraction of funding. During the year I applied for two grants to support FUNNZ activities. The first application was for a Canon Environmental Grant to purchase Canon photographic equipment for use at the foray. This application was unsuccessful. The second application was to the Terrestrial and Freshwater Biodiversity Information System (TFBIS). This application was successful and we were awarded \$43,000 over a one year period. The proposal described in Appendix 2 along with the proposal text. Initially this project was to be submitted to TFBIS by Landcare Research and managed by LCR in support of FUNNZ. As somebody very familiar with this particular fund I later decided the proposal would stand more chance of success if submitted by the Chairman of FUNNZ. The project will be financially and practically managed by LCR and Otago University on behalf of FUNNZ.

TFBIS Project awarded to Landcare Research, Otago University and FUNNZ.

Background

Those who attended the foray last year may recall Helen Greenep and myself photographing selected specimens from the display table. These collections were later processed and incorporated into the PDD national collection. The associated images and follow up identification data were added to the NZFUNGI database and made available through the Landcare website. In total there were 438 collections deposited, representing 298 taxa. 3 collections were of species currently flagged as Nationally Critical in DOC's classification (*Ramaria junquilleovortex*, *Squamanita squarrulosa*, *Russula littoralis*), and 67 collections (of 44 taxa) were of records flagged in the DOC classification as Data Deficient and therefore represent particularly important additions to our knowledge. The list is published on the FUNNZ website. The work required to process foray collections in this way is considerable.

Field images associated with documented collections valuable information and you may also recall at the foray a lively discussion on the issue of the numerous images taken by forayers. Specifically the issue concerned tracking the image information with the specimens that eventually end up in the national collection.

Also during the year Landcare Research (Colin Meurck and Jerry Cooper) were successful in obtaining TFBIS funding to support the development of a national web-based observation databank for several organism groups including fungi. This will be known as the New Zealand Biodiversity Record Network (NZBRN) and will be independently hosted. This system is currently being developed and is based on an award winning national system used in Sweden (and now Norway and Denmark). This web portal allows amateurs to record and display their observation data on a powerful and attractive web site. The issue for FUNNZ is how to get our current and historical data into a database so we can all gain the benefit from access to the information.

The TFBIS project will help us address all of these issues. It is planned that we will purchase a laptop computer for use on the forays. It will be used to capture collection/observation information and host the NZFUNGI and other useful reference material. It is hoped that between forays the laptop will be available to FUNNZ members to allow them to digitize their own historical records. We hope some of the funds will be available to purchase a quality digital camera and accessories for use at forays. The remaining funds will allow us to digitize the historical data, collect current data, and make the information available through the NZBRN and the FUNNZ website.

TFBIS Project Outline

1. Collate, digitise, geo-reference and make available species data from past forays.
2. Improve management of information on observations and collections on the 2007 foray
3. Collate, digitize, geo-referenced and make available data on collections, observations and images generated during the 2007 foray
4. Process digitized data for the NZBRN and NZFUNGI websites and the PDD Fungal Herbarium
5. Process physical collections for accession into the national fungal collection (PDD) at Landcare Research

The TFBIS project will be considered under Business Items.

Treasurer's Report – Paula Wilkie

Treasurer's Report to the Annual General Meeting of The Fungal Network of New Zealand Inc for period ended 28 February 2006.

The Financial Accounts for the period from formation of FUNNZ on 5 May 2005 to the balance date of 28 February 2006 are attached. This period occurred after the 2005 foray at Ohakune and before this year's foray at Westport, so no foray income or expenditure is accounted for.

A total of \$6919.41 was transferred from the fungal foray accounts, and banked to FUNNZ. A small loss occurred after deducting formation costs from interest earned on our bank deposit. FUNNZ members funds totalled \$6906.89 at 28 February 2006.

Although 5 members paid subscriptions prior to 28 February, the Council has held these to be applied to membership for 2007.

The Income Tax and GST position of FUNNZ is currently being researched.

J Paula Wilkie
Treasurer
3 May 2006

Names of all attending Foray 2006 in Westport

Allen, Ken and Val : Tues, Wed, Thurs

Atkinson, Toni and Pamela
Austwick, Peter Sun and Wednes night meals
Bell, Stewart
Buchanan, Peter Tues – Thurs am and Friday night
Butterworth, Brian : Wed - Thurs
Bywater, Cressida
Catcheside, Pam and David
Cooper, Jerry
Cummings, Nic
Dickie, Ian: Sun – Thurs am
Draffin, Suzy
Gates, Genevieve
Garland, Tegan
Gray, Abe
Greenep, Helen
Horne, Don and Gwen : Tues – Thurs am
Horak, Egon and Almut: Tues pm – Thurs or Fri
Hughes, Karen
Johnston, Peter: Mon – Thurs am
Kerr, Shirley
Kitchen, Hilary
Knightbridge, Phil : Wed – Thurs am
Kyle, Leicester
List, Daniel
Lockett, Gabrielle
Lyttle, David
Massey, Baxter
Monk, Geoff with friend
Mueller, Greg
Muir, Pauline and Ross
Noordeloos, Machiel
Orlovich, David
Paulus, Barbara: Tues – Thurs am
Pennycook, Shaun
Petersen, Ron
Pilkington, Michael and Shelley
Pollard, Bidy
Ratkowsky, David
Ridley, Geoff
Ritchie, Innes
Roberts, Andrea
Shorten, Jenny and David (UK): Sun - Thurs
Soop, Karl