



NEWSLETTER

Australian Research Network for
PARASITOLOGY

Volume 22 Issue No. 1 January/February 2011

From the President's desk

Hello members

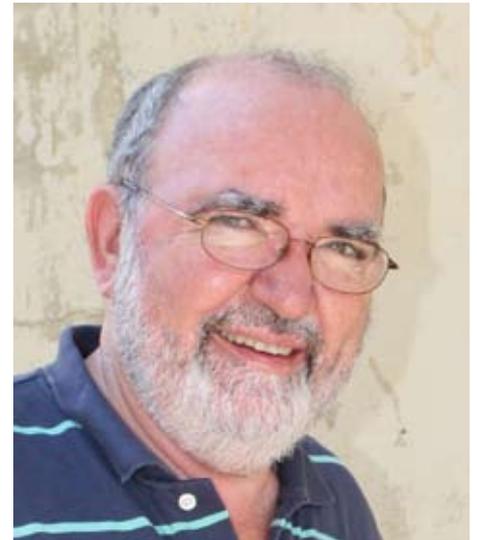
As we welcome 2011, we look back on quite a productive year for the ASP in 2010 with the ICOPA XIII Conference, a Strategic Planning exercise, the negotiation of a new publishing agreement for the IJP, the awarding of the Bancroft-Mackerras Medal and two members elected as Fellows of the Society.

It is with sadness that I reflect on the recent passing of Prof John Sprent, Founding President of the ASP in 1964 and Editor in Chief of the International Journal for Parasitology from 1974-1993, a truly heroic level of service to his field and our Society. The Society was delighted that Prof Sprent was honoured by the World Federation of Parasitologists with the granting of the WFP Distinguished Parasitologist Award at the ICOPA XIII in August. Mal Jones hosted a ceremony in Brisbane in September to celebrate Prof Sprent's career and present the award and John was delighted to be honoured. On behalf of the Society, I extend our sympathies to John's family. A memorial will be published in the IJP in 2011.

Members will be aware that *Parasites in Focus* has been on display at the Museum of the Riverina in Wagga Wagga following ICOPA XII. Shokoofeh Shamsi, Nick Sangster, David Jenkins and myself were involved in establishing the display. We conducted a session for primary schoolchildren which was attended by over 20 budding parasitologists. The children heard stories from Shokoofeh and myself on fish parasites, malaria, flukes, cestodes, roundworms, ticks, etc. Based on advice in a video from David Jenkins re hydatid transmission I can report that at least one child will now wash his hands after playing in his yard at his farm: needless to say his mother was delighted and personally thanked us for bringing this message to her son!

Congratulations are due to ASP members for recent personal awards. Leann Tilley was awarded an ARC Professorial Fellowship and Rowena Martin received three awards: a L'Oreal Australia For Women in Science Fellowship; the inaugural Macquarie University Eureka Prize for Early Career Research; a 2010 ACT Young Tall Poppy Scientist award. Well done Leann and Rowena!

On the Strategic Planning front, inside this edition of the Newsletter members are invited to comment on the draft ASP Strategic Plan which was discussed at the AGM. Members can pass their suggestions directly to myself or via their State Reps. I would be pleased to hear



comments and suggestions from all members: I would particularly like to hear from our younger members on how the Society can serve you better. Please note my new email address below.

With respect to the IJP publishing agreement, and as announced at the AGM, I can advise that we have finalised a new seven year term with an increase in royalty payments to the ASP from 25% to 35% which will generate significant income for the Society. On behalf of the Society I thank Council for their support during these negotiations with Elsevier.

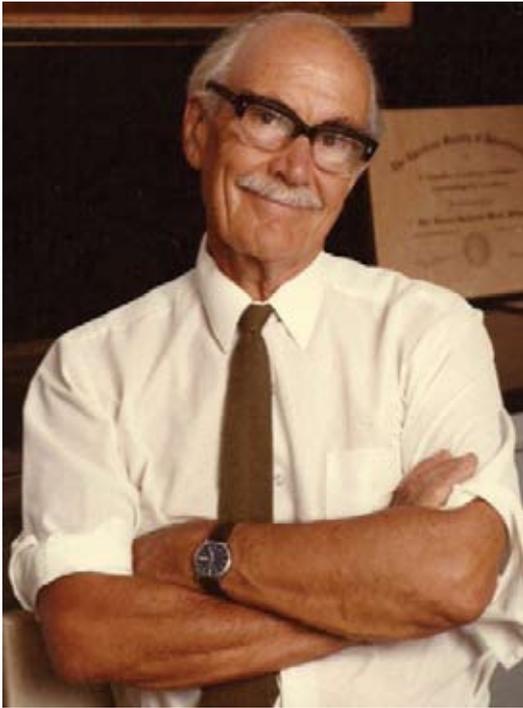
Members may be aware that changes are afoot within the Council. Nick Smith, Lisa Jones and myself are each relocating to take up new appointments. Nick has accepted a Chair in Tropical Medicine at James Cook University and faces the challenge of moving his well established lab from UTS to Cairns. We wish him luck! We are delighted that Lisa Jones will also move to James Cook to take up a new position at JCU and continue to serve the ASP in her position as the Communications and Strategic Development Coordinator. We wish Lisa well as she moves her family to Cairns. Congratulations to Nick and Lisa on your new appointments!

On the personal front, I have accepted a new position at La Trobe University as Professor of Animal Science, Head of Agricultural Sciences and co Director of the new \$288M Centre for AgriBioscience (AgriBio) at La Trobe University (see <http://www.latrobe.edu.au/agribio/>). AgriBio will bring the Victorian Department of Primary Industries together with La Trobe to create

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John Frederick Adrian Sprent CBE DSc FRCVS FACVSc FAA: 1915 – 2010



John Sprent, long-standing editor of the *International Journal for Parasitology*, passed away on 1st November 2010. He was 95. Emeritus Professor J.F.A. Sprent made outstanding contributions, over more than 60 years, to education, research and scholarship within the field of Parasitology. His work included the field of pathology as well as detailed classical studies on taxonomy, life-cycles, zoogeography and evolution of parasites.

John had a signal impact on the discipline of Parasitology. After graduating in Veterinary Sciences and Zoology from the University of London, he commenced his doctoral studies in Africa, working on the life cycle of *Bunostomum* hookworms of cattle. He subsequently held research fellowships in the UK, USA and Canada.

John arrived in Australia with his wife Muriel and young family in 1952 to take up the position of Senior Lecturer in Veterinary Parasitology at the University of Queensland. John's vision for parasitology was larger than this brief, however, and he was soon pressing to establish a primary focus for all aspects of the discipline, a vision that led to the establishment of the Department of Parasitology at the University in 1960, the only such Department to exist in Australia. While serving as Professor of Parasitology, Head of Department and Dean of Veterinary Sciences,

he pressed on with his life work on ascaridoid nematodes, writing many keynote papers of their pathogenesis, diversity and evolution. His work on migration of *Toxocara* larvae in hosts led to a new understanding of parasite pathogenesis, and provided an experimental basis for understanding visceral larva migrans.

With national and international colleagues, John played a key role in establishing the Australian Society for Parasitology, of which he was elected Foundation President in 1964. As befitting a strong Society in those days, it was decided by members that they should sponsor a Journal. This resolve led to the establishment of the *International Journal for Parasitology* in 1971, under the editorship of Professor JD Smyth. John Sprent became Editor in 1974, a position he held for another 20 years, ably assisted throughout this period by his editorial assistant, Ms. Mary Cremin. John's tenure as Editor was characterised by his continuing passion for parasites and parasitology, and his compassionate and collegial support of authors and reviewers.

After retirement from the Journal, John spent his days on his beloved property in Moggill in the western suburbs of Brisbane. Here, he tended his rainforest and cattle, until ill health forced he and his second wife Mary to relocate to a care facility in early 2010.

John will be sadly missed for his many outstanding contributions to parasitology, particularly in the field of ascaridoid biology and for his strong and relentless support of parasitology in the post-WWII years. John will be remembered for his open and gentlemanly nature. John and his first wife, Muriel, had three children. His daughter, Elizabeth, predeceased him. John is survived by his wife Mary, his sons Jonathan and Antony, grandchildren and families.

A full memorial will be published in the *International Journal for Parasitology* in coming months.

From the President's desk cont...

research synergies that will have international impact. The AgriBio complex will be a stunning addition to the research capability in Melbourne in the fields of plant and animal science and allows me to meet up again with old colleagues from the Victorian Institute of Animal Science at Attwood, as well as old friends at the LTU Biochemistry Department. I plan to use the AgriBio as a platform to promote research in parasitology and build new collaborations and I look forward to hosting ASP members to visit my new lab at LTU in 2011. As of 13 December 2010 my new email is t.spithill@latrobe.edu.au

Finally, on behalf of Council, I hope that all ASP members had a peaceful Christmas and New Year with your partners, family and friends. See you in 2011.

Best wishes

Terry Spithill

Bancroft-Mackerras Medal guidelines

Nominations for Bancroft-Mackerras Medal

The Bancroft-Mackerras Medal may be awarded to a member of the Society who, in the opinion of the selection committee, has made an outstanding contribution to the science of parasitology, particularly in work published during the last five years.

Nominations should be made by a proposer and seconder, and should consist of:

A detailed statement of nomination describing the nature of the "outstanding contribution to the science of parasitology" for which he/she has been responsible. The statement should be signed by the proposer and seconder, or each may submit a separate statement.

A curriculum vitae including a list of all publications.

Note that the Medal is intended for members whose research program has been productive during the last five years. The permission of the nominee is not required and the nominee need not be aware of the nomination.

Nominations should be sent direct to the current ASP Executive Secretary. Detailed information on nomination and selection procedures is given in the By-Laws of the ASP Constitution. Nominations are due each year at the end of September.



Human head louse Pediculus humanus capitis image courtesy of Cath Covacin, The University of QLD (Australia) and are part of "Parasites In Focus" travelling exhibition.

News from the Australian Research Network for Parasitology

News from the Network

Australian parasitology research ends 2010 on a very high note with the announcement of grants and fellowships from the ARC, NHMRC and DIISR worth over \$15 million; and all this in addition to the almost \$4 million worth of grants and Fellowships from the ARC announced in our October Newsletter. Congratulations to all the lucky recipients listed below and commiserations to those of us less fortunate this time...

The year also ends on a high for Lisa and me because we will be moving the Australian Network for Parasitology to a new home in early 2011; both Lisa and I have accepted the offer of permanent positions at James Cook University's Cairns campus. Whilst obviously great for the two of us, this is also excellent news for the Network because it means that we can stretch the current financial commitment by the ASP from 1 year to 4 years, in the first instance, thanks to JCU furnishing 40% of Lisa's salary, in partnership with the QLD Tropical Health Alliance. Thus, an important first step in ensuring the sustainability of the Network has been achieved in the first year out of ARC and NHMRC funding.

I am pleased to announce that registration for the 2011 ASP Annual Conference is now open, please register online at www.conftool.net/parasitology2011/

Check the conference website for all news www.parasite.org.au/arcnet/conference
We will also be running Outreach Events featuring "Bugs you might get in the tropics", Early Career Researcher programs, and, subject to interest and demand, Postgraduate Courses in Bioinformatics and Tropical Marine Parasitology so check the ASP website for more details, sign yourself up for RSS feeds or follow the ASP website on Twitter www.parasite.org.au.

Also, in this issue, our featured research story from Australian parasitologists who publish in The International Journal for Parasitology is from Stephanie Godfrey and her research understanding how host-social organisation influences parasite transmission. Be sure to check out the other Editor's choices too. http://www.elsevier.com/wps/find/L04_423.cws_home/main

Nick Smith
Convenor, Australian Research Network for Parasitology

Congratulations

ARC Future Fellows

Dr Jacob Baum, Walter and Eliza Hall Institute of Medical Research, Molecular dissection of malaria parasite motility and host-cell invasion across the lifecycle

Dr Sheena McGowan, Monash University, Structural and functional characterisation of compounds that inhibit the malarial aminopeptidases

ARC LIEF Grants

Prof Paul F Alewood, Prof Richard J Lewis, Prof Glenn F King, Prof David J Craik, Prof Kirill Alexandrov, Dr Jason P Mulvenna, Prof Alan G Baxter, Prof Alex C Loukas, Prof David J Miller, The University of Queensland, James Cook University, High-throughput, high resolution protein-peptide sequencing and quantification facility

A/Prof Robert D Trengove, Dr Alan J Lymbery, Dr Matthew J Sharman, Prof Richard C Thompson, Prof Michael G Jones, Prof Svend P Klincken, Prof Steven M Smith, A/Prof Simon W Lewis, Murdoch University, Curtin University of Technology, Edith Cowan University, The University of Western Australia, Small biological molecule tissue imaging mass spectrometry facility for Western Australia for spatial metabolomics and lipidomics

NHMRC Senior Fellowships

Prof Marshall Lightowlers, PRF University of Melbourne

Prof Don McManus, SPRF, Queensland Institute of Medical Research

Dr Louis Schofield, PRF Walter and Eliza Hall Institute of Medical Research

NHMRC Career Development Fellowships

Dr Justin Boddey, Walter and Eliza Hall Institute of Medical Research, Characterising Plasmeprin V-mediated export of malaria proteins

Dr Tania de Koning-Ward, Deakin University, Protein export in malaria parasites

Dr Jason Mulvenna, James Cook University, Proteomic approaches to explore the pathogenesis and secretomes of parasitic flukes of humans

Dr Najju Ranjit, James Cook University, Overseas Based Biomedical Fellowship

NHMRC Project Grants

Dr Alyssa Barry, Prof John Reeder, Mr Livingstone Tavul, Burnet Institute, Var gene diversity and naturally acquired immunity to malaria

Dr Justin Boddey, Dr Anthony Hodder, Dr Brian Smith, Walter and Eliza Hall Institute of Medical Research, Function and inhibition of Plasmeprin V in targeting malaria virulence proteins

Dr Philippe Boeuf, Prof Stephen Rogerson, Prof Lars Hviid, The University of Melbourne, Functional assays of immunity to malaria in pregnant women

Dr Archie Clements, Dr Kate Halton, Dr Darren Gray, Dr Jaun Antonio Solon, The University of QLD, From maps to efficient multiparasite control in the Philippines

Prof Ross Coppel, Dr Casilda Black, Monash University, Functional studies on two essential rhoptry proteins of the malaria parasite

Prof Alan Cowman, Dr Melanie Rug, Walter and Eliza Hall Institute of Medical Research, Export of PfEMP1, the major virulence protein of *P. falciparum*, to the parasite-infected erythrocyte surface

Prof Timothy Davis, Dr Ivo Mueller, Prof Peter Siba, the University of WA, Exploring resistance of *Plasmodium vivax* to antimalarial drugs: A retrospective and prospective study

Dr Michael Duffy, Dr Anthony Papenfuss, Prof Thor Theander, Prof Stephen Rogerson, Prof Graham Brown, The University of Melbourne, Identifying malaria PfEMP1 proteins that elicit antibodies associated with protection from cerebral malaria

Dr Walter Fairlie, A/Prof Bernd Kalinna, The University of Melbourne, Targeting Bcl-2 pathways in parasites

A/Prof Andreas Hofmann, Griffith University, and **A/Prof Malcolm Jones**, The University of QLD, Roles of annexins in schistosome surface homeostasis and host-parasite interactions

A/Prof Bernd Kalinna, Prof Robin Gasser,

The University of Melbourne, Somatic gene trapping in *Schistosoma mansoni*: the key to functional analysis?

Dr Rowena Martin, Australian National University, Interactions between the malaria parasite's chloroquine resistance transporter and antimalarial drugs

Prof Malcolm McConville, Dr Vladimir Likic, The University of Melbourne, Metabolomic analysis of *Leishmania* parasites; identifying metabolic pathways required for pathogenesis

Prof Malcolm McConville, Dr Stuart Ralph, The University of Melbourne, Metabolomic analysis of *Plasmodium falciparum* and mode of action of antimalarial compounds

Dr Bronwyn O'Brien, Dr Sheila Donnelly, Prof John Dalton, Dr Mark Robinson, Prof Ann Simpson, University of Technology, Sydney, Prevention of beta cell destruction in type 1 diabetes by immunotherapy using parasite derived molecules.

Prof John Reeder, Dr Alyssa Barry, Dr Ivo Mueller, Prof Peter Siba, Burnet Institute, Population genomics of *Plasmodium vivax* in Papua New Guinea

DIISR International Science Linkages

Prof Nick Smith, University of Technology, Sydney, and **Dr Fabien Brossier**, INRA, France, The role of proteases of the parasite, *Eimeria*, in the dissemination of the disease, poultry coccidiosis

ARC Grant

Prof Susan A Charman, Prof Richard C Thompson, Dr Martine Keenan, Dr Wayne M Best, Dr Andrea Khong, Dr Eric Chatelain, Partners with Drugs for Neglected Diseases Initiative, Epicchem Pty Ltd
Rational design of new drug candidates for the treatment of *Trypanosoma cruzi* infection

Network Travel Awards

The first Network Travel Award round for 2011 has just closed and applications are being assessed. The Travel Award deadlines for applications in 2011 will be:

Friday 27 May 2011
Friday 7 October 2011

Congratulations - Network Travel Award winners

Congratulations to JD Smyth Travel Award and Network Travel Award winners in the final round of the Award scheme for 2010.

JD Smyth Travel Award winner

Simone Reynolds, Queensland Institute of Medical Research, for a Researcher Exchange to visit Anna Blom Research Group, Lund University, Department of Laboratory Medicine, Malmö, Sweden and International

Summer School on Pathogen-Host Interplay hosted by the Centre for Infection Biology & Immunity, at the Humboldt University, Berlin, Germany.

Network Travel Award winners

Rosa Marchetti, Australian National University for Researcher Exchanges to La Trobe University, Melbourne and University of Technology, Sydney.

Lesley Warner, South Australian Museum for a Researcher Exchange to the Natural History Museum, London, UK to study international collections of Australian Acanthocephala from fish, to network with curators of helminths in European Museums, and to mentor a young Australian scientist.

Crystal Kelehear, The University of Sydney for a Researcher Exchange to the Mendonca Lab at Auburn University, Alabama, USA, to learn new techniques from a leading lab, in the fields of amphibian immunology/parasitology.

Closing Dates for ASP Awards

Network Travel Award (includes JD Smyth Award)
27 May 2011
7 October 2011

Bancroft-Mackerras Award
30 September 2011 (for award in 2012)

JFA Sprent Prize
30 September 2011

ASP Fellowships
By 9 January 2012

Visit the ASP website for more information
www.parasite.org.au

News from the Convenor

OzEMalaR continues to strengthen the links between Australian malaria research laboratories with European, African & Indian malaria researchers through researcher exchanges and communication. Email Lisa with any news, jobs or events you have for the website (parasitologycommunicator@gmail.com) or with your comments and suggestions.

At the 2011 ASP Annual Conference one of the headline speakers will be an Early Career Researcher from the EViMalaR network, I hope to see you in Cairns in July at the conference.

Congratulations to recent OzEMalaR Travel Award winners, listed below. We look forward to hearing about how those Researcher Exchanges went in the near future.

Visit our website www.ozemalar.org to find out how you can apply for OzEMalaR Travel Awards to support early career malaria researchers (PhD and postdocs) from Australia to work and be trained in top European laboratories within EviMalaR (= BioMalPar) for malaria research. To check which laboratories are eligible as hosts visit www.evimalar.org. Download funding guidelines from the ozemalar website and start planning your researcher exchanges to utilise this great opportunity.

Our next closing date for OzEMalaR Travel Awards is Friday 18 February 2011, we hope to see lots of applications including those eligible for OzEMalaR Travel Awards.

Geoff McFadden
Convenor, OzEMalaR

Congratulations - OzEMalaR Travel Award winners

Congratulations to OzEMalaR Travel Award winners in the second and third rounds of the Award scheme in 2010.

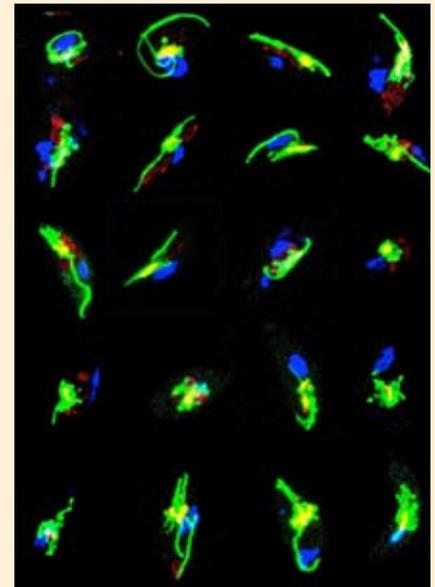
Julia Cutts, (Walter and Eliza Hall Institute) for her Researcher Exchange to attend Malaria Experimental Genetics Training Course (Wellcome Trust), and grant writing retreat at the Laboratory of Prof. Andy Waters, Wellcome Trust Centre for Molecular Parasitology.

Sarah Charnaud, (The Burnet Institute) for a Researcher Exchange to visit the Lingelbach Laboratory, Philipps Universitat, Marburg, Germany .

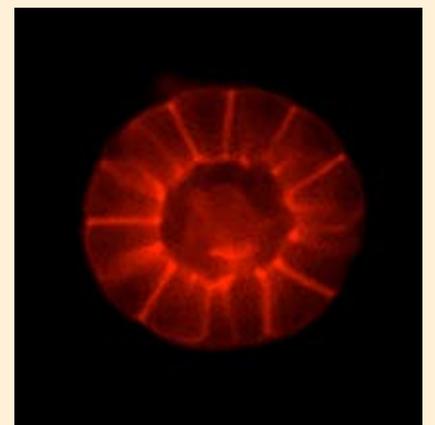
Philippe Boeuf, (University of Melbourne) for a Researcher Exchange to visit the Centre for Medical Parasitology, Copenhagen, Denmark.

Ben Woodcroft, (University of Melbourne) for a Researcher Exchange to visit the Voss group, Swiss Tropical and Public Health Institute

Ellen Nisbet, (University of South Australia) for a Researcher Exchange to attend the 2011 Malaria Experimental Genetics Advanced Course run by the Wellcome Trust in Hinxton.



Plasmodium falciparum gametocytes image courtesy Okamoto



Plasmodium schizont image courtesy Tonkin

The CASS Foundation - Post-Doctoral Travel Grants For Early Career Researchers (ECR)

The travel grants are offered to further the career opportunities of early career Australian post-doctoral researchers by enabling them to make presentations of their research findings at international conferences/meetings/related activities where they may meet colleagues and establish the foundations for ongoing research collaborations. The applicant is expected to be presenting new research as a platform presentation or as a poster where the applicant is first author. The grants are not available for travel to attend conferences being held in Australia.

A CASS Travel Grant can be used to extend attendance at a Conference to include visits to laboratories of collaborators or prospective collaborators.

The maximum amount of a CASS Travel Grant that may be awarded is the lesser of A\$6,000.00 or eighty percent (80%) of the "Total Cost" as disclosed on the Application Form.

Eligibility

- All applicants must be Australian Citizens or have a visa allowing them to remain permanently in Australia. (See website for elaboration on this eligibility point).
- All applicants are expected to reside continuously in Australia during the period between the date of applying for a CASS Travel Grant and the scheduled date of departure (the period) nominated on the Application Form. This restriction is to show preference for applicants who do not have access to other resources, grants or awards to cover the expense of travel to international conferences and to exclude applicants who are based temporarily or permanently outside Australia.

- The CASS Travel Grants program was developed to assist ECRs. In most cases, CASS will consider an ECR to be a researcher who is within seven or eight years of the start of their research career. This normally means that the applicant will have been awarded a PhD within the past seven or eight years. CASS at its discretion may allow some flexibility in the interpretation of this time frame where the applicant's work history or other circumstances may warrant it.

- In its consideration of CASS Travel Grant applications, CASS will have regard to its overall funding objectives and will take into account the status of the conference and the nature and extent of the applicant's participation in the conference proceedings and other proposed activities. Applicants may include visits to scientific institutes and colleagues, if such activities are directly related to their primary research activities in Australia.

- In view of the Foundation's primary objectives in making Travel Grants available, awards are unlikely to be made to support overseas field work, independent research or courses of study.

Further Information

http://www.cassfoundation.org/index.php?option=com_content&view=category&layout=blog&id=17&Itemid=54

Closing Dates

Round 1, 2011 - An application form will be available for downloading from 1 January 2011. Applications open 1 February 2011 and close 5.00pm EST (Victoria) on the 28 February 2011.

Round 2, 2011 - An application form will be available for downloading from 1 July 2011. Applications open 1 August 2011 and close 5.00pm EST (Victoria) on the 19 August 2011.

Conference

2011 ASP Annual Conference will be held in Tropical North Queensland from Sunday 10th until Wednesday 13th July at the Pullman Reef Casino, Cairns



The 2011 ASP Annual Conference program includes an outstanding mix of quality international and Australian scientists and events centred around the "One Health" concept integrating tropical parasitology for both animal and human health with the following themes and invited speakers:

"One Health"

- Felix Guerrero (US Dept. of Agriculture)
- Peter Deplazes (Universität Zürich)
- Mike Grigg (NIH, USA)
- Deb Holt (Menzies School of Health, NT)
- Andrew Thompson (Murdoch University)

Elsevier Lectures

- Karl Hoffman (Aberystwyth University)
- Ricardo Gazzinelli (Universidade Federal de Minas Gerais & University of Massachusetts)

Tropical Marine Parasitology

- David Blair (James Cook University)
- Lexa Grutter (University of Queensland)
- Rob Adlard (Queensland Museum)

Malaria

- Balbir Singh (Uni. Malaysia)
- Stephen Rogerson (University of Melbourne)
- EViMalaR Early Career Researcher

Tropical Veterinary Parasitology

- Con Constantinoiu (James Cook University)
- Brian Cooke (Monash University)

Conference website is www.parasite.org.au/arcnet/conference

Registration is now open, please register online at www.conftool.net/parasitology2011/

We will also be running Outreach Events featuring "Bugs you might get in the tropics", Early Career Researcher programs, and, subject to interest and demand, Postgraduate Courses in Bioinformatics and Tropical Marine Parasitology so check the ASP website for more details, sign yourself up for RSS feeds or follow the ASP website on Twitter www.parasite.org.au

Events



A huge week in Parasitology awaits you in July 2011



Following the **Australian Society for Parasitology** meeting in Cairns, continue learning about parasites.

Parasitology SIG of ASM & ACTM along with the National Strongyloides Working Group (SIG of ACTM) have organised a combined meeting

- **ASM & ACTM Parasitology Master Class 2011:**
14-15 July
- **6th National Workshop on Strongyloidiasis :**
15-16 July
- **National Scientific Meeting of ACTM: 16 - 17 July**

14th to 17th July 2011
At Pullman Reef Casino, Cairns

Details at www.parasitologymasterclass.org

First Australasian Scientific Conference on Aquatic Animal Health

The FRDC Aquatic Animal Health Subprogram (AAHS) is pleased to announce the First Australasian Scientific Conference on Aquatic Animal Health to be held 5-8 July 2011 at the Pullman Reef Hotel in Cairns, Queensland, Australia – gateway to the Great Barrier Reef and Daintree rainforest.

The conference provides a forum for presentation of diagnostic, research, management and policy issues encompassing all areas of aquatic animal health and bio-security.

To register your interest please contact Joanne Slater, FRDC Aquatic Animal Health Subprogram Coordinator (email:

joanne.slater@csiro.au) with an expression of interest indicating whether you plan to attend and/or make a presentation, with your contact details: name, institution, postal address, email address, fax and telephone numbers.

☀ Wildlife Disease Association – Australasia Annual Conference 25-30 September 2011, South Australia

Dates for you diary. This is always a great conference with high quality talks and a relaxed atmosphere. You can rest assured it will be fabulous so please Save the Date! The 2011 conference will be held at Camp Coorong (near Meningie) approximately 2.5 hrs from Adelaide.

Membership of the Australasian Section is open to anyone interested in accomplishing our objectives. Please go to <http://www.wildlifedisease.org/membership.htm> for membership information. Visit the WDA Australasia website: <http://www.wda-aust.org/index.html>

ASP President Letter to members 04/01/2011

Letter from the ASP president published on the ASP website and emailed to all ASP members on January 8, 2011

Hello ASP members,

Happy 2011! I am writing to members seeking your feedback on two significant matters.

Member comments on the Draft Strategic Plan

Please find attached the draft ASP Strategic Plan (with appendices) prepared by Council after careful consideration and discussion. I briefed the membership on this at the AGM in Melbourne in August.

I now formally invite all members to carefully consider the draft plan and send comments to Council either via myself (t.spithill@latrobe.edu.au) or via your State representative. Council is very keen to seek your thoughts on the draft Plan which will determine our future activities over the next 10 years. We are keen to hear from all members, and particularly our young early career members, on how the ASP can meet your needs.

So please send us any ideas/suggestions/critiques you may have by 25 January 2011. Council will meet on 10 February and all suggestions will be considered and discussed.

ASP Strategic Plan – draft click on the following link <http://parasite.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2011/01/Draft-plan-3-Jan-2011.pdf>

Proposed name change for the ARC/NHMRC Research Network for Parasitology

As we know, external funding for the ARC/NHMRC Research Network for Parasitology has ceased although Network activities have continued with ASP support through 2009-2011. In 2009 Council formed a Task Force (Andrew Thompson [Chair], Deborah Holt, Adele Lehane, Graham Mitchell, Geoff McFadden, Terry Spithill, Malcolm Jones) who met in Melbourne on 18th March 2009, and considered, among other matters, options as to how the activities of the Network may continue.

The Task Force recommended to Council that:

“the ASP should have ‘ownership’ of the future Network, with a Convenor appointed by Council and sitting on Council. This will ensure close integration of the new Network into ASP. The future Network should be considered as a wholly owned subsidiary of the ASP which would allow it to be packaged separately for the purposes of attracting funding for specific activities of the Network. As such, and in order to enhance fund raising and differentiate the new/old Networks, the Committee proposed a name change for the Network and a number of options are suggested for further consideration by Council: we suggest the ASP survey the membership for ideas”.

The draft Strategic Plan from Council reflects this recommendation. Council now seeks ideas from the membership for a name change for the new entity which will replace the previous Network (see Pillar 4 of the Plan). A number of options are suggested for further consideration by members. Some suggestions from the Task Force and Council are:

- Australian Research Network for Parasitology (ARNP) (this is the current name in use)
- Australian Network for Advancing Parasitology (ANAP)
- Parasitology Network Australia (PNA)
- Australian College for Parasitology (ACP)
- Australian Parasitology Training Initiative (APTI)
- Parasitology Teaching and Education Initiative (PTEI)
- Parasitology Australia (PA)
- ASP Hub for Parasitology Research (AHPR)
- Australian Parasitology Research Hub (APRH)
- Australian Parasitology Consortium (APC)
- Australian Parasitology Alliance (APA)

I encourage members to send me (or your local State rep) your ideas for the new name (t.spithill@latrobe.edu.au) by 25 January 2011: if you are happy with one of the names above please let us know.

Council will consider all suggestions at the next meeting in February.

Many thanks in anticipation.

Regards

Terry Spithill

4 January 2011

Researcher News

Menzies researchers win major Research and Innovation Awards

Researchers from the Menzies School of Health Research won the prestigious Chief Minister's Research and Innovation Award. The prize went to the Menzies Leishmania Project Team for their work in identifying the insect that spreads the parasite *Leishmania* in Australia.

Menzies won three awards; the *Leishmania* Project Team won the Chief Minister's Research and Innovation Award and the Tropical Knowledge Awards, while Dr Kate Mounsey won the inaugural NT Young Tall Poppy award.

Worldwide Leishmaniasis is a devastating infection caused by *Leishmania* parasites.

It can be fatal if left untreated, and causes tens of thousands of cases and deaths each year, particularly in Africa and South America. Australia and the Antarctic were thought to be free of the parasites. However in 2003 *Leishmania* infections were discovered in captive red kangaroos in the Northern Territory. Genetic analysis of the NT *Leishmania* has revealed it is a new species not found elsewhere in the world.

Dr Annette Dougall, Dr Deborah Holt and Associate Professor Shelley Walton were the lead Menzies' researchers who worked on the *Leishmania* project, in close collaboration with

the Territory Wildlife Park, the NT Government's Medical Entomology Branch, the Berrimah Veterinary Laboratories and the Australian Quarantine and Inspection Service.

"Our work focused on defining the lifecycle of this parasite. We have shown that a number of different animals native to the Darwin rural area can be infected by the parasites," Dr Holt said.

"This project found the first evidence anywhere in the world that an insect other than a sand fly is capable of transmitting *Leishmania*."

"This has significant implications for biosecurity in Australia, with the possibility that important *Leishmania* species, which are capable of infecting humans and our native wildlife, could be transmitted within Australia."

"This project is a really good example of using the expertise that is available in the Northern Territory by collaborating with four terrific organisations on this research," Dr Holt said.

The research team was thrilled to be recognised through these awards. "It is wonderful to see this ground-breaking research suitably recognised with the Chief Ministers' Award" Professor Jonathan Carapetis, Director of Menzies School of Health Research, said "Identifying the vector that can spread this potentially lethal infection is an essential first step to understanding how it can be controlled, in order to ensure that Australia doesn't see the widespread devastation

in animals or even humans that *Leishmania* has caused in other continents."

Professor Carapetis also paid tribute to Dr Mounsey.

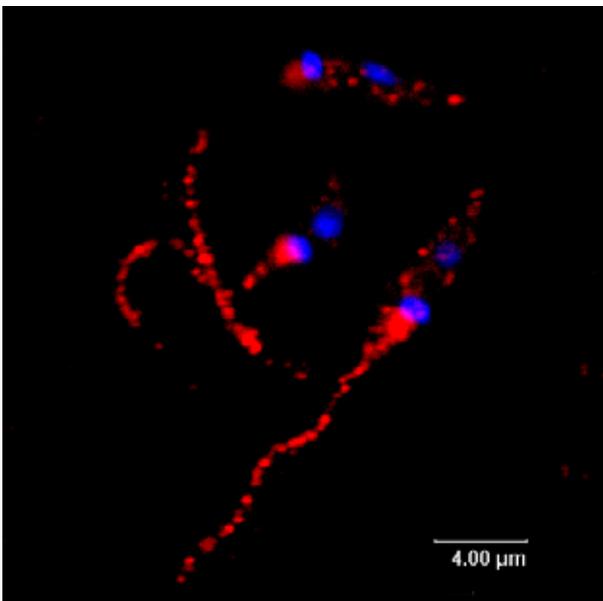
"The Young Tall Poppy is a national program that, each year, recognises in every State and Territory a young person who is both a researcher of the highest calibre, and who spreads the good word about science to a wide audience."

"Kate is a wonderful young woman who is the embodiment of those characteristics. Her research into scabies is providing essential information to help our efforts to control this important disease in Aboriginal communities."

"The burden of scabies remains high in remote Aboriginal communities, with scabies and skin infections in childhood linked to extreme rates of renal and heart disease in adults," Dr Kate Mounsey said.

"My research aims to better understand how drug resistance occurs by measuring responses of scabies mites to drugs, and conducting molecular studies on scabies mite genes involved in drug resistance."

"Additionally, I am investigating immune responses to scabies using a world-first animal model of scabies. This will reveal specific defects that predispose people to crusted scabies, which will ultimately result in new treatment strategies and improved skin health for disadvantaged



Leishmania images courtesy of Joan Curtis and Emanuela Handman, Walter and Eliza Hall Institute of Medical Research (Australia) and are part of "Parasites In Focus" travelling exhibition.

ASP membership website

renew your membership or join online

<http://asp.wildapricot.org>

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50 Kansas Drive
Tolland, NSW 2650
Fax 03 9005 2824

E: pwynn@internode.on.net

IJP news

On January 1st 2011, Associate Professor Brian Cooke from Monash University took over from Dominique Soldati as Deputy Editor of IJP. Brian will be known to many of you and comes to IJP with an impressive list of scientific and editorial credentials. Brian has a wealth of experience in the molecular and cellular biology of protozoan parasites of both humans and animals. He will also remain on the editorial boards of Trends in Parasitology and Blood.



International Journal for Parasitology

Impact Factor 3.819*

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www.elsevier.com/locate/ijpara

January 2011 issue include:

Invited Review

Plasmodium Immunomics

Denise L Doolan

Hosts use altered macronutrient intake to circumvent parasite-induced reduction in fecundity

Fleur Ponton, Fabrice Lalubin, Caroline Fromont, Kenneth Wilson, Carolyn Behm, Stephen J Simpson

Reduced activity of the epithelial sodium channel in malaria-induced pulmonary edema in mice

Leia Hee, Anuwat Dinudom, Andrew J Mitchell, Georges E Grau, David I Cook, Nicholas H Hunt, Helen Ball

Social and environmental determinants of malaria in space and time in Vietnam

Bui H Manh, A Clements, Nguyen Q Thieu, Nguyen M Hung, Le X Hung, Simon I Hay, Tran T Hien, Heiman F Wertheim, Robert W Snow, Peter Horby

Gene deletion from *Plasmodium falciparum* using FLP and Cre recombinases: Implications for applied site-specific recombination

Matthew T O'Neil, Thuan Phuong, Julie Healer, Dave Richard, A.F. Cowman

Methionine transport in the malaria parasite *Plasmodium falciparum*

Simon A Cobbold, Rowena E Martin, Kieran Kirk

IJP feature article



Stephanie Godfrey studies parasites in the territorial reptile, tuatara (*Sphenodon punctatus*). Photo courtesy of Annabel Smith

Stephanie Godfrey and Mike Bull (Flinders University), and Jennifer Moore and Nicola Nelson (Victoria University of Wellington) published their article, "Social network structure and parasite infection patterns in a territorial reptile, the tuatara (*Sphenodon punctatus*)," in the November 2010 issue of *The International Journal for Parasitology*. Stephanie has just graduated with a PhD from this research and talks to Lisa Jones about her work.

"My research is based on a theme of understanding how host-social organisation influences parasite transmission," Stephanie said. "We have been studying a reptile called the tuatara (*Sphenodon punctatus*). Tuatara are thought to be most interesting from an evolutionary perspective; they represent a rather primitive lineage of reptiles that is thought to be a sister lineage to snakes and lizards. Plus, they look fairly similar to fossils from 200 million years ago. However, I think they are even more interesting from an ecological perspective

– they may live for over 100 years, have long generation times of 40-50 years and, are active at temperatures that most other reptiles wouldn't be. They have a really slow life history, taking at least 15 years to reach sexual maturity – most of the animals I was studying were probably older than me! On average, females reproduce only every four years, eggs take more than a year to incubate, and their sex is determined by temperature, with higher temperatures producing more males. And, despite their really slow approach to life, they have survived millions of years," Stephanie said.

"Although they were once distributed across the mainland of New Zealand, the introduction of mammalian predators, which didn't exist in New Zealand until the arrival of humans, and habitat alteration caused their extinction on the mainland. They have been able to survive on offshore islands that don't have mammals introduced to them – these islands are their last refuge," she said.

Stephanie explained the importance of the work she has been doing for the last 3 years: "Although a fair body of research has been done on the unique aspects of the biology of tuatara, such as their 'third' eye, and their reproductive biology, very little is known from an ecological perspective, particularly with regard to their parasites. My PhD project was a part of a larger project, in collaboration with Victoria University of Wellington, aimed at increasing our understanding of the ecology of the tuatara, particularly in context of their conservation."

Stephanie said, "We've been working on Stephens Island, located in the middle of Cook Strait, which is home to the largest population of tuatara – it's estimated that 30-50,000 tuatara live on this 150 hectare island. Access to the island was via helicopter - we would catch a 40 minute helicopter flight from Wellington, through the beautiful Marlborough Sounds. Since Stephens Island has been protected from the introduction of mammal predators, there are many other animals that survive on Stephens Island that aren't common on the mainland either. It makes it a very special place to spend months at a time doing research!"

Tuatara live in a solitary territorial system, where individual tuatara defend their own territory, and have small amounts of overlap with neighbouring territories – which may allow the transmission of parasites among hosts. Stephanie wanted to find out how this social structure might influence parasite burdens of tuatara, using social networks to model the potential pathways for parasite transmission within the population.

Tuatara are infected by ectoparasitic ticks (*Amblyomma sphenodonti*), mites (*Neotrombicula* spp.) and a blood parasite (*Hepatozoon tuatare*), which is transmitted by the tick. Stephanie found that ticks and the blood parasites they vector were strongly associated with the social network of the tuatara but mites weren't. "Tuatara that were more strongly connected to others within the network had higher tick burdens. The ticks are host specific to tuatara, and only spend short periods in the off-host environment whilst

IJP feature article cont...

moulting, and waiting for a new host. However, because mites are free living for a longer period of their lifecycle, they have a reduced dependence on their host – put another way, because mites are only parasitic in their larval stage whilst ticks are wholly parasitic, social networking is more important for ticks. Our results therefore suggest that social networks provide a powerful predictive tool for transmission dynamics of some parasites,” Stephanie said.

In addition to the collaboration with Victoria University of Wellington, Stephanie and Mike also worked with Jens Krause at the University of Leeds and Dick James at the University of Bath, who are both experienced in social network analysis – Stephanie received an ARC/NHMRC Research Network for Parasitology Researcher Exchange Travel Award for a trip to the UK to learn how to apply social network analysis to her research system.

Stephanie is still researching social networks – she is now investigating the sleepy lizard, a pair-living lizard that, theoretically, should throw up quite different scenarios of parasite transmission. We wish Stephanie all the best for her future research and wait to hear about the next instalment in the social networks system story.

Download the IJP article <http://www.sciencedirect.com/>

Network Mentorship Scheme

Early career researchers are encouraged to apply to the Network Convenor (parasitologyconvenor@gmail.com), in strict confidence, for funding to participate in the Network Mentorship Scheme. The scheme allows young investigators to be paired with experienced, successful researchers to discuss, plan, prioritise and set targets for their career. Typically, the early career researcher will fly to the institute of a senior parasitologist and spend a day there. Arrangements for professional development and progress to be reviewed by the pair annually can also be arranged. Importantly, mentors need not be from an individual's home institution but can be drawn from across the Network. The scheme has proved very valuable for several young researchers and their mentors already.

To apply, simply write to Nick Smith (parasitologyconvenor@uts.edu.au) with a brief outline of your research interests and aspirations. You can also indicate a preferred mentor or ask Nick for advice on whom amongst the Network participants may be most suitable.

Request for Chagas researchers

We are looking for Australian researchers who have experience in research on Chagas disease (diagnosis, biology, vector, etc), and I am wondering if you could think of any researchers in your institute or else. We identified several in Japan, and have not identified any Australian researchers so far. I would appreciate it if you could ask around or let me know if you know of anyone. Many thanks.

Dr. Jun Nakagawa
Technical Officer (Research)
Malaria, Vectorborne and Other Parasitic Diseases
Western Pacific Regional Office/WHO
Tel. 632 528 9721
Fax. 632 521 1036
Email: nakagawaj@wpro.who.int

CHANGE OF ADDRESS

If you have changed your address, title or name; or if there is a mistake in your mailing label, please fill out the details below and send them to:

ASP Secretariat
c/- 50 Kansas Drive
Tolland, NSW 2650
Or Fax 03 9005 2824
Or Email: pwynn@internode.on.net

ASP Membership number.
Name as it appears on present mailing label (if possible, please enclose the old mailing label)

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Jobs in parasitology

See the latest jobs in parasitology on the ASP, Network and OzEMalaR websites

<http://www.parasite.org.au>

<http://www.parasite.org.au/arcnet/jobs>

<http://www.ozemalar.org>

Lecturer / Senior Lecturer / Associate Professor (A599-10LL), The Research School of Biology, Australian National University

The Research School of Biology at The Australian National University is seeking to appoint three academic staff at the lecturer/senior lecturer/associate professor level. The successful applicants will each be expected to develop a strong independent research program, as well as to contribute to the development and delivery of an innovative research-led teaching curriculum. Research in the School is organized into three Divisions: Biomedical Science and Biochemistry; Evolution, Ecology and Genetics; and Plant Sciences. Within (and in some cases across) each of the Divisions there are particular 'research foci' that encompass the major research strengths of the School (see further particulars). Each of the new appointments is to be made with a view to complementing or extending one or more of these research strengths. The areas of plant ecological genomics, evolutionary animal genetics/genomics, host/pathogen biology and membrane/cell biology, as they relate to our research strengths, are of particular interest. However, appointments will not be limited to these areas and all outstanding candidates are encouraged to apply.

The positions are to be taken up in 2011.

Further position details and selection criteria are available on the ANU website <http://biology.anu.edu.au/vacancies/>

Applications close on 27 February 2011.

Postdoctoral position to work in the ARC Centre of Excellence for Coherent X-ray Science. (<http://www.coecxs.org/>)

Research Officer

La Trobe Institute for Molecular Science, Level A/B Research Position in the Department of Biochemistry

This position will attract a remuneration package of approx. \$70,200 to \$96,100 per annum, which includes 17% superannuation.

This position is funded by the Australian Research Council as part of the Centre of Excellence for Coherent X-ray Science (CXS) for research into the use of novel imaging techniques to study the cellular architecture of malaria parasite-infected erythrocytes. The CXS is an interdisciplinary collaboration for high-resolution bio-imaging. The project involves developing new methods and applying existing cutting edge techniques for electron, light and X-ray microscopy. The successful applicant will work with colleagues from the Departments of Biochemistry and Physics at La Trobe University and Melbourne University. Molecular and cell biological manipulation of samples will be used to enhance specimen preparation.

This work aims to develop sample preparation protocols suitable for high resolution imaging and to use these methods to obtain information about the cellular architecture of parasitised erythrocytes.

In particular, we aim:

- (1) To develop sample preparation methods for transmission electron microscopy and cryo electron microscopy
- (2) To use electron tomography to image cell samples
- (3) To use and develop super-resolution optical microscopy methods

Further information, contact:
Prof. Leann Tilley. Tel: 03-9479 1375.
Email: L.Tilley@latrobe.edu.au

<http://www.latrobe.edu.au/biochemistry/lab/tilley/index.htm>

Discovery Biology, Griffith University

Discovery Biology currently has the following scholarships available to postgraduate students:

Honours:

Malaria \$2000

PhD:

Malaria: \$22,500 pa

1.) Identification and characterisation of novel compounds with therapeutic potential

or

2.) Innovative Approach to identifying new inhibitors of Gametogenesis

(in collaboration with Dr Pierre Buffet, Paris 6 University. Part of project to be undertaken in France)

For more information about Discovery Biology please visit our website : <http://www.discoverybiology.org/>

Start date: 2011

Interested candidates please contact

A/Prof Vicky Avery

v.avery@griffith.edu.au

(07) 373 56056

2010 ASP Annual General Meeting Draft Minutes

Wed 18 August 2010

Held in Room 212-213, Melbourne Convention Centre

The Annual General Meeting was declared open by the President who welcomed members.

Item 1. Present and apologies

The membership present were not counted but were estimated to number more than 100. An apology for absence was received from Glenn Anderson.

Item 2. Acceptance of the Minutes from AGM 2009

The 2009 AGM minutes had appeared in the ASP Newsletter of December 2009. The Minutes were accepted.

Proposed by Peter O'Donoghue; Seconded by Peter Holdsworth

Item 3. Business arising from AGM 2009

No business arising

Item 4. Presentation of the Bancroft-Mackerras Medal

Prof Terry Spithill, President of the ASP, presented Prof Leann Tilley with the Medal and Certificate and congratulated Leann on her award.

Item 5. Lecture by Dr Tilley

Prof Tilley delivered her oration.

Item 6. In Memoriam, Dr Warwick Nicholas

Dr David Jenkins gave a short presentation on Dr Nicholas' contribution to the ASP during his life together with some personal reflections. A more detailed obituary has been written by Professor Christopher Bryant and this article appeared in the ASP Newsletter (volume 21; issue number 3; August 2010).

Item 7. Council reports:

7.1 President's Report (Terry Spithill)

ASP business

David Jenkins has been interim Executive Secretary since January while Michelle Power took study leave to conduct research in Antarctica. However, Michelle has recently decided to resign as Executive Secretary for personal reasons. I have asked David Jenkins to continue act as interim Executive Secretary until the AGM where I will nominate him for the position. On behalf of all members, I thank Michelle for her service to the Society over many years.

We have several members retiring from Council and wish to issue my thanks for their service on behalf of the Society. I wish to thank Peter Holdsworth who is retiring as Vice President: he has been a good source of advice to me and has served the Society generously on the Executive over the past 3 years. I also thank Julie-Anne Fritz who is retiring as Archivist and Kate Hutson who is retiring as SA State Representative.

I am pleased to announce that Council has appointed Ms Lyn Wynn as our new Secretariat responsible for memberships and our database. Lyn takes over from Maree Conway who did a superb job at reorganising the membership database and creating a web-based system that will serve the ASP well into the future. On behalf of members, I thank Maree for her service to the Society and welcome Lyn aboard. Lyn is based in Wagga Wagga.

2010 ASP Annual General Meeting Draft Minutes cont...

ASP Awards

I am very pleased to advise that the ASP will induct two new Fellows today. Many thanks to the Bancroft-Mackerras Medal Committee members for your service to the ASP.

We were delighted to receive over 100 applications for ASP Student Travel Grants and Council agreed to allocate an additional \$10,000 to support student travel to ICOPA XII. It is clear that ICOPA XII has generated considerable interest among our students.

ASP website

The new ASP website has gone live with a stunning new format courtesy of the creativity and diligence of Jason Mulvenna and Lisa Jones (see <http://parasite.org.au/>). The PARA-SITE interactive tool is also now live and is an exciting addition to our site (<http://parasite.org.au/para-site/introduction/index.html>). Jason and Lisa would welcome comments on the new website. Jason will report further.

ASP Newsletter

Lisa Jones has produced four Newsletters since taking over the Editor position in December 2009. The Newsletters are very informative with a lovely fresh design created by Lisa. We plan to produce 6 Newsletters this year so our members will be well informed of ASP and State news and developments. Lisa will report further.

OzEMalaR

Another exciting development for the ASP was the creation of the Australia - Europe Malaria Research Cooperation – OzEMalaR, a collaborative research network supported by significant funding from the NHMRC-European Union Collaborative Research Grants scheme. OzEMalaR will support scientific exchanges between malaria researchers, students and postdocs in Europe and Australia and will be managed by the Network Management Committee. This is a significant benefit to ASP members and credit is due to Geoff McFadden, Kevin Saliba, Nick Smith and Lisa Jones who put the application together. The first call for applications for the new Australia - Europe Malaria Research Cooperation – OzEMalaR awards has been announced in the August Newsletter. Nick will report further.

IJP news

Members will be aware that Council has entered into negotiations with Elsevier for a new contract for the International Journal for Parasitology. I am pleased to report that negotiations with Elsevier are close to finalisation. Alex will report further.

2011 Conference

With respect to the 2011 Annual Conference, Council has agreed to the offer by Alex Loukas and colleagues to host the 2011 ASP Annual Conference in Cairns from Sunday 10th July–Wednesday 13th July. The venue is selected. Alex will report further.

ICOPA XII

As of 7 August, we had received 1987 abstracts and 1620 registrations. There have been several unavoidable changes to the Program over the past few weeks due to the personal circumstances of several invited Chairs and speakers preventing their attendance. We were delighted that Aaron Maule (Queen's University, Belfast) accepted our invitation as Plenary speaker in place of John Gilleard who was unable to attend for personal reasons.

After considering abstracts that were highly ranked, but not selected by Chairs for oral presentation, we created twelve Open Symposia which added further breadth to the Program.

The Organising Committee has awarded ASP Invited Lectureship Travel Grants to three eminent invitees who are attending ICOPA XII: Prof Dominique Soldati-Favre (Switzerland), Dr Simon Jones (Canada) and Dr Carlos Carmona (Uruguay). The details of their visits are summarised in the August Newsletter.

Travel Awards for delegates from resource poor countries have been finalised: we funded 53 awards valued at \$87,400. We would have preferred to offer more travel awards but our plans were restricted by fundraising constraints. We will award 15 poster/oral presentation prizes for delegates and ASP members at ICOPA XII. The awards will be presented at the Closing ceremony on Friday 20 August.

Strategic Planning

2010 ASP Annual General Meeting Draft Minutes cont...

I will report shortly on progress with Strategic Planning today. The Strategic Planning Workshop was held at GTAC in Parkville on 17-18 February. The participants were invited by the Executive and Council and represented a cross section of the ASP in terms of experience (academics, students, early career researchers), research interests and State representation:

Terry Spithill, CSU; Nick Sangster, CSU; David Jenkins, CSU; Nick Smith, UTS; Lisa Jones, UTS; Alex Loukas, JCU; Denise Doolan, QIMR; James McCarthy, QIMR; Deb Holt, Menzies Darwin; Kate Hutson, JCU representing SA; Mark Sandeman, Monash; Ian Beveridge, U Melb; Vern Bowles, U Melb; Geoff McFadden, U Melb; Amanda Ash, Murdoch; Kate Richards, Latrobe; Ian Sutherland Hopkirk NZ.

We invited the President of the NZ Society Ian Sutherland to attend to provide some outside thinking. Maree Conway of Thinking Futures facilitated the Workshop.

The Workshop was informed by three documents:

- the Websurvey of members conducted in Dec 2009;
- the Environmental Scan conducted by Maree Conway in Jan-Feb 2010;
- my President's Issues paper of Feb 2010.

These documents have been posted on the Wild Apricot ASP website for members to access.

The Workshop generated a lot of ideas which were captured into a report by Thinking Futures. A draft plan was prepared which Council discuss last weekend. I will now summarise where we are at in the process. I will then distribute the plan to members for comments. I encourage all members to send me your comments (t.spithill@latrobe.edu.au) as Council is keen to hear the thoughts of members as the Plan is developed.

President's power point presentation to the AGM (see [Appendix 1](#))

That the report be accepted, Proposed by Peter Holdsworth; Seconded by Bernd Kallina, unanimous.

7.2 Treasurer's Report (Nick Sangster)

The Society's assets look strong with over \$600,000 in bank and investment assets plus assets in the 'History of Parasitology' and 'Parasites in Focus'. The investment account generated a healthy return for the year and provided an income of about \$80,000 on our \$400,000 investment. The investment policy of long term growth remains unchanged. In order to streamline activities, Council decided to close the Conference account in 2010 and engage professional accounting systems.

Our major income is from IJP royalties which rose in £ terms, but fell in \$ terms. We also received significant sponsorship from the MCVB for ICOPA. Membership income is around \$20,000.

Our expenses remained similar to previous years except for the new Network funding arrangement. Outgoings were for ICOPA and the Sydney Conference, both balanced by sponsorship or registrations. Strategic planning costs are expected to be 'one off' but spread over two years. Costs of maintaining the membership and running the Society is approximately \$42,000. These costs continue to rise mainly through the increasing cost of insurance, secretarial services and accounting/auditing costs. These items are part of an urgent need to professionalise the running of the Society's affairs.

The 2010-2011 Budget

We expect a significant increase in income due to new arrangements with Elsevier. The second and third installments from MCVB are still to come. We also expect to raise funds from sale of the book 'A History of Parasitology'. Expenditure will fall in areas like prizes and the Newsletter which have been absorbed into the 'Network' funding. In the future organizing input from the 'Network' will also keep conference costs down for registrants. On the expense side, 2010-2011 bears the full year of 'Network' funding and so is the major expense. Secretariat costs increase as we need larger database support. Student support for ICOPA is about double the usual, but this is an exceptional event. We have kept other expenditure down and, in line with recommendations, reduced other commitments. A loss of around \$17,000 is anticipated.

2010 ASP Annual General Meeting Draft Minutes cont...

The two year tenure of the Executive has allowed me to streamline many financial activities and employing a bookkeeper and accountant has been useful and cost effective. We now have a MYOB licence and an efficient system of BAS and GST processing.

Profit & Loss

May 2009 through April 2010:	2010	2011
Income		
Main Income		
Members Subscription	\$18,993.07	\$22,000
IJP Journal Royalty	\$163,978.97	\$224,000
Total Main Income	\$182,972.04	\$246,000
Interest Income		
Interest from Working Account	\$536.44	\$500
ATO Interest	\$5.28	\$0
Interest form Account No 2	\$43.71	\$0
Interest from ICOPA Account	\$17.67	\$30
Total Interest Income	\$603.10	\$530
Investment Income		
Interest from Sprent Term Dep	\$919.24	\$3,850
iAccess Portfolio Interest	\$529.29	\$500
iAccess Management Rebate	\$825.60	\$0
iAccess Distribution	\$7,355.99	\$6,000
Total Investment Income	\$9,630.12	\$10,350
Change in Market Value		
Change in market value iPAC In	\$74,633.76	\$50,000
Total Change in Market Value	\$74,633.76	\$50,000
Conference Income		
Conference Registrations	\$38,743.42	\$0
ICOPA Conference	\$200,000.00	\$100,000
Conference sponsorship	\$51,985.00	\$0
Total Conference Income	\$290,728.42	\$100,000
Other Income		
Other Income	\$1,945.46	\$6,000
Total Other Income	\$1,945.46	\$6,000
Total Income	\$560,512.90	\$412,880
Gross Profit	\$560,512.90	\$412,880
Expenses		
General Expenses		
Accounting and Audit Fees	\$2,372.73	\$4,500
ASP Newsletter publication	\$563.29	\$0
Bank Fees & Charges	\$1,074.00	\$2,000
Bank Interest	\$1.14	\$0
General Expenses	\$6,611.96	\$3,000
Insurance	\$6,371.58	\$6,000
Postage	\$523.24	\$500
Printing and Stationery	\$224.66	\$100
Secretarial Fees	\$10,943.25	\$16,256
Strategic Planning	\$3,990.38	\$4,000
Support for Network	\$85,000.00	\$170,000
Web Hosting	\$245.45	\$300
Total General Expenses	\$117,921.68	\$206,656
Meeting Expenses		
End Term Council Meeting 2009	\$2,149.95	\$8,000
Mid Term Council Meeting 2010	\$4,942.25	\$9,000
Other Meeting Expenses	\$9,532.72	\$4,000
ASP Executive Handover Meeting	\$1,660.00	\$500
Total Meeting expenses	\$18,284.92	\$21,500
Prizes and Awards		
JD Smyth Travel Awards	\$4,634.33	\$0
Undergraduate Student Prizes	\$5,645.46	\$6,400
Total Prizes and Awards	\$10,279.79	\$6,400
Conference Expenses		
ASP Conference Student Travel	\$29,880.90	\$60,000
ASP Travelling Lectureships	\$21,902.53	\$9,500
ASP Conferences	\$148,699.83	\$10,000
ICOPA Conference	\$220,000.00	\$110,000
Conference Sponsorship	\$9,500.00	\$4,000
Total Conference Expenses	\$429,983.26	\$193,500
Subscriptions		
Subscriptions - FASTS	\$1,884.71	\$1,850
Subscriptions - ASMR	\$419.91	\$500
Total Subscriptions	\$2,304.62	\$2,350
Total Expenses	\$578,774.27	\$430,406
Operating Profit (Loss)	(\$18,261.37)	-\$17,526
Interest Income from 09 yr for Ipac Access Account		\$7,291.93
Net Profit (Loss)	(\$10,969.44)	-\$17,526

2010 ASP Annual General Meeting Draft Minutes cont...

That the report be accepted, Proposed by Leann Tilley; Seconded by Mark Sandeman, unanimous.

Motions regarding increase of Annual Membership Dues for Members

The Society is incurring ever increasing costs for administrating the Society's business such that the current ASP membership dues do not cover the basic administration costs of the Society. ASP dues have not changed since 2001 and Council believes that ASP dues should be increased by a reasonable amount which will cover the current and future administration costs of the Society.

Council proposes to abolish the "prompt payment concession" in the belief that membership dues are very reasonable given the support members receive from the various awards offered by the Society. To allow for future increases in the Society's administration costs, Council proposes to sequentially increase the membership dues over the next 5 years.

The motions regarding this matter are as follows:

Motion 1.

...that the "prompt payment concession" be abolished

Motion 2.

...that in 2011 the ordinary annual membership dues increase from \$80 to \$100 per year and that the student annual membership dues increase from \$20 to \$25 per year

Motion 3.

...that the Ordinary annual membership dues increase by \$10/year, over the next 5 year period 2011-2016, to \$150/year; and that the student annual membership dues increase by \$3/year to \$40/year over the same period.

- Peter O'Donoghue spoke for the motions, and suggested the dues increases should be effective immediately.
- Marshall Lightowlers had an alternative view...the IJP income allows for low fees, this should continue, does not support the proposed dues increases.
- Alex Loukas supported the motions citing the student travel awards as an example of the considerable benefits available to members.
- Mark Sandeman spoke for the motions supporting them in principle
- Leslie Warner requested some clarification between Motions 1 and 2.
- Michelle Power suggested immediate increases
- Vern Bowles was concerned that the proposed increases may have a negative impact on membership recruitment.
- Steve Barker stated that he felt the "prompt payment concession" should be retained

These motions were proposed to the AGM by Terry Spithill and Seconded by Alex Loukas. Motions 1 and 2 were accepted by a clear majority; however, Motion 3 as proposed was not accepted by a clear majority.

An amendment regarding Motion 3 was moved from the floor, Proposed by Peter O'Donoghue, Seconded by Michelle Power "...that the proposed increases in membership dues as outlined in Motion 3 be effective immediately, not phased in over 5 years". This amended version on Motion 3 was accepted by the AGM by a clear majority.

The number of people voting for and against the motion were not counted since there was clear majority in each case. Ian Whittington felt that for future votes, the numbers voting for and against should be recorded.

2010 ASP Annual General Meeting Draft Minutes cont...

7.3 Executive Secretary's Report (David Jenkins)

David Jenkins has been acting Executive Secretary since January, following the resignation of Michelle Power because of changed work and family commitments. David had nothing to report.

However, since a representative from the ASP Secretariat did not attend the meeting, David outlined the main points in the Secretariat report (see [Appendix 2](#));

- Lyn Wynn has taken over from Maree Conway
- LW and MC have met as part of the handover. LW now has the membership lists, financial papers, all equipment required to run the Secretariat, has been instructed as to how to use the Wild Apricot data base and has also been familiarized with the banking methods.
- Lyn and Maree will stay in contact as necessary until Lyn is completely comfortable with all aspects of running the Secretariat.
- There are a total of 427 financial members; 95 renewals are overdue.
- Total membership is currently 522
- Since January 1, 2010, there have been 63 new membership applications (17 ordinary members; 46 students), 8 members cancelled their membership
- Of the 95 unfinancial members, 31 (7 students; 24 ordinary members) have been unfinancial for two years. The policy of the ASP is to retain these people on the data base until October of the second unfinancial year, then archive the records. A list of these members has been sent to Council for a final decision on archiving their records if they have not renewed by October 2010
- There are 11 members for whom we need current contact details

That the report be accepted, Proposed by Una Ryan; Seconded by Mark Sandeman, unanimous.

7.4 IJP Editor's Report (Alex Loukas)

Editorial issues. I commenced in my new position with James Cook University (JCU), Cairns, effective 01 January 2010. The new Specialist Editorial Board commenced on 01 January for a three year term. At 31 December there were 38 Specialist Editors, 12 of whom stepped down and 9 new Specialist Editors joined IJP for the new term. The current Specialist Editor board is provided at the end of this report. Three additional Specialist Editors have joined the IJP Editorial Board during the past six months to provide additional expertise in some areas.

Impact Factor and citations. The 2009 Impact Factor* was 3.819, up by 0.067 on 2008 and the highest on record. The five-year Impact Factor is 4.006. Of the journals in the Parasitology category (28 in total) we are still the highest ranking (impact factor) journal that publishes research articles purely devoted to parasitology. We are fifth in the category but only behind the two review journals (Trends Parasitol and Adv Parasitol) and the two PLoS journals (Pathogens and Neglect Trop Dis – both of which also publish on virology and bacteriology). The Immediacy Index has increased from 1.077 to 1.153 and is second only to PLoS Pathogens. Our Eigenfactor score*, 0.01951, is also second only to PLoS Pathogens.

*Notes about journal ranking systems.

The Impact Factor is the average number of times articles from the journal published in the past two years have been cited in the JCR year. The 5-year journal Impact Factor is the average number of times articles from the journal published in the past five years have been cited in the JCR year. It is calculated by dividing the number of citations in the JCR year by the total number of articles published in the five previous years. The Immediacy Index is the average number of times an article is cited in the year it is published. The Immediacy Index is calculated by dividing the number of citations to articles published in a given year by the number of articles published in that year.

The Eigenfactor Score calculation is based on the number of times articles from the journal published in the past five years have been cited in the JCR year, but it also considers which journals have contributed these citations so that highly cited journals will influence the score more than lesser cited journals. References from one article in a journal to another article from the same journal are removed, so that Eigenfactor Scores are not influenced by journal self-citation.

ASP Royalty Payment. The royalty paid to the ASP in 2010 (for 2009) was GBP 95,822.41 which was approximately GBP 11,500 higher than the 2008 payment. Following recent trends, electronic revenue once again increased but this was partly neutralised by the drop in print revenue. Most of the additional revenue resulted from electronic revenue and some bulk sales (IJP published a Special Issue for the Centenary of Toxoplasma conference in June 2009, copies of which were purchased by conference organisers).

Strategic Direction

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Internationalisation. We are continuing to target international authors and audiences, particularly the U.S. authors who traditionally publish in their own journals such as *J Parasitol*. Submissions from the U.S. have increased from 14% in 2008 to 16% in 2009. Open access and website improvements. We will continue to push authors towards paying the fees to make their articles open access. I am having ongoing discussions with Dale Seaton at Elsevier to improve the publicity of the journal's website and eTOC alerts. Some new initiatives include a Parasitology portal on Elsevier.com where selected articles are highlighted. We have introduced a system of graphical abstracts whereby each paper has an author-generated summary and a thumbnail image on the TOC section of the webpage. We now have an editor's choice link from the journal website which highlights articles that the EiC or Deputy Editor's feel is worthy of additional publicity. We continue to publish eye catching and high quality cover images – see recent examples at the end of this report.

Publicity. I will continue to promote the journal at international meetings but the impact and immediacy factors are speaking for themselves. The website initiatives described above will serve to improve publicity. Moreover, the status of the journal in the international community is highlighted by

1. The willingness of nearly all the recently invited researchers (many of whom are very senior) to serve on the Specialist Editor board.
2. The willingness of all but one of the invited authors to write an article at short notice for an ICOPA XII thematic issue to be released at the conference.

Profile of Submissions

As mentioned previously, we have ceased using categories for journal contents lists, web submission and the list of Specialist Editors on the IJP website from 01 January 2010 and will therefore no longer be reporting those statistics as they do not accurately reflect the breadth of areas covered by many IJP submissions. 2009 statistics

- We received a record number of 624 submissions for 2009 with 54% rejected upfront and 74% rejected overall. The main sources of submissions have been Western Europe (22%) and Asia (20%), followed by South America (17%). 2010 statistics
- From 01 January to 31 July 2010 we received 323 submissions with 49% rejected upfront and 67% rejected overall. Twenty of those submissions are still under review. Western Europe and Asia have been the main sources of manuscripts based on the country of origin of the corresponding author with 22% from each region, followed by 14% from South America and 11% from North America.

Thematic Paper Series

We have published the ICOPA XII Special Issue, cover date 15 August 2010. Feedback to date has been excellent. We have ordered 250 copies for distribution to invited speakers.

Office and Budget

Maria continues to work from her home office in Victoria and has been employed by JCU effective 1st January 2011. Due to internal IT issues with hosting the IJP domain, we chose the solution of a G-Mail account which means that IJP is now hosted externally, resulting in less down-time and resolving internal e-mail loops. Jason Mulvenna managed the transfer of the IJP e-mail set-up and will provide ongoing assistance with any issues in managing the account. We thank Jason for his help in making those arrangements. Remaining IJP funds at QIMR were transferred to JCU where a dedicated IJP account is held and managed by JCU finance staff.

We are using the JCU mail address for IJP correspondence. We are currently drafting the IJP budget for 2011 and expect it will be similar to 2010 with a small adjustment for an annual salary increase for the Editorial Assistant position as per the relevant institutional Workplace Agreement.

We anticipate the IJP budget being stable over the next few years, other than standard Workplace Agreement salary increases. The home office incurs some slightly higher costs, eg. broadband connection, however this is still less than IJP previously paid for office rental, and Maria is moving more of the office filing system to a fully electronic format which should have an impact on stationery costs and make the office both more flexible and more mobile. As mentioned previously, we have an agreement with Wendy Relf to do scientific editing of IJP manuscripts. We also have an agreement with Wendy to receive some training in IJP Editorial Office procedures and processing so that she can take on the Editorial Assistant duties when Maria takes annual leave and to act as a back-up in an emergency. Maria intends to take some leave in early October and will provide training for Wendy in late September. When Maria returns from leave and receives feedback from Wendy and if Wendy agrees to continue providing back-up for IJP, arrangements will be made for regular briefing and updating with regard to IJP procedures. There is an IJP instruction manual which Maria will update regularly and ensure that Wendy and other back-up staff have up-to-date copies in case they are required to provide emergency assistance. We also have a tentative arrangement with Katrina Moriarty who filled in for Maria previously with Nick Sangster, to act as additional back-up if required. Katrina and Wendy are both based in Sydney.

That the report be accepted, Proposed by David Blair; Seconded by Carol Behm, unanimous.

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7.5 Newsletter Editor's Report (Lisa Jones)

Included with the ARC/NH&MRC Network Report, tabled below

That the report be accepted, Proposed by Jan Slapeta; Seconded by Steve Barker, unanimous.

7.6 Webmaster's Report (Jason Mulvenna)

1. New hosting and domain name registration

The ASP website has been moved from Wolfweb to Dreamhost. On behalf of the society I entered a two year contract for \$46.80. The new hosting provides for greater level of services, bandwidth and storage as well as the provision of server-side scripting capabilities required by the new website. Domain name hosting was also moved from Domain Candy to MelbourneIT for a cost of \$80 for 2 years of management. This step was taken for two reasons, firstly the domain name was not held by the ASP but was in the name of Wolfweb which could cause complications particularly in the event of Wolfweb closing. Secondly, Domain Candy's website rarely worked, making management of the domain difficult. In addition to the ASP website Dreamhost now also hosts the network website, OzeMala and PARA-site (for no extra charge).

2. New website

The old website was replaced with an updated version. Apart from style changes the website now incorporates a back end for simple updating and posting of news relevant to the ASP.

3. PARA-site

The completed PARA-site is now hosted as a subdomain of the ASP website and has a dedicated link on the front page of the ASP website.

4. To do items

Further improvements of the website have been suggested including a skills database, an index of members, and the incorporation of the network site into the ASP website. Conference abstracts also need to be made available on the site, and, preferably, made searchable.

5. Items for council consideration

A. Dedicated emails for council members. For eg president@parasite.org.au. This would mean that the society has all emails relevant to its operation under its control and on its servers. This can be done easily through Dreamhost or Google apps.

B. Consolidation of the network and ASP websites into a single website.

C. Passwords. If something happened to the webmaster it would be quite difficult to get manage the domain and website so passwords should be stored by the archivist.

D. Updates. Who can update the website? It is now possible for anyone to post (if they have the admin password) so is it more convenient to let council members update the

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website or should everything go through the webmaster?

E. Twitter and or Facebook accounts for ASP.

That the report be accepted, Proposed by Nick Sangster; Seconded by Jan Slapeta, unanimous.

7.7 Network Convenor's Report (Nick Smith)

Science meets Parliament (see [Appendix 3](#))

ARC/NHMRC Research Network for Parasitology Report

The 2009 Annual Report and the Final Report for the ARC/NHMRC Research Network for Parasitology were submitted to the ARC on May 31 and June 30, respectively.

Australia - Europe Malaria Research Cooperation - OzEMalaR

On February 25, 2010, The NHMRC - European Union (EU) Collaborative Research Grants scheme for Australian participation in leading international collaborative research under the EU's FP7 announced that seven applications involving Australian researchers had been chosen for funding by the EU. Geoff McFadden (The University of Melbourne), Kevin Saliba (Australian National University) and colleagues were successful in their project grant application for Australia - Europe Malaria Research Cooperation - OzEMalaR and were awarded \$830,000 over 5 years.

OzEMalaR will link 34 Australian labs with 47 European, African & Indian malaria researchers. Funding will enable exchange of modern technologies by supporting early career researchers (PhD and postdocs) from Australia to work and be trained in top European labs. European trainees will work and be trained by Australian malariologists using reciprocal EU support. This result means that the Network Research Exchange budget will stretch further than originally anticipated; a great result for all parasitologists.

Geoff said, "I anticipate that we will be able to fund collaborative exchanges of Australian malaria research laboratory members into EviMalaR (= BioMalPar) laboratories shortly. The process will work in a very similar manner to the research exchanges funded by the ARC/NHMRC Research Network for Parasitology. It has been an exciting start for OzEMalaR. We've launched our website www.ozemalar.org and are updating it currently so feedback is welcome. Email Lisa (lisa.jones@uts.edu.au) with your comments and suggestions.

"Our first round of OzEMalaR Travel Awards was very successful and congratulations to all the winners. We look forward to hearing about how those Researcher Exchanges went in the near future," said Geoff.

"Visit our website (www.ozemalar.org) to find out how you can apply for OzEMalaR Travel Awards to support early career malaria researchers (PhD and postdocs) from Australia to work and be trained in top European laboratories within EviMalaR. To check which laboratories are eligible as hosts visit www.evimalar.org. Download funding guidelines from the OzEMalaR website and start planning your researcher exchanges to utilise this great opportunity.

"Our next closing date for OzEMalaR Travel Awards is Friday 1st October 2010, we hope to see lots of applications.

"My thanks to Lisa Jones for doing such a wonderful job of setting up the logo, web site, communications and co-ordinating the funding applications."

Awards

ASP Student Travel Award

Deadline was 15 May 2010; 101 eligible applications were submitted and administered by Lisa Jones

Conference Prizes

Lisa and Nick are coordinating the judging of 15 poster and oral presentation prizes, both ASP and international, at ICOPA XII.

Network Travel Award application deadlines for 2010

29 January 2010; 28 May 2010; 1 October 2010;

OzEMalaR Travel Award application deadlines for 2010

30 June 2010; 1 October 2010; one final round for 2010 in December

Network Travel Award Winners

Congratulations to JD Smyth Travel Award and Network Travel Award winners in the first and second round of the Award scheme for 2010.

JD Smyth Travel Award winners

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Ashlie Hartigan, The University of Sydney, successfully applied for a Network Travel Award and was awarded the prestigious JD Smyth Postgraduate Travel Award for a Researcher Exchange to The Academy of Sciences, Institute of Parasitology in Ceske Budejovice, Czech Republic for her research into the lifecycles and biology of myxozoan parasites that threaten frog species.

Rowan Ikin, UTS, was awarded the prestigious JD Smyth Postgraduate Travel Award for a Researcher Exchange to Application to support a research visit to Dr Mike Grigg, Chief of the Molecular Parasitology Unit and the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases at the National Institutes of Health in Bethesda, Maryland, USA for research to take advantage of his expertise, technologies and facilities to yield important, fundamental insight into how helminths regulate inflammatory responses in the intestine.

Network Researcher Exchange, Training and Travel Award winners

Jan Slapeta, The University of Sydney, for travel by Dr. Giselle Walker, University of Cambridge, UK to The University of Sydney, to study the ultrastructure of the Chromera, a model for apicomplexan organelles.

Hamish McWilliam, Monash University, for a Researcher Exchange to Don McManus's laboratory at the Queensland Institute of Medical Research to identify stage-specific proteins critical to the survival of *Schistosoma japonicum*.

Natalie Spillman, Australian National University, for a Researcher Exchange to Alex Maier's laboratory at the Department of Biochemistry at La Trobe University, Melbourne for research to determine the sub-cellular localisation of important transport proteins of *Plasmodium*.

Caroline Lin Lin Chua, (University of Melbourne) for a Researcher Exchange to Papua New Guinea Institute of Medical Research (PNGIMR), Madang, Papua New Guinea from 23 March 2010 – 1 November 2010 for malaria research and training with the microscopy unit at PNGIMR, Madang.

Rachael McGeorge, (QIMR) for a Researcher Exchange with Prof Ben Dunn at the University of Florida, USA to generate recombinant plasmepsin IX and to begin the process of obtaining a crystal structure for this enzyme.

Nicole Kirchoff, (Australian Maritime College, University of Tasmania) for a Researcher Exchange to travel to the USA to visit Dr Barbara Block at the Tuna Research and Conservation Centre in Monterey Bay, California to study blood fluke *Cardicola* forestry in southern bluefin tuna.

Catherine Gordon, (QIMR) for a Researcher Exchange for workshops and fieldwork at the National Institute of Parasitic Diseases, Chinese Centre for Disease Control and Prevention, Shanghai, China and the Research Institute of Tropical Medicine, Manila, Philippines for schistosomiasis research.

Joel Barrett, (UTS) to attend the Parasitology and Tropical Medicine Masterclass, Melbourne, August 2010 to gain practical experience in the preparation of stained smears for the diagnosis of gastrointestinal parasites.

Christopher Peatey, (QIMR) for a Researcher Exchange to La Trobe CoE for Coherent X-Ray Science to help the characterisation of two proteins for his malaria research.

OzEMalaR Travel Award winners

OzEMalaR Travel Award winners in the first round of the Award scheme for 2010.

Melanie Rug, (Walter and Eliza Hall Institute) for her Researcher Exchange to visit Drs. Marek Cyrklaff and Freddy Frischknecht at University of Heidelberg.

Gaetan Burgio, (Menzies Research Institute Tasmania) for a Researcher Exchange to visit the Malaria biology and genetics unit, (Pr Robert Menard), Pasteur Institute Paris: from the 8th to the 19th of November 2010; to attend a Bioinformatic and genomics of *Plasmodium falciparum* workshop: 22-23 November 2010, Paris Museum National d'Histoire Naturelle; and visit Division of Parasitology (Jean Langhorne's group), National Institute for Medical Research, London, UK.

Fiona Angrisano, (Walter and Eliza Hall Institute) for a Researcher Exchange for training and research at Imperial College, London with Prof Robert Sinden.

Justin Boddey, (Walter & Eliza Hall Institute of Medical Research) for a Researcher Exchange to undertake a short research project in Dr. Maria Mota's laboratory Institute of Molecular Medicine, Lisbon, Portugal.

Newsletter

The Newsletter format and content was overhauled, the first new-look Newsletter being published in December, 2009. One new feature of the Newsletter, is the introduction of a featured research story from Australian parasitologists who publish in *The International Journal for Parasitology*.

Newsletter V20 i1

Our featured research story in this issue was a paper on tapeworm vaccines from Marshall Lightowlers' team:

Marshall Lightowlers, Craig Kyngdon, Charles Gauci, Garry Anderson (The University of Melbourne), Emmanuel Assana, Stanny Geerts, Pierre Dorny, Redji De Deken (Institute of Tropical Medicine, Belgium) and André P. Zoli (University of Dschang, Cameroon) have their IJP rapid communication article "Elimination of *Taenia solium* transmission to pigs in a field trial of the TSOL18 vaccine in Cameroon" in press.

Newsletter V20 i2

Our featured research story was from Jessica King and colleagues and their *Neospora caninum* research:

Jessica King, Jan Šlapeta, Peter Windsor (University of Sydney), David Jenkins (Charles Sturt University), and Sarwat Al-Qassab and John Ellis (University of

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Technology, Sydney) have their IJP article, "Australian dingoes are definitive hosts of *Neospora caninum*" in press.

Newsletter V20 i3

Our featured research story was from Andy Thompson, Mike Grigg and colleagues:

Nevi Parameswaran, Andrew Thompson, Shuting Pan (Murdoch University), Michael Grigg and N. Sundar (National Institutes of Health, USA), and Michael Johnson and Nick Smith (University of Technology, Sydney) had their IJP article, "Nonarchetypal Type II-like and atypical strains of *Toxoplasma gondii* infecting marsupials of Australia" published in May 2010. Andy Thompson and Mike Grigg talked to Lisa Jones about their collaborative research.

Additionally, Network Researcher Exchange, Travel and Training Award recipient Natalie Spillman, PhD student from Kieran Kirk's lab at ANU, was profiled about her Researcher Exchange to La Trobe University.

Natalie won a Network Travel Award for a 3-week Researcher Exchange to Dr Alex Maier's laboratory at the Department of Biochemistry, La Trobe University, Melbourne in May 2010 for her *Plasmodium* research.

Events and Outreach

"Parasites in Focus"

Twenty-six superb photographic prints showing the amazing world of parasitology accompanied by four hands-on parasite exhibits: parasite game show "Who's my host?" and explore lots of different parasites found in Australia and around the world using "The microscopic world of parasites", "Look closer at parasites" and "Parasitic lifecycles".

Since 2007 "Parasites in Focus" Exhibition has toured across most states and territories engaging more than 200,000 visitors in total across the following venues:

- July to October 2007 at Questacon Science and Technology Centre in Canberra
- Queensland Museum South Bank from 8 December 2007 to 27 February 2008 During this time, the total number of visitors to the Museum was just under 100,000, which included 2400 visitors in groups. The groups were mostly school groups who were given an information sheet about parasites and parasitology to assist teachers with learning.
- Ultimo Science Festival, and on display from during National Science Week, in August 2008 at The Muse Gallery, Sydney, NSW
- Perth Zoo in Western Australia (10 months)
- The University of Sydney during the 2009 ASP & ARC/NHMRC Research Network for Parasitology Annual Conference
- Northern Territory Library in Darwin for the 2009 Darwin Festival (3 months)
- Wollongong Science Centre, NSW, for 3 months with over 15,000 visitors, mostly school children, their teachers and family groups

In 2010 "Parasites in Focus" travelled to:

- Imaginarium Science Centre in Devonport, Tasmania
- The University of Tasmania, **Cradle Coast Campus, Foyer Gallery 16-20 Mooreville Rd, Burnie, Tasmania; 19 May to June 4.**

Currently "Parasites in Focus" is part of a school program at GTAC (detailed below) and will then feature at ICOPA XII at the ASP booth in the exhibitors area.

"Parasites in Focus"

The Program, The Exhibition, The Competition

The Gene Technology Access Centre (GTAC) in collaboration with the ARC/NHMRC Research Network for Parasitology and The Australian Society for Parasitology is the Melbourne home for the exhibition titled "Parasites in Focus". The exhibition runs from August 7th to August 12th. Teachers are invited to a special viewing of the exhibition on Monday 9th August from 5.00pm—6.00pm.

This exciting Outreach event at GTAC will be launched by Marshall Lightowlers (The University of Melbourne). We gratefully acknowledge the incredible work done by Tony Chiovitti (GTAC), who has prepared an outstanding program of wetlabs, quizzes, and interactive exercises for Victorian school students. We're also indebted to Ian Beveridge (The University of Melbourne) for his expert advice especially in putting together a microscopy workshop.

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The Program

Tuesday 10th August

A full day program in which students investigate how liver flukes find their host snails, examine the larvae of the bot fly and use DNA testing to identify *Plasmodium* species. Students will also visit the exhibition and hunt for clues amongst the parasites on show to answer the question, What proportion of animal species are parasites?

The Exhibition

Saturday 7th - Thursday 12th August

Explore twenty-six superb photographic prints showing the amazing microscopic world of the parasite accompanied by three hands-on parasite exhibits: parasite game show "Who's my host?", "Virtual microscope" and "Real microscope" to view parasites close up in all their glory. In addition, visitors can view the stunning animations of the life cycle of the malaria parasite by BAFTA and Emmy award winning Drew Berry, renowned biomedical animator, on GTAC's big screen.

"Parasites in Focus" at the Gene Technology Access Centre (GTAC)

The University High School, Story Street, Parkville, Melbourne

General Public – Saturday 7th, Sunday 8th, Monday 9th, Wednesday 11th & Thursday 12th 3.00pm – 5.00pm

School Groups - Students complete a task based upon the exhibition Monday 9th, Wednesday 11th & Thursday 12th 10.00am – 3.00pm

Special Viewing for Teachers - Monday 9th August - 5.00pm – 6.00pm

After featuring at GTAC and ICOPA XII "Parasites in Focus" exhibition will move to the Museum of the Riverina, Wagga Wagga, NSW.

Check Network Events on our website to find out when "Parasites in Focus" will be at a venue near you, or contact Lisa (Lisa.Jones@uts.edu.au) if you would like to host the exhibition. <http://www.parasite.org.au/arcnet/events>

Art, Science and Parasites...

The Art of the Bodysnatchers Competition

Want to see your artwork published in a glossy magazine?

Draw/paint/design or computer generate your version of a parasite – luscious-looking lice, heinous hydatids, tenacious tapeworms, or your own abstract parasitic interpretation.....

\$1000 cash first prize, along with four \$500 runner up cash prizes, and publication as the front cover of a prestigious scientific journal, International Journal for Parasitology. Great prizes for other competition winners also up for grabs! Winners will be chosen based on their artistic merits, originality, and demonstrated research of their chosen parasite. All entries must be submitted electronically as PDF by Friday 30th July 2010.

Please note that the copyright for the winning images featured on IJP covers will need to be transferred by the artist(s) to the ASP. All winning entries must be entirely original and must not include any previously published or copyrighted material or images, or reproductions similar enough that copyright permission would be required to use those.

"Parasites in Focus" Online Quiz

Fancy your chances in our online "Parasites in Focus" quiz? iPod prizes for the quiz winners!

Hurry, closes Friday 13th August 2010.

Need help finding the answers? Try these:

The Australian Society for Parasitology

<http://www.parasite.org.au/>

The ARC/NHMRC Research Network for Parasitology

<http://www.parasite.org.au/arcnet/>

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The Parasitology Research Group at Aberystwyth University, Wales, UK
<http://www.aber.ac.uk/~mpgwww/Edu/EduIndex.html>

Media

"Parasites in Focus" article featured in the May issue of UTas news. Following this story New Scientist picked up the story and requested images which I sent and are currently online

<http://www.newscientist.com/article/dn19188-parasite-parade-meet-natures-intimate-aliens.html>

this prompted a request for images from a journalist from W*E*N*N, World Entertainment News Network - Lisa is currently following up.

"Parasites in Focus" t-shirts

"Parasites in Focus" t-shirts and "Parasites in Focus" ICOPA XII t-shirts will be on sale at ICOPA XII for \$20 along with the ASP History of Parasitology books. Lisa organised a satchel insert for ICOPA XII delegates promoting these and PARA-SITE.

2011 Conference

A first organising committee meeting for the 2011 conference was held in Cairns on April 30, 2010. In attendance were Nick Smith (Network Convenor), Lisa Jones (Network Communications and Strategic Planning Coordinator), Alex Loukas (Conference Chair), Jason Mulvenna, David Blair, Wayne Melrose and Soraya Gaze. The conference venue and dates have been selected and secured; the 2011 meeting will be held from July 10-13, 2011 at the Pullman Hotel in Cairns. A draft budget has been prepared.

The structure will be similar to that of previous years but two new ideas will be trialled - an Early Career Researcher Symposium, of four or five presentations, selected from abstracts submitted, with the best presenter winning an ECR Award to attend an international conference of their choice; and a session focused on students from tropical countries who are studying in Australia, with four or five students be selected to speak about their research on tropical parasites.

Plenary and symposium themes have been selected and speakers will be invited after ICOPA is over. Themes include "One Health", "Tropical Marine Parasitology", "Tropical Veterinary Parasitology" and "Malaria". The Elsevier Lectures will continue. Potential sponsors have been identified and will be approached after ICOPA.

A second committee meeting will be held in September or October to decide on a registration fee structure and finalise ideas for outreach activities and possible postgraduate training course modules, to be trialled for the first time in connection with the 2011 conference.

Network Management Committee Meeting

A Network Management Committee meeting was held on May 12 and 13, 2010. An abbreviated version of the minutes from the meeting follow:

Attending: Nick Smith, Lisa Jones, Denise Doolan, Kate Hutson, Terry Spithill, Alex Loukas, Geoff McFadden

Introduction & Goals

Nick outlined that the major goals for this meeting were to clarify the role of the Network in the ASP in light of the Strategic Planning Workshop and its recommendations and aspirations, how the Network might look and operate in the future and how OzeMalaR would be integrated into that vision. Other items for discussion included some brainstorming on themes and speakers for future conferences and a discussion about future outreach activities.

Briefing on ASP Strategic Planning

Terry summarised the ASP's Strategic Planning Exercise, stressing the top five issues identified during the workshop, which were: (1) maintain the high quality of the International Journal for Parasitology and investigate the possible establishment of a "spin-off" open access journal; (2) maintain the high quality of the annual conference; (3) Ensure face-to-face activities are maintained including researcher exchanges, travelling lectureships, attracting good conference speakers; (4) develop advanced training courses, workshops and outreach activities; and (5) ensure that the Society remained an inclusive one, recognising the needs and desires of its members and striving to meet them.

Terry noted that the Network would be integral to achieving these aspirations in the future and that the Society would need to move from voluntary to professionally run organisation with paid positions (as had also been highlighted as one of the top ten targets by the Strategic Planning Workshop), perhaps using the Network as a model.

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Briefing on OzEMalaR

Geoff gave a briefing on how the NHMRC funds Australian participation (OzEMalaR) in the FP7 EVIMalaR \$830,000 to fund Australians to go to Europe (EVIMalaR have money to send Europeans to Australia and now will seek specific new funds for Australian exchanges). Funding is mostly for Researcher Exchanges - probably 10 per year and approximately \$16,000 per trip. New "entrants" to OzEMalaR will also be allowed/encouraged and there will be some flexibility about visiting non-EVIMalaR European labs (especially African and Indian labs formally linked to EviMalaR).

Procedures followed by OzEMalaR will be based on those successfully employed by the Network and will be integrated, seamlessly, into the administration processes of the Network; Communication Coordinator will administer and OzEMalaR may contribute finances to Network for that service (as well as for production of Newsletter, website, workshops, conference etc) – Nick and Geoff to discuss appropriate level of funding at a future date.

Timing of calls for applications and awards will be same, three times per year but with a separate committee of Kevin Saliba, Ric Price, Chris Engwerda, Geoff McFadden, Denise Doolan, Nick Smith, Andy Waters. The scheme will use the same form as Network Travel Awards with some variations, such as boxes to tick indicating that application is for an EVIMalaR lab exchange and a budget box for laboratory costs.

Briefing on Australian College for Parasitology Concept

Nick presented the Australian College for Parasitology concept. It was agreed up-front that the Network would be an integral part of the future of the ASP and, rather than standing still, should strive to realise the vision of the College concept. Nick pointed out that the ARC had reneged on an early ruling that the ARC/NHMRC Network name could be used in the future so, now, a new name was needed – all agreed that we should move, at the ASP AGM in August, to change the name to the Australian College for Parasitology and commission a new logo that, whilst acknowledging the past, had a somewhat fresh look.

Discussion then focused on the proposed training course – should we build up slowly or offer specific topics? General consensus was that we should look to run a training course at the ASP Conference in Cairns in 2011 – introduce the concept realistically, building up modules. Possible first modules might be:

- Bioinformatics
- Technical aspects of microscopy techniques
- Diagnostics (marine parasitology)

Other issues to take into consideration and flag for future discussion included:

- Will the course(s) be fee-paying?
- Will the course(s) be residential?
- What sort of insurance will be needed to cover staff and students?

Ultimately, a permanent home at one of our Universities may need to be found to host the course and, perhaps the College itself.

Some amendments to the College for Parasitology proposal were agreed:

- Delete reference to alumni;
- Delete reference to recruitment of stellar parasitologists;
- Remove conference as a formal College responsibility, notwithstanding that it will actually be organised and run by College staff – the idea is that the conference will continue whether or not the College becomes a reality.

There was recognition that the ASP could not ever aspire to fully funding the boldest vision for the College, so where will the money come from? Potential sources might include:

- ACIAR
- CSIRO
- Wellcome Trust
- Singapore
- Biosecurity
- ABRS

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- Atlantic Philanthropies (only an option if College based in QLD!)
- CSL
- Virbac / Novartis / Pfizer / M&L / AWI / Bayer
- Mining companies (Kevin Baird has contacts)
- Australian Defence Force
- Palm Oil Plantations
- Seed funding from the ASP
- Wildlife parasites (Australia Zoo)
- George Institute
- AQIS
- AusAid

Approaches will also be made to the bigger participating institutes of the Network, to request their financial assistance for the College. The approach needs to include statistics concerning the financial and research output benefits specific for each organisation, including grants won, papers published and media coverage. But it should also point out to DVCs that they have great staff, great research, great outcomes, career development profiles and also highlight service to the ASP, awards to staff and students from ASP to demonstrate the strength of links and commitment.

With regard structure and management of the College, it was agreed that a Management Committee was not ideal psychologically as it could imply too high a level of autonomy from the ASP. Instead, Nick proposed that we have a grants assessment committee and a strategic planning committee, the grant assessment committee to be made up of previous Travel Award winners, both relatively senior and ECRs, and the Strategic Planning Committee to be made up of research leaders from participating organisations that contribute cash to the College.

Conference themes and speakers

Lots of great ideas for themes and speakers were put forward, setting up for great conferences for the next several years. These included:

- Climate change and aquaculture (disease emergence) – Ogawa (Japan). Where can you farm? Emerging parasite outbreaks. Sea lice in Chile. Blood flukes. New disease problems and how to manage them.
- Bal Singh (Malaysia) talking about monkey malaria
- Jane Raper (NYU) – transgenic cattle with APO1 to kill Trypanosoma
- Attenuated malaria strain vaccine (Kevin Marsh and Andy Waters)
- Eradication of malaria – Solomon Islands (McCarthy)
- Co-infections – Maria Yazdenbakhsh (out in 2007); Stephen Rogerson (malaria and HIV); Tom Nuttman / Alan Sher; Yasmin Yollade; Maria Mota;
- Scabies – pig model, looking at biology and acquired immunity - ask James McCarthy, Deb Holt
- State of the Art Technologies – Metabolomics (Paul Michelles); Systems Biology (Gary Wood and David Sibley); RNAi (Jon Tort and Aaron Maule).
- Worm therapy – eg, for Crohn's disease

Potential Trends and IJP Lecturers included:

- Kent Hill (Trypanosoma)
- Julius Lukes (Trypanosoma)
- Boris Striepen (Toxoplasma)
- David Fidock (malaria)
- David Marcogliese (Climate Change)
- Steve Wikel (Ticks)
- Michael Lanzer (malaria)
- David Artis (co-infection)

2010 ASP Annual General Meeting Draft Minutes cont...

- Jean Langhorne (malaria)

And, other themes and speaker might be:

Veterinary Parasitology

- Peter Geldhof
- Philip Skuce (Moredun)
- Peter Deplazes (Zurich)

C.elegans

- Antony Page
- Mark Viney
- Joe Dent
- Paul Sternberg

Organisation of state-based workshops was felt to be too onerous, potentially expensive and possibly counter-productive to Australia-wide collegiality at this time in the ASP's evolution.

Outreach

Outreach had been a great success of the Network, everyone agreed. It was also agreed that to continue travelling "Parasites in Focus" was good publicity for the Society and good value for money @ about 30c per person – this might be coverable from Network budget for another year then its future needs to be reconsidered (ie, a permanent home may need to be found rather than continuing it as a travelling exhibition).

Newsletter

New Newsletter is going well – all were very positive about the layout, design and content and Terry thanked Lisa for her outstanding work. The introduction of the IJP page was especially appreciated. Some new ideas for the Newsletter were discussed including:

- Column for PhD students to profile international "heros" was proposed
- Humorous stuff, parasite jokes/cartoons, picture board at the end,
- ASP student rep – profile new students and new members

That the report be accepted, Proposed by Una Ryan ; Seconded by David Blair, unanimous.

7.8 Conference Reports:

Verbal reports were received.

- ICOPA XII (Alan Cowman)
- 2011 ASP Conference (Alex Loukas)
- 2013 WAAVP and ASP Conference (Andrew Thompson)

Item 8. ASP Fellows (Terry Spithill)

The President read citations for two members nominated for ASP Fellowships (Prof Mal Jones and Prof Robin Gasser) and presented each Fellow with his certificate.

Item 9. Prizes and Awards (Nick Smith)

- JD Smyth Travel Award

2010 ASP Annual General Meeting Draft Minutes cont...

- 2010 Student Travel Awards

Invited Lectureship Travel Grants 2010 (Terry Spithill)

The Organising Committee has awarded ASP Invited Lectureship Travel Grants to three eminent invitees who are attending ICOPA XII:

Professor Dominique Soldati-Favre (Switzerland)

Dr Simon Jones (Canada)

Dr Carlos Carmona (Uruguay)

Closing dates for awards (Terry Spithill)

- Network Travel Awards, 1 October 2010
- Bancroft-Mwakerras Award, 30 September 2010
- JFA Sprent Prize, 30 September 2010
- ASP Fellowships, 9 January 2011

Item 10. Any other business

Ian Whittington again raised the issue of counting and recording for and against votes regarding motions put to AGMs and requested this be done in future.

Item 11. New Council nominations

The meeting was advised that nominations were called in 2010 for Executive Secretary, Archivist, Newsletter editor, and all state/territory representative positions for the period from 1 July 2010. Council had approved the nomination of Dr Denise Doolan as President-elect at the Sydney Mid-term meeting in January 2010. Nominations were received from each state and territory.

2010 ASP Annual General Meeting Draft Minutes cont...

Position	Nomination	Proposer	Seconder
Executive			
President	Terry Spithill		
President elect	Denise Doolan	Terry Spithill	Peter Holdsworth
Treasurer	Nick Sangster		
Executive Secretary:	David Jenkins	Terry Spithill	Nick Sangster
State Reps:			
NSW:	Jan Slapeta	Terry Spithill	David Jenkins
QLD:	Tamsin Barnes	Terry Spithill	David Jenkins
SA:	Lesley Warner	Kate Hutson	Andy Thompson
NT:	Deborah Holt	Terry Spithill	David Jenkins
ACT:	Simon Cobbold	Terry Spithill	David Jenkins
VIC:	Bernd Kallina	Terry Spithill	David Jenkins
TAS:	Brendan McMorran	Terry Spithill	David Jenkins
WA:	Amanda Ash	Terry Spithill	David Jenkins
Other positions			
Newsletter Editor	Lisa Jones	Terry Spithill	David Jenkins
Archivist	Haylee Weaver	David Jenkins	Terry Spithill
Incorporation Secretary (QLD)	Katharine Trenholme		
BMM Convenor	Andy Thompson		
IJP Editor	Alex Loukas		
Web Administrator	Jason Mulvenna		

That the listed nominees be accepted, Proposed by Una Ryan; Seconded by Ian Whittington, unanimous.

Terry closed the meeting.

SIGNED

.....
 President
 Terry Spithill

.....
 Date

.....
 Executive Secretary
 David Jenkins

.....
 Date

2010 ASP Annual General Meeting Draft Minutes Appendices

Draft ASP Strategic Plan- 3 Jan 2011

This draft Strategic Plan outlines our vision for the future of the ASP, the goals we wish to achieve and the actions we will undertake to achieve these goals. We invite feedback from members.

Vision: *our preferred future*

The ASP is an inclusive, vibrant and influential national Society, recognised both as a trusted source of expertise and information on parasite biology and control, and for its leadership in promoting and sustaining parasitology research and education for global benefit.

Mission: *what the ASP does*

The ASP fosters the association of persons interested in parasitology, the curation of collections of Australian parasites and, by facilitating intercourse and discussion, promotes public outreach, education and collaborative research to advance our knowledge of parasitology and facilitate the development and application of tools for parasite control.

Strategic Goals

Our six strategic goals are:

1. ensure we are an inclusive society by identifying and addressing the needs of our members
2. ensure management of the ASP is more professional and develop a medium term financial plan that will enable diversification of our sources of income to achieve our mission
3. ensure the premier standard of the IJP, the success of the new open-access IJP spin-off Journal and editorial succession planning
4. ensure the high quality of the ASP Conference in terms of participation of renowned speakers and engagement with the Asia-Pacific region
5. ensure face-to-face activities are maintained through researcher exchanges, travelling lectureships, attracting eminent Conference speakers
6. develop or facilitate advanced training courses/workshops and engage in public outreach

Australian Society for Parasitology

Report from the Secretariat

July 2010

This is my first report to the ASP Council since I took over the Secretariat responsibilities from Maree Conway of Thinking Futures from April 2010, and it covers Secretariat operations for the period January – July 2010.

I met with Maree in mid March to collect membership, financial papers and equipment. She instructed me in the use of the WildApricot database and the methods of banking and transferring payments from PayPal. She continues to be very helpful in answering my questions when they arise, and forwarding emails and faxes that are still being sent to her.

Membership Statistics

The following table shows the membership statistics as at 30/6/2010.

Membership category	Financial members	Renewals Overdue	Total
Student	141	38	179
Ordinary	40	56	96
Ordinary Member Discount*	184	-	184
Life	23	-	23
Fellow	35	-	35
Sustaining	0	1	1
Newsletter	3	-	3
Administration	1	-	1
Total	427	95	522

*Members who renewed at the discount rate

2010 ASP Annual General Meeting Draft Minutes cont...

As at 30/6/2010 there were 522 members of which 427 (81.8%) were financial. Of the 365 members who renewed their membership, 245 (67%) paid online by PayPal. 120 (33%) paid manually, by either sending in credit card details, cheques or money orders. 184 members renewed at the discount rate.

Since 01/01/10 there have been 63 new membership applications of which 17 have been ordinary members and 46 students. New membership applications are either filled in and paid online via PayPal, or by the applicant filling in the new application form and emailing or mailing with payment by cheque or credit card. Membership details are then completed on the database and the Executive Secretary advised weekly if there are applications to approve. Once approved, new members receive an automatic welcome email from the President and a tax invoice for the membership fee.

Advice about the renewal of membership has been sent monthly to members. There was an extra period of 2 weeks given for the discount rate as some members mailed cheques and credit card details which arrived after the due date, and others used old forms which had a renewal date of 31 May for the discount rate. Others simply renewed at the discount rate online, after the date had expired. On 15 April, all members who had not renewed, were changed to the ordinary member status and the option for them to renew at the discount rate was removed. Next year, if the Council decide to have an 'early bird' rate, the process can be automated, so that the discount rate will not be accessible after 31 March.

As at the 30/6/2010, all members who had not renewed had their status changed to 'lapsed'. Lapsed members can still login into their member profile to renew their membership but are not regarded as financial.

8 members requested that their membership be cancelled, and these records have been archived. Archived records are still retained on the membership database, and they can be reactivated by the payment of outstanding fees.

- Archived records do not count in the contact database total for the billing plan.
- When you send emails, archived records are automatically excluded from the current selection of records.
- Archived members can not login – they have to be manually restored first.
- A record can be archived and/or restored as many times as needed.

Of the 95 members who had not renewed, 31 (7 student and 24 ordinary members) have not renewed their membership for 2 years - that is they did not renew in 2009 nor 2010. I have been advised that previous Executives have decided that these members be retained on the membership database until October of the year in which they have been unfinancial for 2 years, and then archived. I have attached a list of these members for the Council to consider whether they may be archived if they do not renew before October.

Attempts have been made to re-establish contact with members whose emails have bounced. Initially letters were sent to their home or work address and then the State Councillors were contacted to see if they had knowledge of their current whereabouts. In some cases work colleagues were also contacted. Currently, there are 11 members on the attached list, for which we need current email addresses.

Report prepared by Lynette Wynn, July 2010

2010 ASP Annual General Meeting Draft Minutes cont...

Science meets Parliament

Tuesday 9 & Wednesday 10 March 2010 at Old Parliament House and Parliament House, Canberra, ACT



Nick Smith and Lisa Jones (pictured about) attended Science meets Parliament, the Federation of Australian Scientific and Technologies Societies' (FASTS) annual event, on behalf of the ASP. The 2 day event attracted approximately 140 delegates representing science organisations across Australia. The aim of the event is to provide the Australian Science community with a greater understanding of the political process and to meet a parliamentarian. Approximately half of the sessions were communications-based, including a talk at the National Press Club from popular U.S. science journalist and communicator, Chris Mooney. Chris is a 2009-2010 Knight Science Journalism Fellow at MIT, and the author of three books, "The Republican War on Science", "Storm World", and "Unscientific America".

Nick and Lisa felt the event was a good opportunity to meet with delegates from science organisations across Australia and find out how others funded their centres and scientific networks. Following an interesting policy session discussing the Research Workforce Strategy with representatives from the Department of Innovation, Industry, Science and Research, Nick and Lisa reflected on how compatible the Department's Strategy model was with the Network's mentoring and travel award schemes to provide support for scientists throughout their career, in particular early and mid career scientists who take career breaks for family or who work overseas in post-doctoral positions before returning to work in Australia. It was also clear that many of the initiatives envisioned for the "College of Parasitology" concept are ahead of soon-to-be government policy. The Society needs to decide how best to capitalise on this current – but probably ephemeral – advantage. Enthused by the news of the Research Network Strategy Lisa and Nick met their parliamentarians on day two of the event.

Nick met Hon John Cobb MP, Shadow Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry and Federal Member for Calare (NSW). Joining Nick to meet John Cobb was vector biologist, Dr Cassie Jansen, an early career researcher working for CSIRO. John was most interested in the impact of mosquitoes on primary industries and rural communities, particularly in how best to control mosquitoes. Helminth infections of sheep and cattle were also discussed. However, he and his advisor, were also very interested in policy matters relating to funding for research, especially rural research, and how to attract and retain good people and knowledge in this area. It proved a good opportunity to raise awareness of the excellent veterinary and vector biology research being conducted by Australian parasitologists with a parliamentarian with a genuine, and vested, interest in rural matters.

Lisa met Hon Richard Marles MP, Parliamentary Secretary for Innovation and Industry and Federal Member for Corio (Vic) in 2007. Joining Lisa to meet Richard were two young space scientists, from Monash University and ANSTO. Richard has a science degree, with a majoring mathematics, from The University of Melbourne and as well as a law degree. Lisa spoke to Richard about parasitology research in Australia, and how important their work through the ASP and the Network was to help retain the best researchers in Australia across all parasitology disciplines. Richard was interested in malaria research, as he has particular interest in PNG. Lisa also spoke to Richard about the model for supporting scientists throughout their careers and how the model used for the Network for Parasitology mirrored those outlined in the Research Workforce Strategy policy. Lisa and Richard then moved on to discussion around science communication in Australia and involved the other two scientists in talking about the best time to enthuse young people about science. Richard wanted to know when the best time to promote science career to students, and consensus amongst the group was that year 10 at high school, before

2010 ASP Annual General Meeting Draft Minutes cont...

selecting senior school subjects, was a perfect time to have influence over science career choices. Richard pointed out that Questacon had recommended year 5 as a pivotal year and Lisa re-iterated that exposure to science and science communicators who inspire is important throughout the lives of all young people and adults. Richard also talked about their program to kick start science and technology in year 10 students. Lisa discussed the possibility of Richard coming along to the ICOPA outreach activities in August to see the parasitology workshops at GTAC and will follow up with an invitation.

The programme for Science meets Parliament was a good mix of political sessions and science communication sessions. Highlights included the very animated and informative talks by Richard Denniss (The Australia Institute), about conveying your message to politicians, and Chris Mooney, about the important role of science communication and how it can influence the way that science is perceived by members of the public and reported on in the media. Nick and Lisa would recommend that this event be attended each year by early or mid-career scientists (or those who work with them closely) and that different ASP members are able to experience the event each year.

Lisa reports further:

Since attending Science meets Parliament Nick and I have discussed the policy session we were involved with on the Research Workforce Strategy and the similarities between the Strategy model and how we anticipated the "College of Parasitology" to be and in particular provide support for early and mid-career scientists throughout their career with the ultimate goal to address the decline in parasitology researchers and parasitology teaching in Australia. We feel that we can tackle this issue through the activities of the College which are:

- mentoring early and mid-career researchers;
- graduate training program in parasitology;
- fostering collaborations through researchers by funding researcher exchanges to enable collaborative research and meetings;
- promoting the research work of parasitologists;
- promoting communication skills within the parasitology community by giving researchers opportunities to work with the media, and participate in outreach activities; and, if funding can be secured
- establishing College-funded positions for Fellowships that span institutional boundaries, thereby promoting collaborative research, and even tenure-track positions for parasitologists in participating universities.

We expect the outcome to be a direct benefit to the research career of those parasitologists involved. We need to think about how to measure this outcome, and in particular how to measure the level of influence that the "College of Parasitology" has compared to other external influences, and over what time frame.

We anticipate that this model for supporting early and mid-career scientists will be useful for the application of the Research Workforce Strategy policy directive from the Department of Innovation, Industry, Science and Research.

2010 End Term Meeting of the ASP

Draft Minutes

Sat 13 - Sun 14 August 2010

Melbourne

Saturday 13 August

1. PRESENT AND APOLOGIES (2pm)

1. PRESENT AND APOLOGIES

1.	President	Terry Spithill
2.	Vice President	Peter Holdsworth
3.	Treasurer	Nick Sangster
4.	Executive Secretary	David Jenkins
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5.	ACT Councillor	Simon Cobbold
6.	NSW Councillor	Jan Šlapeta
7.	NT Councillor	Deborah Holt
8.	SA Councillor	Kate Hutson
9.	VIC Councillor	Bernd Kalinna
10.	QLD Councillor	Tamsin Barnes
11.	WA Councillor	Amanda Ash
12.	TAS Councillor	Brendan McMorran
13.	Incorporations Secretary	Katharine Trenholme
14.	Archivist	Julie-Anne Fritz
<hr/>		
15.	IJP Editor	Alex Loukas
16.	* BMM	Andrew Thompson
17.	* Newsletter Editor	Lisa Jones
18.	* Network	Nick Smith
19.	* ICOPA X11 Chair	Alan Cowman
20.	* Webmaster	Jason Mulvenna

* Non Voting

APOLOGIES

Membership secretariat Lyn Wynn

2010 End Term Meeting of the ASP

Draft Minutes cont...

The President welcomed Council members to the 2010 ASP End of Term Meeting and called for any extra items to be added to the agenda.

Additional items to discuss

- Warwick Nicholas memoriam (under AGM section)
- new IJP contract
- Victorian Infection and Immunity Network postdoc Symposium - poster or presentation prize

2. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING (2-2.30pm)

2010 Mid Term Minutes (Terry Spithill) FOR DECISION

3. BUSINESS ARISING FROM MEETINGS (2.30-3.00pm)

2010 MTM Business Arising (Terry Spithill) FOR INFORMATION

4. COUNCIL REPORTS (3.00-5.00pm including afternoon tea)

- 4.1 President's Report (Terry Spithill) FOR DECISION
- 4.2 Treasurer's Report (Nick Sangster) FOR DECISION
- 4.3 Executive Secretary's Report incl. Secretariat report (David Jenkins) FOR DECISION
- 4.4 IJP Editor's Report (Alex Loukas) FOR DECISION
- 4.5 Newsletter Editor's Report (Lisa Jones) FOR DECISION
- 4.6 Archivist's Report (Julie-Anne Fritz) FOR DECISION
- 4.7 Webmaster's Report (Jason Mulvenna) FOR DECISION
- 4.8 BMM Convenor's Report (Andrew Thompson) FOR INFORMATION
- 4.9 ARC/NHMRC Research Network Report (Nick Smith) FOR DECISION
- 4.9.1 Proposed Australian College for Parasitology (Nick Smith) FOR DECISION
- 4.10 Incorporations Secretary's Report (Terry Spithill) FOR DECISION

5 Strategic Plan Part 1 (5.00-6.30pm)

- 5.1 Strategic Plan for discussion (Terry Spithill)

Sunday 14 August

- 5 Strategic Plan Part 2 continued (8.00-9.30am)
- 5.2 Proposed ARC Linkage grant application (David Jenkins)

6 . CONFERENCE REPORTS (9.30am-10.15am)

- 6.1 2010 ICOPA XII Conference (Alan Cowman) FOR INFORMATION
- 6.2 2011 Conference (Alex Loukas) FOR INFORMATION
- 6.3 WAAVP 2013 Meeting in Perth (Andy Thompson) FOR INFORMATION

7. OTHER REPORTS (10.15-10.30am)

Science Meets Parliament (Nick Smith) FOR INFORMATION

8. AWARDS (10.30-.10.45am)

- 8.1 ASP Fellowships (Terry Spithill) FOR INFORMATION

2010 End Term Meeting of the ASP Draft Minutes cont...

- 8.2 Bancroft Mackerras (Terry Spithill) FOR INFORMATION
- 8.3 JD Smyth Travel Award (Nick Smith) FOR INFORMATION
- 8.4 ASP Undergraduate Prizes in Universities (Nick Sangster) FOR INFORMATION
- 8.5 Sprent Award (David Jenkins)

9. PROJECT UPDATES (Terry Spithill)(10.45-10.50am)

- 9.1 Vet Parasitology text book update (Nick Sangster) FOR INFORMATION
- 9.2 PARA-SITE Website (Terry Spithill) FOR INFORMATION
- 9.3 History of Parasitology in Australia & PNG book update (Ian Beveridge) FOR INFORMATION
- 9.4 Parasites in Focus Hands-on Parasite Exhibition (Nick Smith) FOR INFORMATION

10. CORRESPONDENCE (Terry Spithill)(10.50-11.00am)

11. OTHER BUSINESS (Terry Spithill) (11.00-11.30am)

- 11.1 Insurance (Terry Spithill, Peter Holdsworth) FOR DECISION
- 11.2 Constitutional change (Terry Spithill) FOR INFORMATION
- 11.3 AGM motion on membership fees (Terry Spithill) FOR INFORMATION

⇒2. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

- 2.1 2010 Mid Term Minutes (Terry Spithill) **FOR DECISION**

The minutes of the Mid Term Meeting (MTM) held on 15 January 2010 at UTS City Campus, Sydney, were circulated separately.

RECOMMENDATION

That the Council accepts the minutes of the MTM held on 15 January 2010 as a true and accurate record.

PROPOSED: David Jenkins

SECONDED: Bernd Kalinna

Accepted unanimously

3. BUSINESS ARISING FROM MEETINGS

- 3.1 2010 MTM Business Arising (Terry Spithill) **FOR INFORMATION**

Action List from Mid Term Meeting held on 15 January 2010 at UTS City Campus

4.8 Leann Tilley is awarded the BMM and will speak at the AGM .

Action: Terry to send Lisa the citation

Action: David P to organise photography of BMM

Action: David Jenkins to confirm with archivist how many BMM medals we have left

7.3 Undergraduate prizes in parasitology

Kate Hutson reported that the parasitology course at the University of Adelaide meets requirements. Di Barton sent a letter to ASP Council and Nick Sangster said it was okay.

2010 End Term Meeting of the ASP

Draft Minutes cont...

ITEM NO	ITEM NAME	RESPONSIBILITY	ACTION	STATUS
3.1	Business arising	Kate H	Kate Hutson, SA Rep moving to JCU, Townsville. Sarah C will contact South Australian colleagues and will discuss nominations for a South Australian Representative and report back to ASP Council.	Kate Hutson to remain as SA Rep until 2010 AGM
3.1	Business arising	Terry S	ASP Secretariat Maree Conway stepping down; Deborah H will find previous applications for managing the ASP membership and distribute to Council. Terry S to investigate secretariat options with the help of Deb H, Nick S, Lisa J.	New ASP Secretariat, Lyn Wynn appointed
4.1	President's report	Terry S	Terry S to organise for ARC/NHMRC Research Network for Parasitology participants to receive email updates.	arranged by Lisa J
4.1	President's report	Terry S	Terry S to ask for the email address from ICOPA broadcasts to be from the ICOPA organising committee.	completed
4.1	President's report	Terry S	Terry S to nominate Denise Doolan, QIMR as President-elect.	completed
4.2	Treasurer's Report	Nick S	Nick Sangster to coordinate with current account holders of the ASP No. 2 account to transfer balance and close account.	completed
4.2	Treasurer's Report	Nick S	Nick Sangster to increase the 2010 ASP Student Travel grant budget to \$50,000.	completed
4.2	Treasurer's Report	Nick S	ASP Council to propose increased membership fees over the next 5 years to \$150 Normal members and \$40 Student members; motions to be put to the 2010 ASP AGM. Nick Sangster to compose arguments on why membership fees need to increase.	Motion for AGM drafted and approved by Council
4.2	Treasurer's Report	Nick Sangster	Nick Sangster will circulate an updated budget to Council.	completed
4.3	Membership secretariat Report	Maree C	Text for membership applications and renewals to be changed on the ASP website.	Completed – Lisa J
4.4	IJP Editor's Report	Alex L	Alex L to speak with Dale Seaton from Elsevier about a simple direct link into the IJP site from the ASP website for members to access complimentary copy of IJP.	In progress
4.4	IJP Editor's Report	Alex L	Alex L to ask Dale Seaton to address the ASP Council about IJP matters at the 2010 ETM.	Dale Seaton not available
4.5	ASP Newsletter Editor's Report	Lisa J	Lisa J to advise ASP State Representatives of the Newsletter deadlines and which issues would hold State News.	completed
4.6	Archivist's Report	Julie-Anne F	Terry S to post History of Parasitology book to Archivist.	David J delivered copy
4.7	Webmaster's Report	Jason M	Deb H, Lisa J and Jason M to action merging and management of the ASP and Network websites.	In process
4.8	BMM Convenor's update	Andrew T	Andrew T will report back to Council on BMM progress.	completed
4.8	BMM Convenor's update	Andrew T	Andrew T to strike a set of new BMM medals.	Medals in hand
4.8	ARC/NHMRC Research Network for Parasitology Report	Nick Smith	Lisa J will promote Travel Awards to ASP members again	completed ; Lisa sent email to ASP members January 18, 2010 .
4.8	ARC/NHMRC Research Network for Parasitology Report	Nick Smith	Nick Smith to form Travel Awards Management Committee for assessment of applications.	completed
5.2	2010 ICOPA XII Conference	Terry S	Finalise timetable as best possible and distribute.	completed
5.2	2010 ICOPA XII	Terry S	Nick Smith and Lisa J to manage two prizes for each	completed

2010 End Term Meeting of the ASP

Draft Minutes cont...

	Conference	Nick S Lisa J	category: ASP student poster, Postdocs poster and ECR talk	
5.3	2011 Conference	Alex L	Lisa J and Nick Smith visiting Cairns to look at conference venues on January 27 th and 28 th with Alex L.	completed
6.2	Strategic Planning Workshop	Terry S Maree C	Terry S to give links to Maree C about other societies.	completed
6.2	Strategic Planning Workshop	Terry S Maree C	Maree C to edit the Web survey analysis and then send an Executive Summary to Terry S who will send final report to ASP members.	Completed; survey posted on Wild Apricot website
6.2	Strategic Planning Workshop	Terry S Maree C	Terry S to give regular Strategic Planning updates to Lisa J for publication in the ASP newsletter.	Completed ; updates provided to Newsletters
6.2	Strategic Planning Workshop	Terry S Maree C	Nick Smith, Lisa J and Andrew T to provide report from the Future Proofing Australian Parasitology workshop.	completed
7.1	ASP Fellows	Julie-Anne F	Julie-Anne F to organise folder.	completed
7.1	ASP Fellows	Terry S	Terry S to officially inform Mal about the successful nomination.	completed
7.3	ASP Undergraduate Prizes in Parasitology	David J	ASP Executive Secretary to follow up with Kate H about a prize for The University of Adelaide, confirm that the course meets the award requirements. Terry S to confirm the award with the University.	In progress. Lisa J to check with David J.
7.4	Invited Lecturers for 2010 Conference	Terry S	Terry S check if David Knox has been a previous ASP invited lecturer and also look into a third name and circulate to council. Terry S to communicate to Lisa J who will coordinate the visits of the three invited ASP lectureships for 2010.	Completed; 3 lecturers are Dominique Soldati-Favre, Simon Jones, Carlos Carmona; ASN to arrange reimbursements
8.1	Elsevier request to update the IJP Contract	Terry S	Alex L to follow up changes to the ASP / IJP / Elsevier contract and getting lawyer to look at it.	In progress
8.2	ASP support of the International Congress of Tropical Medicine and Malaria (ICTMM) in Brisbane 2015	Terry S	Terry S contact Malcolm J to let him know the ASP are interested and to confirm the dates.	completed
8.3	WFP call for nominations for Distinguished Achievement Award	Terry S	Terry S will contact Malcolm Jones and ask Mal to talk to John Sprent about being nominated for the Distinguished Achievement Award.	Completed; Sprent nominated
9.2	PARA-SITE	POD	Lisa J to organise with POD about including PARA-SITE as part of "Parasites in Focus" at ICOPA.	Completed

2010 End Term Meeting of the ASP

Draft Minutes cont...

9.2 PARA-SITE

Action: Lisa J to ask POD about local access as web access can be slow when a whole class is using the computer suite to access PARA-SITE online

WFP

WFP Award will be announced at dinner by David Rollinson. Malcolm Jones nominated John Sprent.

4. COUNCIL REPORTS

4.1 President's Report (Terry Spithill)

ASP business

David Jenkins has been interim Executive Secretary since January while Michelle Power took study leave to conduct research in Antarctica. However, Michelle has recently decided to resign as Executive Secretary for personal reasons. I have asked David Jenkins to continue act as interim Executive Secretary until the AGM where I will nominate him for the position. On behalf of all members, I thank Michelle for her service to the Society over many years.

I am pleased to announce that Council has appointed Ms Lyn Wynn as our new Secretariat responsible for memberships and our database. Lyn takes over from Maree Conway who did a superb job at reorganising the membership database and creating a web-based system that will serve the ASP well into the future. On behalf of members, I thank Maree for her service to the Society and welcome Lyn aboard. Lyn is based in Wagga Wagga.

ASP Awards

I am very pleased to advise that the ASP will award the Bancroft-Mackerras Medal and induct two new Fellows at the AGM in Melbourne. I encourage all members to attend the AGM at 3.30-5.30pm on Wed 18 August and honour our Medallist and Fellows. Many thanks to the Bancroft-Mackerras Medal Committee members for your service to the ASP.

We were delighted to receive over 100 applications for ASP Student Travel Grants and Council agreed to allocate an additional \$10,000 to support student travel to ICOPA XII. It is clear that ICOPA XII has generated considerable interest among our students.

ASP website

The new ASP website has gone live with a stunning new format courtesy of the creativity and diligence of Jason Mulvenna and Lisa Jones (see <http://parasite.org.au/>). The PARA-SITE interactive tool is also now live and is an exciting addition to our site (<http://parasite.org.au/para-site/introduction/index.html>). Jason and Lisa would welcome comments on the new website.

ASP Newsletter

Lisa Jones has produced four Newsletters since taking over the Editor position in December 2009. The Newsletters are very informative with a lovely fresh design created by Lisa. We plan to produce 6 Newsletters this year so our members will be well informed of ASP and State news and developments.

OzEMalaR

Another exciting development for the ASP was the creation of the Australia - Europe Malaria Research Cooperation – OzEMalaR, a collaborative research network supported by significant funding from the NHMRC-European Union Collaborative Research Grants scheme. OzeMalaR will support scientific exchanges between malaria researchers, students and postdocs in Europe

and Australia and will be managed by the Network Management Committee. This is a significant benefit to ASP members and credit is due to Geoff McFadden, Kevin Saliba, Nick Smith and Lisa Jones who put the application together. The first call for applications for the new Australia - Europe Malaria Research Cooperation – OzEMalaR awards has been announced in the August Newsletter.

IJP news

Members will be aware that Council has entered into negotiations with Elsevier for a new contract for the International Journal for Parasitology. I am pleased to report that negotiations with Elsevier are finalised and the conditions for the new contract will be announced at the AGM.

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2011 Conference

With respect to the 2011 Annual Conference, Council has agreed to the offer by Alex Loukas and colleagues to host the 2011 ASP Annual Conference in Cairns from Sunday 10th July–Wednesday 13th July. The venue is selected and the Conference will be promoted at ICOPA in the hope of capturing some of our international attendees to return in 2011.

ICOPA XII

The Program for ICOPA XII is now completed and the hand book has gone to the printer. Our Committees have worked very hard to create an exciting scientific and social program. As of 7 August, we have received 1987 abstracts and 1620 registrations so it promises to be a successful and broad meeting with many opportunities to meet new colleagues and create new friendships. There have been several unavoidable changes to the Program over the past few weeks due to the personal circumstances of several invited Chairs and speakers preventing their attendance. We were delighted that Aaron Maule (Queen's University, Belfast) accepted our invitation as Plenary speaker in place of John Gilleard. In several Symposia, we assigned additional speaking time to a number of delegates in order to complete the program.

After considering abstracts that were highly ranked, but not selected by Chairs for oral presentation, we created twelve Open Symposia which added further breadth to the Program: Trematode transcriptomes and proteomes; Malaria vaccines; Gene silencing in helminths; Insights into the genomics and genetics of parasitic nematodes; Kinetoplastid chemotherapy and drug resistance; Parasitic protozoa: biochemical and molecular studies; Parasite chemotherapy; Helminth vaccines; Genomics of protozoa; Ectoparasite biology and molecular biology; Helminth biology and molecular biology; Helminth field studies and host interactions. The final Timetable and Program at a Glance grid is now posted on the ICOPA XII website (www.icopaxii.org).

The Organising Committee has awarded ASP Invited Lectureship Travel Grants to three eminent invitees who are attending ICOPA XII: Prof Dominique Soldati-Favre (Switzerland), Dr Simon Jones (Canada) and Dr Carlos Carmona (Uruguay). The details of their visits are summarised in the August Newsletter.

Travel Awards for delegates from resource poor countries have been finalised: we funded 53 awards valued at \$87,400. We will award 15 poster/oral presentation prizes for delegates and ASP members at ICOPA XII. The awards will be presented at the Closing ceremony on Friday 20 August.

Strategic Planning

The Strategic Planning Workshop was held at GTAC in Parkville on 17-18 February. The participants were invited by the Executive and Council and represented a cross section of the ASP in terms of experience (academics, students, early career researchers), research interests and State representation: Terry Spithill, CSU; Nick Sangster, CSU; David Jenkins, CSU; Nick Smith, UTS; Lisa Jones, UTS; Alex Loukas, JCU; Denise Doolan, QIMR; James McCarthy, QIMR; Deb Holt, Menzies Darwin; Kate Hutson, JCU representing SA; Mark Sandeman, Monash; Ian Beveridge, U Melb; Vern Bowles, U Melb; Geoff McFadden, U Melb; Amanda Ash, Murdoch; Kate Richards, Latrobe; Ian Sutherland Hopkirk NZ. We invited the President of the NZ Society Ian Sutherland to attend to provide some outside thinking. Maree Conway of Thinking Futures facilitated the Workshop.

The Workshop was informed by three documents: the Websurvey of members conducted in Dec 2009; the Environmental Scan conducted by Maree Conway in Jan-Feb 2010; and my President's Issues paper of Feb 2010. These documents have been posted on the Wild Apricot ASP website for members to access (<http://asp.wildapricot.org/>).

As anticipated, the Workshop generated a lot of ideas which were captured into a report by Thinking Futures. A draft plan is being prepared which Council will discuss in August. We will discuss the plan at the AGM in August. I will then distribute the plan to members for comments. I encourage all members to send me your comments (tspithill@csu.edu.au) as Council is keen to hear the thoughts of members as the Plan is developed.

DECISION: Council Accept Presidents report

Proposed: Deb Holt

Seconded: Tamsin Barnes

Accepted unanimously

4.2 Treasurer's Report (Nick Sangster)

The Society's assets look strong with over \$600,000 in bank and investment assets plus assets in the 'History of Parasitology' and 'Parasites in Focus'.

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The investment account generated a healthy return for the year and provided an income of about \$80,000 on our \$400,000 investment. The investment policy of long term growth remains unchanged. In order to streamline activities, Council decided to close the Conference account in 2010 and engage professional accounting systems.

Our major income is from IJP royalties which rose in £ terms, but fell in \$ terms. We also received significant sponsorship from the MCVB for ICOPA. Membership income is around \$20,000.

Our expenses remained similar to previous years except for the new Network funding arrangement. Outgoings were for ICOPA and the Sydney Conference, both balanced by sponsorship or registrations. Strategic planning costs are expected to be 'one off' but spread over two years. Costs of maintaining the membership and running the Society is approximately \$42,000. These costs continue to rise mainly through the increasing cost of insurance, secretarial services and accounting/ auditing costs. These items are part of an urgent need to professionalise the running of the Society's affairs.

The 2010-2011 Budget.

We expect a significant increase in income due to new arrangements with Elsevier. The second and third instalments from MCVB are still to come. We also expect to raise funds from sale of the book 'A History of Parasitology'. Expenditure will fall in areas like prizes and the Newsletter which have been absorbed into the 'Network' funding. In the future, organizing input from the 'Network' will also keep conference costs down for registrants. On the expense side, 2010-2011 bears the full year of 'Network' funding and so is the major expense. Secretariat costs increase as we need larger database support. Student support for ICOPA is about double the usual, but this is an exceptional event. We have kept other expenditure down and, in line with recommendations, reduced other commitments. A loss of around \$17,000 is anticipated.

The two year tenure of the Executive has allowed me to streamline many financial activities and employing a bookkeeper and accountant as been useful and cost effective. We now have a MYOB licence and an efficient system of BAS and GST processing. The MYOB licence will transfer to the new Executive after 2 years,

See previously circulated pdf for statement.

Nick Sangster outlined the reasons behind increasing membership fees. The costs to administer the ASP needs to be self-supporting from ASP membership fees: at present fees are subsidised by the royalties from the IJP. IJP royalties should be used to support other core ASP activities such as early career researchers. ASP membership needs to be professionalised. Conference fees for ASP members are have been subsidised by Network support to the ASP. The value of having ASP investments in reserves is to support future activities for young ASP early career researchers.

DECISION: the Council accepts the Treasurer's Report.

Proposed: Peter Holdsworth

Seconded: Terry Spithill

Accepted unanimously

4.3 Executive Secretary's Report (David Jenkins) **FOR DECISION**

David Jenkins presented a verbal report. David will follow up with Louise Jackson.

4 Report from the Secretariat (Lyn Wynn)

This is my first report to the ASP Council since I took over the Secretariat responsibilities from Maree Conway of Thinking Futures from April 2010, and it covers Secretariat operations for the period January – July 2010.

I met with Maree in mid March to collect membership, financial papers and equipment. She instructed me in the use of the Wild Apricot database and the methods of banking and transferring payments from PayPal. She continues to be very helpful in answering my questions when they arise, and forwarding emails and faxes that are still being sent to her.

[Membership Statistics](#)

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The following table shows the membership statistics as at 30/6/2010.

*Members who renewed at the discount rate

As at 30/6/2010 there were 522 members of which 427 (81.8%) were financial. Of the 365 members who renewed their membership, 245 (67%) paid online by PayPal. 120 (33%) paid manually, by either sending in credit card details, cheques or money orders. 184 members renewed at the discount rate.

Since 01/01/10 there have been 63 new membership applications of which 17 have been ordinary members and 46 students. New membership applications are either filled in and paid online via PayPal, or by the applicant filling in the new application form and emailing or mailing with payment by cheque or credit card. Membership details are then completed on the database and the Executive Secretary advised weekly if there are applications to approve. Once approved, new members receive an automatic welcome email from the President and a tax invoice for the membership fee.

Advice about the renewal of membership has been sent monthly to members. There was an extra period of 2 weeks given for the discount rate as some members mailed cheques and credit card details which arrived after the due date, and others used old forms which had a renewal date of 31 May for the discount rate. Others simply renewed at the discount rate online, after the date had expired. On 15 April, all members who had not renewed, were changed to the ordinary member status and the option for them to renew at the discount rate was removed. Next year, if the Council decide to have an 'early bird' rate, the process can be automated, so that the discount rate will not be accessible after 31 March.

As at the 30/6/2010, all members who had not renewed had their status changed to 'lapsed'. Lapsed members can still login into their member profile to renew their membership but are not regarded as financial.

8 members requested that their membership be cancelled, and these records have been archived. Archived records are still retained on the membership database, and they can be reactivated by the payment of outstanding fees.

- Archived records do not count in the contact database total for the billing plan.
- When you send emails, archived records are automatically excluded from the current selection of records.
- Archived members can not login – they have to be manually restored first.
- A record can be archived and/or restored as many times as needed.

Of the 95 members who had not renewed, 31 (7 student and 24 ordinary members) have not renewed their membership for 2 years - that is they did not renew in 2009 nor 2010. I have been advised that previous Executives have decided that these members be retained on the membership database until October of the year in which they have been unfinancial for 2 years, and then archived. I have attached a list of these members for the Council to consider whether they may be archived if they do not renew before October. (see attached pdf)

Attempts have been made to re-establish contact with members whose emails have bounced. Initially letters were sent to their home or work address and then the State Councillors were contacted to see if they had knowledge of their current whereabouts. In some cases work colleagues were also contacted. Currently, there are 11 members on the attached list, for which we need current email addresses (see attached pdf).

Report prepared by Lynette Wynn, July 2010

DECISION: the Council accepts the Executive Secretary's Report.

Proposed: Peter Holdsworth

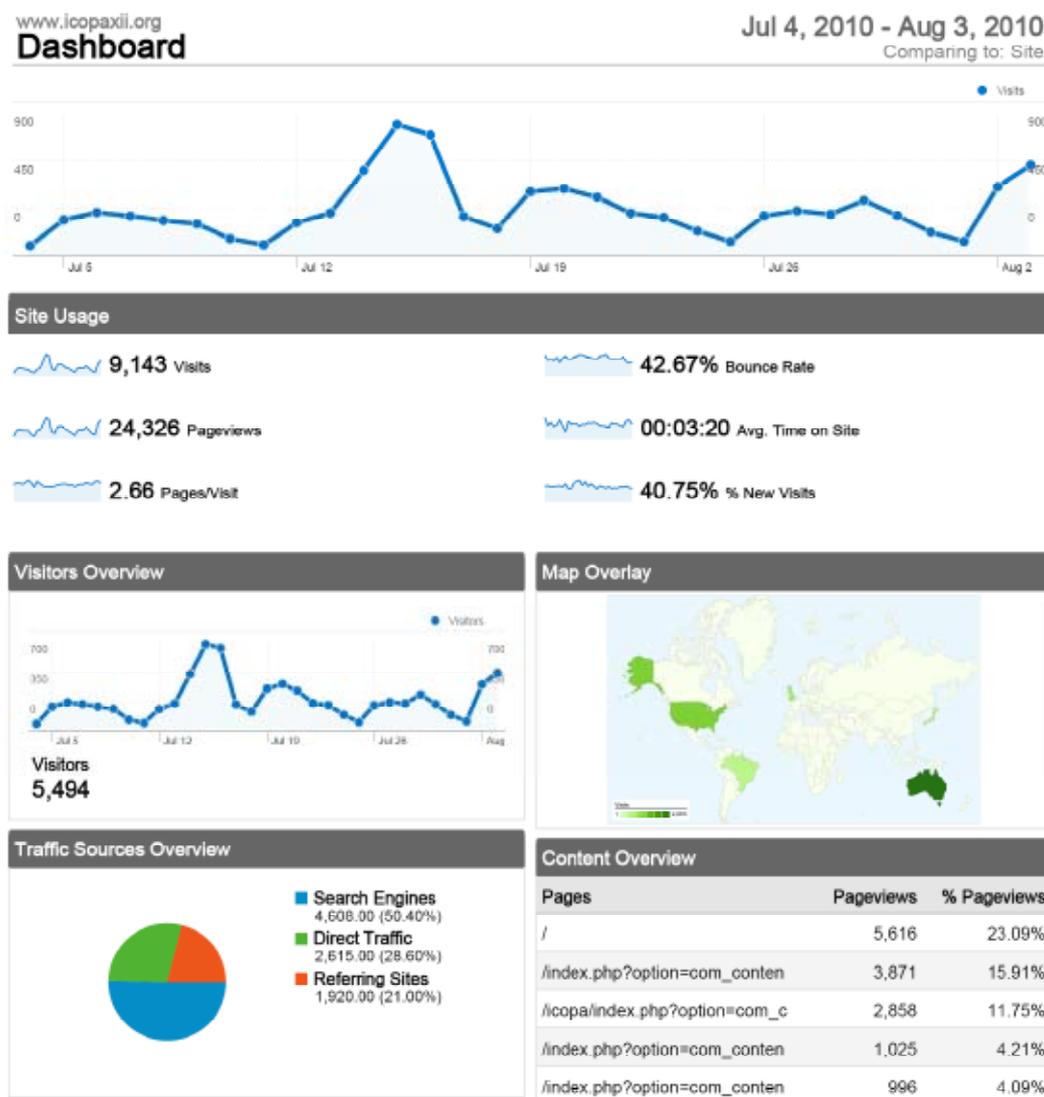
Seconded: Bernd Kalinna

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Membership category	Financial members	Renewals Overdue	Total
Student	141	38	179
Ordinary	40	56	96
Ordinary Member Discount*	184	-	184
Life	23	-	23
Fellow	35	-	35
Sustaining	0	1	1
Newsletter	3	-	3
Administration	1	-	1
Total	427	95	522

Accepted unanimously

4.4 IJP Editor's Report (Alex Loukas) **FOR DECISION**



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See previously circulated pdf. Council agreed to have the IJP birthday cake at the AGM. The new IJP contract is in progress-we are still awaiting written advice from the lawyer. Terry will follow up and obtain advice. Progress with the spin off Journal was held over the Strategic Planning item 5.

DECISION: the Council accepts the IJP Editor's Report.

Proposed: Andrew Thompson

Seconded: Amanda Ash

Accepted unanimously

4.5 Newsletter Editor's Report (Lisa Jones) **FOR DECISION**

The Newsletter format and content was overhauled, the first new-look Newsletter being published in December, 2009. One new feature of the Newsletter, is the introduction of a featured research story from Australian parasitologists who publish in The International Journal for Parasitology.

Newsletter V20 i1

Our featured research story in this issue from Australian parasitologists who publish in The International Journal for Parasitology was a paper on tapeworm vaccines from Marshall Lightowlers' team.

Marshall Lightowlers, Craig Kyngdon, Charles Gauci, Garry Anderson (The University of Melbourne), Emmanuel Assana, Stanny Geerts, Pierre Dorny, Redgi De Deken (Institute of Tropical Medicine, Belgium) and André P. Zoli (University of Dschang, Cameroon) have their International Journal for Parasitology rapid communication article "Elimination of *Taenia solium* transmission to pigs in a field trial of the TSOL18 vaccine in Cameroon" in press.

Newsletter V20 i2

Our featured research story from Australian parasitologists who publish in The International Journal for Parasitology was from Jessica King and colleagues and their *Neospora caninum* research.

Jessica King, Jan Šlapeta, Peter Windsor (University of Sydney), David Jenkins (Charles Sturt University), and Sarwat Al-Qassab and John Ellis (University of Technology, Sydney) have their International Journal for Parasitology article, "Australian dingoes are definitive hosts of *Neospora caninum*" in press.

Newsletter V20 i3

Our featured research story from Australian parasitologists who publish in The International Journal for Parasitology was from Andy Thompson, Mike Grigg and colleagues about their IJP article, "Nonarchetypal Type II-like and atypical strains of *Toxoplasma gondii* infecting marsupials of Australia" published in May 2010.

Nevi Parameswaran, Andrew Thompson, Shuting Pan (Murdoch University), Michael Grigg and N. Sundar (National Institutes of Health, USA), and Michael Johnson and Nick Smith (University of Technology, Sydney) had their International Journal for Parasitology article, "Nonarchetypal Type II-like and atypical strains of *Toxoplasma gondii* infecting marsupials of Australia" published in May 2010. Andy Thompson and Mike Grigg talked to Lisa Jones about their collaborative research.

Additionally, Network Researcher Exchange, Travel and Training Award recipient Natalie Spillman, PhD student from Kieran Kirk's lab at ANU, was profiled about her Researcher Exchange to La Trobe University.

Natalie won a Network Travel Award for a 3-week Researcher Exchange to Dr Alex Maier's laboratory at the Department of Biochemistry, La Trobe University, Melbourne in May 2010 for her *Plasmodium* research.

DECISION: the Council accepts the Newsletter Editor's report.

Proposed: Jan Šlapeta

Seconded: Simon Cobbold

Accepted unanimously

4.6 Archivist's Report (Julie-Anne Fritz) **FOR DECISION**

Julie-Anne presented a verbal report. Received the History of Parasitology Book

ACTION: Lisa to send annual reports to archivist

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DECISION: the Council accepts the Archivist's Report.

Proposed: Deb Holt

Seconded: Tamsin Barnes

Accepted unanimously

4.7 Webmaster's Report (Jason Mulvenna) **FOR DECISION**

1. New hosting and domain name registration

The ASP website has been moved from Wolfweb to Dreamhost. On behalf of the society I entered a two year contract for \$46.80. The new hosting provides for greater level of services, bandwidth and storage as well as the provision of server-side scripting capabilities required by the new website. Domain name hosting was also moved from Domain Candy to MelbourneIT for a cost of \$80 for 2 years of management. This step was taken for two reasons, firstly the domain name was not held by the ASP but was in the name of Wolfweb which could cause complications particularly in the event of Wolfweb closing. Secondly, Domain Candys website rarely worked making management of the domain difficult. In addition to the ASP website Dreamhost now also hosts the network website, OzeMala and PARA-site (for no extra charge).

2. New website

The old website was replaced with an updated version. Apart from style changes the website now incorporates a back end for simple updating and posting of news relevant to the ASP.

3. PARA-site

The completed PARA-site is now hosted as a subdomain of the ASP website and has a dedicated link on the front page of the ASP website.

4. To do items

Further improvements of the website have been suggested including a skills database of our members, an index of members, and the incorporation of the network site into the ASP website.

Conference abstracts also need to be made available on the site, and, preferably, made searchable.

5. Items for Council consideration

A. Dedicated emails for council members. For eg president@parasite.org.au. This would mean that the society has all emails relevant to it's operation under it's control and on it's servers. This can be done easily through Dreamhost or Google apps.

B. Consolidation of the network and ASP websites into a single website.

C. Passwords. If something happened to the webmaster it would be quite difficult to get manage the domain and website so passwords should be stored by the archivist.

D. Updates. Who can update the website? It is now possible for anyone to post (if they

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have the admin password) so is it more convenient to let council members update the website or should everything go through the webmaster?

E. Twitter and or Facebook accounts for ASP.

ACTIONS:

- Passwords to be given to Deb Holt
- Jason to undertake email archiving
- Executive emails to be archived
- Jason to open a Twitter site

DECISION: the Council accepts the Webmaster's Report.

Proposed: Deb Holt

Seconded: David Jenkins

Accepted unanimously

4.8 BMM Convenor's Report (Andrew Thompson) **FOR INFORMATION**

Andrew T provided a verbal report. Terry Spithill expressed his thanks to Andrew Thompson for his work as the Convenor of the BMM Committee. Andrew and Graham Mitchell retire from the Committee in Dec 2010. At the Feb 2011 MTM, Council will nominate a new Convenor and member of the BMM Committee.

DECISION: the Council accepts the BMM Co-ordinator's Report.

Proposed: Terry Spithill

Seconded: David Jenkins

Accepted unanimously

4.9 ARC/NHMRC Research Network Report (Nick Smith) **FOR DECISION**

Reports

The 2009 Annual Report and the Final Report for the ARC/NHMRC Research Network for Parasitology were submitted to the ARC on May 31 and June 30, respectively.

Australia - Europe Malaria Research Cooperation - OzEMalaR

On February 25, 2010, The NHMRC - European Union (EU) Collaborative Research Grants scheme for Australian participation in leading international collaborative research under the EU's FP7 announced that seven applications involving Australian researchers had been chosen for funding by the EU. Geoff McFadden (The University of Melbourne), Kevin Saliba (Australian National University) and colleagues were successful in their project grant application for Australia - Europe Malaria Research Cooperation - OzEMalaR and were awarded \$830,000 over 5 years.

OzEMalaR will link 34 Australian labs with 47 European, African & Indian malaria researchers. Funding will enable exchange of modern technologies by supporting early career researchers (PhD and postdocs) from Australia to work and be trained in top European labs. European trainees will work and be trained by Australian malariologists using reciprocal EU support. This result means that the Network Research Exchange budget will stretch further than originally anticipated; a great result for all parasitologists.

Geoff said, "I anticipate that we will be able to fund collaborative exchanges of Australian malaria research laboratory members into EviMalaR (= BioMalPar) laboratories shortly. The process will work in a very similar manner to the research exchanges funded by the ARC/NHMRC Research Network for Parasitology. It has been an exciting start for OzEMalaR. We've launched our website www.ozemalar.org and are updating it currently so feedback is welcome. Email Lisa (lisa.jones@uts.edu.au) with your comments and suggestions.

"Our first round of OzEMalaR Travel Awards was very successful and congratulations to all the winners. We look forward to hearing about how those Researcher Exchanges went in the near future," said Geoff.

"Visit our website (www.ozemalar.org) to find out how you can apply for OzEMalaR Travel Awards to support early career malaria researchers (PhD and postdocs) from Australia to work and be trained in top European laboratories within EviMalaR. To check which laboratories are eligible as hosts visit www.evimalar.org. Download funding guidelines from the OzEMalaR website and start planning your researcher exchanges to utilise this great opportunity.

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“Our next closing date for OzEMalaR Travel Awards is Friday 1st October 2010, we hope to see lots of applications.

“My thanks to Lisa Jones for doing such a wonderful job of setting up the logo, web site, communications and co-ordinating the funding applications.”

Awards

ASP Student Travel Award

Deadline was 15 May 2010; 101 eligible applications were submitted and administered by Lisa Jones

Conference Prizes

Lisa and Nick are coordinating the judging of 15 poster and oral presentation prizes, both ASP and international, at ICOPA XII

Network Travel Award application deadlines for 2010

29 January 2010

28 May 2010

1 October 2010

OzEMalaR Travel Award application deadlines for 2010

30 June 2010

1 October 2010

one final round for 2010 in December

Network Travel Award Winners

Congratulations to JD Smyth Travel Award and Network Travel Award winners in the first and second round of the Award scheme for 2010.

Network Researcher Exchange, Training and Travel Award winners

Jan Slapeta, The University of Sydney, for travel by Dr. Giselle Walker, University of Cambridge, UK to The University of Sydney, to study the ultrastructure of the Chromera, a model for apicomplexan organelles.

Hamish McWilliam, Monash University, for a Researcher Exchange to Don McManus's laboratory at the Queensland Institute of Medical Research to identify stage-specific proteins critical to the survival of *Schistosoma japonicum*.

Natalie Spillman, Australian National University, for a Researcher Exchange to Alex Maier's laboratory at the Department of Biochemistry at La Trobe University, Melbourne for research to determine the sub-cellular localisation of important transport proteins of *Plasmodium*.

Caroline Lin Lin Chua, (University of Melbourne) for a Researcher Exchange to Papua New Guinea Institute of Medical Research (PNGIMR), Madang, Papua New Guinea from 23 March 2010 – 1 November 2010 for malaria research and training with the microscopy unit at PNGIMR, Madang.

Rachael McGeorge, (QIMR) for a Researcher Exchange with Prof Ben Dunn at the University of Florida, USA to generate recombinant plasmepsin IX and to begin the process of obtaining a crystal structure for this enzyme.

Nicole Kirchhoff, (Australian Maritime College, University of Tasmania) for a Researcher Exchange to travel to the USA to visit Dr Barbara Block at the Tuna Research and Conservation Centre in Monterey Bay, California to study blood fluke *Cardicola* forestry in southern bluefin tuna.

Catherine Gordon, (QIMR) for a Researcher Exchange for workshops and fieldwork at the National Institute of Parasitic Diseases, Chinese Centre for Disease Control and Prevention, Shanghai, China and the Research Institute of Tropical Medicine, Manila, Philippines for schistosomiasis research.

Joel Barrett, (UTS) to attend the Parasitology and Tropical Medicine Masterclass, Melbourne, August 2010 to gain practical experience in the preparation of stained smears for the diagnosis of gastrointestinal parasites.

Christopher Peatey, (QIMR) for a Researcher Exchange to La Trobe CoE for Coherent X-Ray Science to help the characterisation of two proteins for his malaria research.

[OzEMalaR Travel Award winners](#)

OzEMalaR Travel Award winners in the first round of the Award scheme for 2010.

Melanie Rug, (Walter and Eliza Hall Institute) for her Researcher Exchange to visit Drs. Marek Cyrklaff and Freddy Frischknecht at University of Heidelberg.

Gaetan Burgio, (Menzies Research Institute Tasmania) for a Researcher Exchange to visit the Malaria biology and genetics unit, (Pr Robert Menard), Pasteur Institute Paris: from the 8th to the 19th of November 2010; to attend a Bioinformatic and genomics of *Plasmodium falciparum* workshop: 22-23 November 2010, Paris Museum National d'Histoire Naturelle; and visit Division of Parasitology (Jean Langhorne's group), National Institute for Medical Research, London, UK.

Fiona Angrisano, (Walter and Eliza Hall Institute) for a Researcher Exchange for training and research at Imperial College, London with Prof Robert Sinden.

Justin Boddey, (Walter & Eliza Hall Institute of Medical Research) for a Researcher Exchange to undertake a short research project in Dr. Maria Mota's laboratory Institute of Molecular Medicine, Lisbon, Portugal.

Events and Outreach

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"Parasites in Focus"

Twenty-six superb photographic prints showing the amazing world of parasitology accompanied by four hands-on parasite exhibits: parasite game show "Who's my host?" and explore lots of different parasites found in Australia and around the world using "The microscopic world of parasites", "Look closer at parasites" and "Parasitic lifecycles".

Since 2007 "Parasites in Focus" Exhibition has toured across most states and territories engaging more than 200,000 visitors in total across the following venues:

- July to October 2007 at Questacon Science and Technology Centre in Canberra
- Queensland Museum South Bank from 8 December 2007 to 27 February 2008 During this time, the total number of visitors to the Museum was just under 100,000, which included 2400 visitors in groups. The groups were mostly school groups who were given an information sheet about parasites and parasitology to assist teachers with learning.
- Ultimo Science Festival, and on display from during National Science Week, in August 2008 at The Muse Gallery, Sydney, NSW
- Perth Zoo in Western Australia (10 months)
- The University of Sydney during the 2009 ASP & ARC/NHMRC Research Network for Parasitology Annual Conference
- Northern Territory Library in Darwin for the 2009 Darwin Festival (3 months)
- Wollongong Science Centre, NSW, for 3 months with over 15,000 visitors, mostly school children, their teachers and family groups

In 2010 "Parasites in Focus" travelled to:

- Imaginarium Science Centre Imaginarium in Devonport, Tasmania
- The University of Tasmania, **Cradle Coast Campus, Foyer Gallery 16-20 Mooreville Rd, Burnie, Tasmania**

Wednesday 19 May to Friday June 4

Currently Parasites in Focus is part of a school program at GTAC (detailed below) and will then feature at ICOPA XII at the ASP booth in the exhibitors area.

"Parasites in Focus"

The Program, The Exhibition, The Competition

The Gene Technology Access Centre (GTAC) in collaboration with the ARC/NHMRC Research Network for Parasitology and The Australian Society for Parasitology is the Melbourne home for the exhibition titled "Parasites in Focus". The exhibition runs from August 7th to August 12th. Teachers are invited to a special viewing of the exhibition on Monday 9th August from 5.00pm—6.00pm.

This exciting Outreach event at GTAC will be launched by Marshall Lightowlers (The University of Melbourne). And, we gratefully acknowledge the incredible work done by Tony Chiovitti (GTAC), who has prepared an outstanding program of wetlabs, quizzes, and interactive exercises for Victorian school students. We're also indebted to Ian Beveridge (The University of Melbourne) for his expert advice especially in putting together a microscopy workshop.

The Program

Tuesday 10th August

A full day program in which students investigate how liver flukes find their host snails, examine the larvae of the bot fly and use DNA testing to identify Plasmodium species. Students will also visit the exhibition and hunt for clues amongst the parasites on show to answer the question, What proportion of animal species are parasites?

The Exhibition

Saturday 7th - Thursday 12th August

Explore twenty-six superb photographic prints showing the amazing microscopic world of the parasite accompanied by three hands-on parasite exhibits: parasite game show "Who's my host?", "Virtual microscope" and "Real microscope" to view parasites close up in all their glory. In addition, visitors can view the stunning animations of the life cycle of the malaria parasite by BAFTA and Emmy award winning Drew Berry, renowned biomedical animator, on GTAC's big screen.

"Parasites in Focus" at the Gene Technology Access Centre (GTAC)

The University High School, Story Street, Parkville, Melbourne

General Public – Saturday 7th, Sunday 8th, Monday 9th, Wednesday 11th & Thursday 11th 3.00pm – 5.00pm

School Groups - Students complete a task based upon the exhibition Monday 9th, Wednesday 11th & Thursday 12th 10.00am – 3.00pm

Special Viewing for Teachers - Monday 9th August - 5.00pm – 6.00pm

After featuring at GTAC and ICOPA XII "Parasites in Focus" exhibition will move to the Museum of the Riverina, Wagga Wagga, NSW.

Check Network Events on our website to find out when Parasites in Focus will be at a venue near you, or contact Lisa (Lisa.Jones@uts.edu.au) if you would like to host the exhibition.

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<http://www.parasite.org.au/arcnet/events>

Art, Science and Parasites....

[The Art of the Bodysnatchers Competition](#)

Want to see your artwork published in a glossy magazine?

Draw/paint/design or computer generate your version of a parasite – luscious-looking lice, heinous hydatids, tenacious tapeworms, or your own abstract parasitic interpretation.....

\$1000 cash first prize, along with four \$500 runner up cash prizes, and publication as the front cover of a prestigious scientific journal, International Journal for Parasitology. Great prizes for other competition winners also up for grabs!

Winners will be chosen based on their artistic merits, originality, and demonstrated research of their chosen parasite.

All entries must be submitted electronically as PDF by Friday 30th July 2010.

Please note that the copyright for the winning images featured on IJP covers will need to be transferred by the artist(s) to the ASP. All winning entries must be entirely original and must not include any previously published or copyrighted material or images, or reproductions similar enough that copyright permission would be required to use those.

["Parasites in Focus" Online Quiz](#)

Fancy your chances in our online "Parasites in Focus" quiz? iPod prizes for the quiz winners!

Hurry, closes Friday 13th August 2010.

Need help finding the answers? Try these:

The Australian Society for Parasitology

<http://www.parasite.org.au/>

The ARC/NHMRC Research Network for Parasitology

<http://www.parasite.org.au/arcnet/>

The Parasitology Research Group at Aberystwyth University, Wales, UK

<http://www.aber.ac.uk/~mpgwww/Edu/EduIndex.html>

Media

"Parasites in Focus" article featured in the May issue of UTas news. Following this story New Scientist picked up the story and requested images which I sent and are currently online

<http://www.newscientist.com/article/dn19188-parasite-parade-meet-natures-intimate-aliens.html>

this prompted a request for images from a journalist from W*E*N*N, World Entertainment News Network - Lisa is currently following up.

["Parasites in Focus" t-shirts](#)

"Parasites in Focus" t-shirts and "Parasites in Focus" ICOPA XII t-shirts will be on sale at ICOPA XII for \$20 along with the ASP History of Parasitology books. Lisa organised a satchel insert for ICOPA XII delegates promoting these and PARA-SITE.

2011 Conference

A first organising committee meeting for the 2011 conference was held in Cairns on April 30, 2010. In attendance were Nick Smith (Network Convenor), Lisa Jones (Network Communications and Strategic Planning Coordinator), Alex Loukas (Conference Chair), Jason Mulvenna, David Blair, Wayne Melrose and Soraya Gaze.

The conference venue and dates have been selected and secured; the 2011 meeting will be held from July 10-13, 2011 at the Pullman Hotel in Cairns.

A draft budget has been prepared.

The structure will be similar to that of previous years but two new ideas will be trialled - an Early Career Researcher Symposium, of four or five presentations, selected from abstracts submitted, with the best presenter winning an ECR Award to attend an international conference of their choice; and a session focused on students from tropical countries who are studying in Australia, with four or five students be selected to speak about their research on tropical parasites.

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Plenary and symposium themes have been selected and speakers will be invited after ICOPA is over. Themes include "One Health", "Tropical Marine Parasitology", "Tropical Veterinary Parasitology" and "Malaria". The Elsevier Lectures will continue.

Potential sponsors have been identified and will be approached after ICOPA.

A second committee meeting will be held in September or October to decide on a registration fee structure and finalise ideas for outreach activities and possible postgraduate training course modules, to be trialled for the first time in connection with the 2011 conference.

Network Management Committee Meeting

A Network Management Committee meeting was held on May 12 and 13, 2010. An abbreviated version of the minutes from the meeting follow:

Attending: Nick Smith, Lisa Jones, Denise Doolan, Kate Hutson, Terry Spithill, Alex Loukas, Geoff McFadden

Introduction & Goals

Nick outlined that the major goals for this meeting were to clarify the role of the Network in the ASP in light of the Strategic Planning Workshop and its recommendations and aspirations, how the Network might look and operate in the future and how OzeMalaR would be integrated into that vision. Other items for discussion included some brainstorming on themes and speakers for future conferences and a discussion about future outreach activities.

Briefing on ASP Strategic Planning

Terry summarised the ASP's Strategic Planning Exercise, stressing the top five issues identified during the workshop, which were: (1) maintain the high quality of the International Journal for Parasitology and investigate the possible establishment of a "spin-off" open access journal; (2) maintain the high quality of the annual conference; (3) Ensure face-to-face activities are maintained including researcher exchanges, travelling lectureships, attracting good conference speakers; (4) develop advanced training courses, workshops and outreach activities; and (5) ensure that the Society remained an inclusive one, recognising the needs and desires of its members and striving to meet them.

Terry noted that the Network would be integral to achieving these aspirations in the future and that the Society would need to move from voluntary to professionally run organisation with paid positions (as had also been highlighted as one of the top ten targets by the Strategic Planning Workshop), perhaps using the Network as a model.

Briefing on OzEMalaR

Geoff gave a briefing on how the NHMRC funds Australia participation (OzEMalaR) in the FP7 EVIMalaR \$830,000 to fund Australians to go to Europe (EVIMalaR have money to send Europeans to Australia and now will seek specific new funds for Australian exchanges). Funding is mostly for Researcher Exchanges - probably 10 per year and approximately \$16,000 per trip. New "entrants" to OzEMalaR will also be allowed/encouraged and there will be some flexibility about visiting non-EVIMalaR European labs (especially African and Indian labs formally linked to EviMalaR).

Procedures followed by OzeMalaR will be based on those successfully employed by the Network and will be integrated, seamlessly, into the administration processes of the Network; Communication Coordinator will administer and OzeMalaR may contribute finances to Network for that service (as well as for production of Newsletter, website, workshops, conference etc) – Nick and Geoff to discuss appropriate level of funding at a future date.

Timing of calls for applications and awards will be same, three times per year but with a separate committee of Kevin Saliba, Ric Price, Chris Engwerda, Geoff McFadden, Denise Doolan, Nick Smith, Andy Waters. The scheme will use the same form as Network Travel Awards with some variations, such as boxes to tick indicating that application is for an EVIMalaR lab exchange and a budget box for laboratory costs.

Briefing on Australian College for Parasitology Concept

Nick presented the Australian College for Parasitology concept. It was agreed up-front that the Network would be an integral part of the future of the ASP and will report directly to the ASP Council and, rather than standing still, should strive to realise the vision of the College concept. Nick pointed out that the ARC had reneged on an early ruling that the ARC/NHMRC Network name could be used in the future so, now, a new name was needed – all agreed that we should move, at the ASP AGM in August, to change the name to the Australian College for Parasitology and commission a new logo that, whilst acknowledging the past, had a somewhat fresh look.

Discussion then focused on the proposed training course – should we build up slowly or offer specific topics? General consensus was that we should look to run a training course at the ASP Conference in Cairns in 2011 – introduce the concept realistically, building up modules. Possible first modules might be:

- Bioinformatics
- Technical aspects of microscopy techniques
- Diagnostics (marine parasitology)

Other issues to take into consideration and flag for future discussion included:

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- Will the course(s) be fee-paying?
- Will the course(s) be residential?
- What sort of insurance will be needed to cover staff and students?

Ultimately, a permanent home at one of our Universities may need to be found to host the course and, perhaps the College itself.

Some amendments to the College for Parasitology proposal were agreed:

- Delete reference to alumni;
- Delete reference to recruitment of stellar parasitologists;
- Remove conference as a formal College responsibility, notwithstanding that it will actually be organised and run by College staff – the idea is that the conference will continue whether or not the College becomes a reality.

There was recognition that the ASP could not ever aspire to fully funding the boldest vision for the College, so where will the money come from? Potential sources might include:

ACIAR Atlantic Philanthropies (only an option if College based in QLD!)

CSIRO CSL

Wellcome Trust Virbac / Novartis / Pfizer / M&L / AWI / Bayer

Singapore Mining companies (Kevin Baird has contacts)

Biosecurity Australian Defence Force

ABRS Palm Oil Plantations

Seed funding from the ASP AQIS

Wildlife parasites (Australia Zoo) AusAid

George Institute

Approaches will also be made to the bigger participating institutes of the Network, to request their financial assistance for the College. The approach needs to include statistics concerning the financial and research output benefits specific for each organisation, including grants won, papers published and media coverage. But it should also point out to DVCs that they have great staff, great research, great outcomes, career development profiles and also highlight service to the ASP, awards to staff and students from ASP to demonstrate the strength of links and commitment.

With regard structure and management of the College, it was agreed that a Management Committee was not ideal psychologically as it could imply too high a level of autonomy from the ASP. Instead, Nick proposed that we have a grants assessment committee and a strategic planning committee, the grant assessment committee to be made up of previous Travel Award winners, both relatively senior and ECRs, and the Strategic Planning Committee to be made up of research leaders from participating organisations that contribute cash to the College.

Conference themes and speakers

Lots of great ideas for themes and speakers were put forward, setting up for great conferences for the next several years. These included:

- Climate change and aquaculture (disease emergence) – Ogawa (Japan). Where can you farm? Emerging parasite outbreaks. Sea lice in Chile. Blood flukes. New disease problems and how to manage them.
- Bal Singh (Malaysia) talking about monkey malaria
- Jane Raper (NYU) – transgenic cattle with APO1 to kill Trypanosoma gambiense and rhodesiense
- Attenuated malaria strain vaccine (Kevin Marsh and Andy Waters)
- Eradication of malaria – Solomon Islands (McCarthy)
- Co-infections – Maria Yazdenbakhsh (out in 2007); Stephen Rogerson (malaria and HIV); Tom Nuttman / Alan Sher; Yasmin Yollade; Maria Mota;
- Scabies – pig model, looking at biology and acquired immunity - ask James McCarthy, Deb Holt
- State of the Art Technologies – Metabolomics (Paul Michelles); Systems Biology (Gary Wood and David Sibley); RNAi (Jon Tort and Aaron Maule).
- Worm therapy – eg, for Crohn's disease

Potential Trends and IJP Lecturers included:

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- Kent Hill (Trypanosoma)
- Julius Lukes (Trypanosoma)
- Boris Striepen (Toxoplasma)
- David Fidock (malaria)
- David Marcoglies (Climate Change)
- Steve Wakel (Ticks)
- Michael Lanzer (malaria)
- David Artis (co-infection)
- Jean Langhorne (malaria)

And, other themes and speaker might be:

Veterinary Parasitology

- Peter Geldhof
- Philip Skuce (Moredun)
- Peter Deplazes (Zurich)

C.elegans

- Antony Page
- Mark Viney
- Joe Dent
- Paul Sternberg

Organisation of state-based workshops was felt to be too onerous, potentially expensive and possibly counter-productive to Australia-wide collegiality at this time in the ASP's evolution.

Outreach

Outreach had been a great success of the Network, everyone agreed. It was also agreed that to continue travelling "Parasites in Focus" was good publicity for the Society and good value for money @ about 30c per person – this might be coverable from Network budget for another year then it's future needs to be reconsidered (ie, a permanent home may need to be found rather than continuing it as a travelling exhibition).

Newsletter

New Newsletter is going well – all were very positive about the layout, design and content and Terry thanked Lisa for her outstanding work. The introduction of the IJP page was especially appreciated. Some new ideas for the Newsletter were discussed including:

- Column for PhD students to profile international "heroes" was proposed
- Humorous stuff, parasite jokes/cartoons, picture board at the end,
- ASP student rep – profile new students and new members

DECISION the Council accepts Convenor's report.

Proposed: Alex Loukas

Seconded: Jan Šlapeta

Accepted unanimously

4.10 Incorporations Secretary's Report (Katharine Trenholme)

Nothing to report.

DECISION the Council accepts the Incorporation Secretary's Report.

Proposed: Jan Šlapeta

Seconded: Amanda Ash

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Accepted unanimously

5 Strategic Plan (Terry Spithill)

The draft Plan of 12 Aug 2010 was circulated separately. Council discussed the the draft Plan at length.

Andy Thompson felt our mission statement could be based on Article II of the ASP Constitution. Jan Slapeta added that our mission statement should include a statement about the Society fostering honesty and responsibility.

Nick Sangster commented on the 4 pillars:

Postdoctoral fellowships – should be under the ASP Recognising Excellence (Awards) pillar

Undergraduate education resources should be under Delivering Education and training pillar

Project management (now termed New Society Initiatives) should be under Serving members.pillar

He felt the Plan should outline this is what we want to be and here is how we get there.

Bernd Kallina suggested that under Education we focus also on primary schools modelled on the CSIRO Scientists in Schools program. Lisa Jones commented that we already have good outreach through the Parasites in Focus travelling exhibition.

Advocacy – what might that role entail? Suggestion is focussed on advocacy to Government via FASTS and Science meets Parliament.

We have the FASTS document 2002 which states why parasitic diseases are important.

Under pillar 4, Nick Smith noted that ASP can only facilitate training not offer formal training (which Universities do).

Council discussed the possible name for the new Network entity to replace the existing Network. Nick Smith and the Network Management Committee suggested Australian College for Parasitology. There was discussion that the the term College may be interpreted to mean a professional body that provides formal professional training or grants professional awards. Several other names were suggested:

- Australian Network for Parasitology (ANP)
- Australian Network for Advancing Parasitology (ANAP)
- Parasitology Network Australia (PNA)
- Australian College for Parasitology (ACP)
- Australian Parasitology Training Initiative (APTI)
- Parasitology Teaching and Education Initiative (PTEI)
- Parasitology Australia (PA)
- ASP Hub for Parasitology Research (AHPR)
- Australian Parasitology Research Hub (APRH)
- Australian Parasitology Consortium (APC)
- Australian Parasitology Alliance (APA)

It was agreed to survey members and seek suggestions for the name of the new entity that will be responsible for pillar 4 Delivering Training and Education.

Sunday 14 August

[5 Strategic Plan \(part 2 continued\)](#)

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Proposed ARC Linkage grant application (David Jenkins)

PI & co-investigators will look at costs and impacts of parasitic disease; the results will be used to publish an outcomes paper in a high-impact journal; Could be cited in grant applications

The concept is to produce evidence that will impact on ARC research priorities so that they make a change that includes parasitic diseases.

FASTS paper – Mark Sandeman et al

What parasites cost in human terms?

Institutions that will be helpful – Paul Torgeron – advice re DALYS (disability life-adjusted years); Menzies in Darwin; and George Institute; Alan Lopez (UQ) School Population Health.

The grant will examine the impact of parasites on animals and people, companion animals, wildlife, livestock.

Pre-approval – eligible company to partner, need 20% of the direct costs, 20-30K per year for 3 years, PI salary

ACTION: Dave Jenkins to draft something for the proposed ARC Linkage grant application and report back at the 2011 MTM to Council.

Decision that the ASP proceed with preparing an ARC Linkage Grant proposal

Proposed: Tamsin Barnes

Seconded: Andy Thompson

Agreed unanimously

6. Conference Reports

6.1 2010 ICOPA XII Conference (Alan Cowman) **FOR INFORMATION**

ICOPA XII Milestone report for MCVB, July 2010

Program.

The program is finalized and available in full detail on the web (see <http://www.icopaxii.org/>). There are on average 12 sessions taking place at once throughout the week, with over 1200 posters on display and some 600 oral presentations.

Role for State VIPS

The Premier has declined the opportunity to open ICOPA.

Registrations

To date, we have received 1697 registrations of which 1,230 are from overseas and 197 of them are overseas students. There are an additional 73 potential delegates who have submitted an abstract but, since they are travelling from developing countries, are only going to be confirmed as attendees when they arrive and pay their registration fees.

Financial considerations

The Conference is at around breakeven now. Sponsorship support has been negatively impacted by the GFC, but registrations were higher than initially planned.

Pre and Post touring

Options are presented on our web page. Bookings are being managed by Link Tours who have reported only modest pick up to this stage. Branding of Melbourne and Victoria is on the web page as per the agreement.

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Marketing update

Target numbers:

The ICOPA XII meeting will be deemed a success with attendance of 1500 delegates, but will be considered a much more significant event if 2000 attend, and this is therefore the attendance target. The committee believes there is a realistic domestic audience of 600 delegates.

The public Outreach Program parameters and outcomes are yet to be quantified, but participation by a similar number of individuals, be they general public or students, would be considered an excellent outcome.

Promotional opportunities:

The meeting has been heavily promoted at a number of international meetings including the BSP in UK, WAAVP in Canada and APP in Korea.

The best indicator of the success of the program is the online web statistics and for the last month they are appended (5,494 unique visitors in the last month).

6.2 2011 Conference (Alex Loukas) [FOR INFORMATION](#)

Report given by Nick Smith under Network activities previously

6.3 WAAVP 2013 Meeting in Perth (Andy Thompson) [FOR INFORMATION](#)

Andy Thompson provided a verbal report on the WAAVP 2013 meeting. They will be using local conference organisers and the WA State government is providing \$100,000 to host this international meeting. Proposing to hold this as a joint meeting with the ASP during the last week of August 2013.

6.4 2012 ASP Annual Conference (Brendan McMorran) [FOR INFORMATION](#)

The 2012 ASP Annual Conference will be held in Tasmania and Brendan will report back in January.

6.5 2014 ASP Annual Meeting [FOR INFORMATION](#)

Council noted that the 2014 ASP Meeting would celebrate 50th birthday of the ASP. Nick Sangster suggested that the 2014 meeting be held in Canberra the site of the first meeting,

Decision that the 2010 ICOPA XII Conference report be accepted

Proposed: Terry Spithill

Seconded: David Jenkins

Accepted unanimously

7. OTHER REPORTS

6.1 Science Meets Parliament (Nick Smith) [FOR INFORMATION](#)

See previously circulated pdf.

Dave Jenkins added that this was a useful meeting to attend, as you never know who you might meet who is useful in the future. It was suggested that early career members attend such as ECR Prize winners.

8. AWARDS

8.1 ASP Fellowship (Terry Spithill) [FOR INFORMATION](#)

Mal Jones and Robin Gasser will be honoured. .

8.2 Bancroft-Mackerra Medal (Terry Spithill) [FOR INFORMATION](#)

Terry announced that Leann Tilley has been awarded the Bancroft-Mackerras medal.

8.3 JD Smyth Travel Award (Nick Smith) [FOR INFORMATION](#)

Ashlie Hartigan, The University of Sydney, successfully applied for a Network Travel Award and was awarded the prestigious JD Smyth Postgraduate Travel Award for a Researcher Exchange to The Academy of Sciences, Institute of Parasitology in Ceske Budejovice, Czech Republic for her research into the lifecycles and biology of myxozoan parasites that threaten frog species.

Rowan Ikin, (UTS) was awarded the prestigious JD Smyth Postgraduate Travel Award for a Researcher Exchange to Application to support a research visit

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to Dr Mike Grigg, Chief of the Molecular Parasitology Unit and the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases at the National Institutes of Health in Bethesda, Maryland, USA for research to take advantage of his expertise, technologies and facilities to yield important, fundamental insight into how helminths regulate inflammatory responses in the intestine.

8.4 ASP Undergraduate Prizes in Universities (Nick Sangster) FOR INFORMATION

Verbal report given by Nick Sangster. An ASP member must be teaching the subject. There are 15 or 16 prizes of \$400 each given to the best Undergraduate student. Not sure if we have given awards to ANU, Macquarie, JCU or Adelaide. Lisa J suggested coordinating communications about the prize winners for the ASP Undergraduate Prize.

ACTION: Lisa J to liaise with Nick Sangster about prize winners for the ASP Undergraduate Prizes.

8.5 Sprent Award (David Jenkins) FOR INFORMATION

The Sprent Award can be presented every 3 years. The last award was decided in 2007 and presented at the AGM in 2008 to Magda Ellis.

The next round should commence in 2010 with the closing date for applications at 30 September 2010 for presentation at the AGM in 2011. There has been a call for PhD's. The committee should be four senior members of the society, select 6 members and the President is the convenor.

ACTION: Deb Holt will follow up Sprent Award with the Executive

9. PROJECT UPDATES (Terry Spithill)

9.1 Vet Parasitology text book update (Nick Sangster) FOR INFORMATION

Action: Nick Sangster will transfer the start up funds back to the ASP.

9.2 PARA-SITE Website (Peter O'Donoghue) FOR INFORMATION

Project is completed. PARA-SITE website is at ICOPA

9.3 History of Parasitology in Australia & PNG book update (Ian Beveridge) FOR INFORMATION

The books will be available for ASP members to purchase at the ICOPA both for \$30 members, \$70 non members. Project is complete, History of Parasitology is available at ICOPA

9.4 Intimate Aliens Hands-on Parasite Exhibition (Nick Smith) FOR INFORMATION

Verbal report.

10. CORRESPONDENCE (Terry Spithill)

Nothing to report.

11. OTHER BUSINESS (Terry Spithill)

11.1 Insurance (Peter Holdsworth) FOR DECISION

Council will re visit this issue discussed at Sydney ETM.

The present ASP insurance cover excludes Association Liability Insurance. This insurance is above and beyond what we are covered for under the Business Liability cover we have at present. Association Liability Insurance covers non-for-profit associations from, among other things, implications resulting from advice given by our association to members or the wider public that may ultimately turn out to be incorrect or incomplete and result in some negative impact (financial, reputational, etc) on party/parties that undertook action based on this advice. The Association Liability Insurance also covers associations, within certain limits, for officers of that association for liability in actions they diligently undertook in their voluntary roles. This type of insurance also protects associations, within limits, against association officers who may abscond with associations financial reserves. Please note that at present we have no insurance for any of these issues. Peter requested our insurance broker to supply us with a background document and likely premium for reasonable cover for association liability.

The incoming 2009/2011 Executive will need to decide what action it wishes to take in relation to this Association Liability Insurance for the ASP.

FASTS has insurance for professional indemnity.

Peter Holdsworth suggested that the ASP Executive revisit risks associated with communicating with the public, and review, tighten, and take steps to

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reduce risks.

RECOMMENDATION

That the Executive decides on what level of Association Liability Insurance is warranted for the ASP and purchase such insurance. Executive Secretary to follow up.

ACTION: Nick Sangster to follow up with costs for Association Liability Insurance and report back to Council

11.2 Constitutional Change (Terry Spithill) FOR INFORMATION

The constitution currently says that when members who are two years unfinancial and need to pay their membership fee or the membership will lapse must be notified "by mail" (Section 2, para 9), so technically an email will not suffice.

The Council decided the constitution Section 2, para 9, will be changed from "by mail" to read "in writing, by mail or email". However, the Executive missed the deadline for notifying members; we will attend to this item at the 2011 AGM.

ACTION: Terry Spithill to propose Constitutional change amendment to just "in writing" section 2 para 9 at 2011 AGM.

11.3 AGM Motion on membership dues (Terry Spithill) FOR INFORMATION

This motion was circulated and approved by Council in July 2010.

Motions regarding increase of Annual Membership Dues for Members

The Society is incurring ever increasing costs for administering the Society's business such that the current ASP membership dues do not cover the basic administration costs of the Society. ASP dues have not changed since 2001 (9 years) and Council believes that ASP dues should be increased by a reasonable amount which will cover the current and future administration costs of the Society. Council proposes to abolish the "prompt payment concession" in the belief that membership dues are very reasonable given the support members receive from the various awards offered by the Society. To allow for future increases in the Society's administration costs, Council proposes to sequentially increase the membership dues over the next 5 years.

The motions regarding this matter are as follows:

Motion 1:

that the "prompt payment concession" be abolished

Motion 2:

that in 2011 the Ordinary annual membership dues increase from \$80 to \$100 per year and that the Student annual membership dues increase from \$20 to \$25 per year

Motion 3:

that the Ordinary annual membership dues increase by \$10/year, over the 5 year period 2012-2016, to \$150/year; and that Student annual membership dues increase by \$3/year to \$40/year over the same time period

11.4 Victorian Infection and Immunity Network

ASP Council discussed an ASP sponsored prize at the postdoc symposium, 150 delegates will be attending.

Action List for End Term Meeting held on Sat 13 - Sun 14 August 2010 Melbourne

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Action List for End Term Meeting held on Sat 13 - Sun 14 August 2010 Melbourne

ITEM NO	ITEM NAME	RESPONSIBILITY	ACTION	STATUS
4.4	IJP Editor's Report	Alex L	Alex L to speak with Dale Seaton from Elsevier about a simple direct link into the IJP site from the ASP website for members to access complimentary copy of IJP.	
4.6	Archivist's report	Haylee Weaver Lisa J	Lisa to send annual reports to archivist	
4.7	Webmaster's Report	Jason M	Deb H, Lisa J and Jason M to action merging and management of the ASP and Network websites.	In progress
4.8	BMM Convenor's update	Andrew T	Andrew T to strike a set of new BMM medals.	
4.8	Leann Tilley is speaking at the AGM and awarded the BMM	Terry David P David J	Terry to send Lisa the citation David P to organise photography of BMM David Jenkins to confirm with archivist how many BMM medals we have left	completed
	BMM Committee	Council	Council will nominate a new Convenor and member of the BMM Committee at the Brisbane MTM.	
5.1	Strategic Planning - ARC Linkage grant application	Dave J	Dave Jenkins to draft something for the proposed ARC Linkage grant application and report back at the 2011 MTM to Council.	In progress
7.3	ASP Undergraduate Prizes in Parasitology	David J	ASP Executive Secretary to follow up with Kate H about a prize for The University of Adelaide, confirm that the course meets the award requirements. Terry S to confirm the award with the University.	
8.1	Elsevier request to update the IJP Contract	Terry S	Alex L to follow up changes to the ASP / IJP / Elsevier contract and getting lawyer to look at it.	completed
8.4	ASP Undergraduate Prizes	Nick Sangster Lisa J	Lisa J to liaise with Nick Sangster about prize winners for the ASP Undergraduate Prizes.	
8.5	Sprent Prize	Dave J Deb Holt	Deb Holt will follow up Sprent Award with the Executive.	
9.1	<i>Vet Parasitology text book</i>	Nick S	Nick Sangster will transfer the start up funds back to the ASP.	
11.1	Insurance	Nick Sangster	Nick Sangster to follow up with costs for Association Liability Insurance and report back to Council	
11.2	Constitution amendment	Terry Spithill	Change constitutional change amendment to just "in writing" section 2 para 9 at 2011 AGM	

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