

**MINUTES OF THE AuSPEN ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
HELD ON FRIDAY 22nd OCTOBER 1999
GOLD COAST INTERNATIONAL**

1. MEMBERS PRESENT

Sabita Rajeshwar	Elisabeth Morrell
Helen Pickering	Winsorne Abbott
Narelle Hore	Wendy Davidson
David Russell	Joy Blacka
Andrew Thomson	Melvyn Davis
Joanne Davis	Ralf Heine
Stephanie Morrison	Alan Spencer
Penny Hillsman	Ibolya Nyulasi
Andrew Davies	Paul Woods
Kathryn Marshall	Julie Bines
Linda Kar	Liliana Sputore
Indi Richardson.	Kerry Forbes
Patrick Ball	Ross Smith

2. APOLOGIES:

Kevin Williams, Maria Makrides, Michael Barnett, David Forbes and Roger White.

3. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS AGM:

These were proposed. Accepted by S. Rajeshwar and seconded by D. Russell.

4. BUSINESS ARISING:

No comments.

5. PRESIDENT REPORT BY JULIE BINES.

See attached.

6. TREASURER'S REPORT BY SABITA RAJESHWAR

See attached.

This was accepted by I. Nyulasi and seconded by H. Pickering

7. PRESENTATION OF 1998 TRAVEL GRANT AWARDS

Two requests have been presented to council this year, both of which have been successful:
L. Kar and K. Forbes.

8. MEMBERSHIP UPDATE

The current total number of financial members of the Society is 237. The following new members have been accepted by the Society since last AGM:

Nicole Tepana	Dr. Geoffrey Forbes
Alison Hannam	Martell Davidson
Dr. Kilminster	Dr. NG
Gemma McLeod	Ruth de Sousa
Mrs. Ward	Christine Walsh
Sandra Cork	Dr. David hIoore
Melinda White	Joy Blacka
Joanne Clark	Jodie Bennett
Roy Dennis	Brigitte Coloran
Scott Parkes	Andrew Davies
Anne Marie Wilson	Jacqueline Bailey
Maryanne Chapmen	Kylie Shanahan

9. NEW COUNCIL MEMBERS

The following members have been nominated for Council and have been accepted:

Andrew Thomson, Andrew Davies and Alan Spencer.

This was accepted by P. Woods and seconded by I. Nyulasi.

RETIRING COUNCIL MEMBERS:

D. Crawford, after approximately 7 years on Council.

S. Rajeshwar, after a year of serving as treasurer, as agreed when she took this role on and after a busy year of organising the 1998 Canberra Society Scientific meeting.

J. Bines proposed a vote of thanks for their significant contribution to the Society.

J Bines is also retiring from the role of president of the Society after 3 years she has also served as council member for various years previous to this. She has however agreed to stay on council. Her contribution to the Society has been outstanding through the years.

Council has extended a vote of thanks to Julie for her role as president.

OFFICE BEARER'S FOR 2000:

*Executive capacity:

President: Paul Woods (min of 2 years)

Secretary: Liliana Sputore

Treasurer: Ibolya Nyulasi (agreement for one year while consolidating the membership database and Permanent Secretariat's role)

*Rest of Council:

Julie Bines, Maria Makrides, Elisabeth Morrell, Alan Spencer, Andrew Davies, Andrew Thomson

10. ANNUAL SCIENTIFIC MEETINGS

10.1 1999/GOLD COAST

This has so far shown to be a success, demonstrated by both the attendance and the quality of the program.

10.2 2000/LORNE, VIC.

Dates: October 26-28, 2000.

10.3 2001/SYDNEY

This will be held in association with the World Congress of ICU, with one day in common of scientific program. Dates: sometime between the 28th of October and 1st of November 2001.

10.4 2002/ADELAIDE

Dates unknown at this stage.

11. VOTE OF THANKS

Julie Bines moved a vote of thanks on behalf of the Society, to be extended to the Conference Organising committee with A. Spencer as convenor, D. Crawford with his major involvement with the scientific program and C. Fleetwood as conference organiser.

A vote of thanks was also moved to the Sustaining Associates by J. Bines and seconded by P. Woods. These are:

Gold sponsors: Baxter and Novartis
Silver sponsors: Abbott and Nutricia
Bronze sponsors: Mead Johnson and Tyco Health Care.

Frezenius was thanked for sponsoring Dr. McFie.
Nutrition Consultants was also a sponsor.

13. GENERAL BUSINESS

13.2. **Nutrition Journal** The inclusion of the Nutrition Journal as part of the membership fee of AuSPEN has become a difficult issue for the last 12 months. The increase in cost of the Journal, particularly due to currency exchange has created funding problems to the extent of chronically running the Society at a loss. The current \$100.00 membership fee is insufficient to cover for running costs, Newsletter, Journal, etc.

Fortunately, surplus from last year's scientific meeting has managed to cover for this deficit. Nevertheless it would be unwise for the Society to rely on this, as this income cannot be warranted on an ongoing basis.

Breakdown of costs:

Current cost of the Nutrition Journal	\$81.00/person/year
Production and mailing of newsletter	\$32.00/person/year

Society costs	\$30.00/person/year
Total	\$143.00/person/year

Current membership fee \$100.00/person/year
(-ve\$43.00 /person/year)

I. Nyulasi presented results of the questionnaires sent out to the general membership seeking their opinion on the Journal subscription as part of the membership fee. Results reported are as follow: Questionnaires circulated: Approx. to 200 members

Responses received: 60, of which:
 *80% believed that subscribing to Nutrition was an appropriate use of funds.
 *60% did not prefer subscription to another journal.

P. Woods expressed concern re: keep running the Society at a loss.

Options suggested;

*Increase fee to \$150.00 (to cover cost)

*Keep fee at \$100.00 and discontinue the inclusion of the Journal as part of the subscription fee.

(NB: The subscription to the journal cannot be made optional to members as bulk order makes the purchase of the journal cost effective).

A provisional motion was proposed by P. Woods with both of the above options.

The present membership felt that it was worth making further considerations before making a decision.

Comments made by present members:

- Society's membership size is currently the highest ever and it would be unwise to lose members due to increase of membership fee.

- Should consider other ways of generating funds (eg, sale of educational material, etc.)

- It is also important not to jeopardise the quality and or value of the Society membership itself in order to save money. Need to look at improving this instead.

- Last year the Society attempted to improve funding methods by requesting sustaining grants and sponsorship from various Nutrition companies. Whilst this was treated as a priority it was as yet unsuccessful.

Action: A small task group amongst council members will be formed who will approach this issue further with the trade during this scientific meeting. If the outcome is unsuccessful by the end of this meeting, the motion will be put forward to the membership and an extraordinary AGM to be held. Vote by proxy for those members unable to attend will be considered.

13.2. Newsletter/Website

This will be a priority for this coming year. Electronic newsletter will be considered.

13.3. **Federation of Australian Nutrition Societies.** Little activity has occurred in this area for the past year. The Web based education program is close to conclusion (Jan 2000). There will be a year 2000 symposium in Brisbane, which could be an opportunity for involvement for the Society, but is uncertain if the symposium will go ahead.

13.4. New Zealand issue.

This discussion has followed last year's idea to incorporate N.Z. as part of AuSPEN. This issue including the background, legality and implications were discussed and presented by P. Woods.

The Society has been accepting members from N.Z. and Asian countries. N.Z. has shown strong interest in becoming associated with AuSPEN and members have expressed and demonstrated support including increasing the membership numbers.

The current name of the Society does not include N.Z. members. If changing the name of the Society takes place then other corporate changes will follow to reflect increased representation of the region.

Present members suggested that council re visits the concept and sells such concept in the actual place (eg. hold a scientific meeting in N.Z.)

M. Davis suggested that consideration should be given to ensure that continuation of support from the industry is still warranted in such case.

P. Woods proposed a motion that a change of name is adopted to include the N.Z. membership.

Action: Distribute this motion amongst members and discuss this at an extraordinary AGM to come to a decision Members unable to attend this meeting should have access to a vote by proxy,

13. NEW BUSINESS

Nil.

Meeting closed at 5.55PM

Next meeting Friday 27/10/00 at Lorne. Time to be advised in the conference program.