

ASTA AGM Feb 25 2015

Plant & Food

Talk from plant & food: general info about outfit & student talk about his experiences at plant & food.

- Has studied: Impact of Myrtle Rust: fungus on new growth of multiple plant species: Fungus native to Brazil: spreads easily: could do very well in northern NZ. Preventative measures at this stage, but not widespread.
- Student explained summer program: work in botanic gardens & **development of resources** available for schools/marai/other

Short description of school opportunity for kids/teachers from Plant & Food

from Robin MacDaimid: Flier: organizations/individuals: goal to reach people about 'science and technology': Thought: school kids planted native garden in school. Then each garden is surveyed. Kids (and teachers) learn protocol/process & record data. Results could be centralized. Kids involved in science measurements. Just a concept at this stage.

If interested - ask Carolyn Haslam for the pdf for contact/info. Other networking, teleconferencing things can be organized/done...

Tour of Plant & Food

AGM:

A few apologies: Deb Hay, Nick Patterson, Gay Watson

2014's minutes review:

- Decided not to shift date/month of AGM (timing didn't work). But Plant & Food is willing to host AGM for the next few yrs. Better parking/access.

Motion: from now on: minutes will be on ASTA website to be pre-read before AGM to speed up process. Seconded. Passed.

President's report:

- New support groups: earth & space science... and horticulture... ASTA can give \$100 to get group up and running. ***If assistance wanted, just ask.***
- 15th may 2014, careers eve - well attended & good feedback to continue every 2nd yr with panels of gradual
- Little India - popular as usual
- Exam discussion eve - popular as usual
- Phy-day was huge - lots of physics teachers enjoyed the day
- Thanks to committee, uni's, etc

Treasurer's report:

- Subs are improving: 24 sec & 12 primary - most by direct credit (easier). Same rate. Some confusion still exists: NZASE subs do not include ASTA subs.
- Phy day: profit of \$3000 to be used for assorted purposes in 2015. 2014's costs were slightly increased to cover possible extra costs for guest speaker from Uni of Sydney. Plan is to go back to usual, slightly lower cost for 2015.
- SciCon 2012 profit finally in, thus over \$42k in bank now... ***thus ASTA has the funds to help sci teachers. Just need to ask***

Grants to help teachers attend conf: \$250 each. 4 given out in 2014.

Ideas to help teachers:

- Biolive & chem conf being in Wellington: possibly tapping into that and spending some \$ to bring speaker up to Auckland within a few week so the conf.
- Also, primary science target: to do another primary sci week in 2015.

Committee members:

- Gavin Milne: HOD sci: Dilworth, nominated to join committee. Seconded. Joined.
- Motion of existing committee stands with addition of Gavin. Seconded. Passed.

Conf grants from 2014: reports please to Colin to be posted on website.

Conf grants for 2015: drawn.

- 5 of 10 applicants: only condition: school is a member of ASTA:
- Sena Chen (St Cuthberts)
- Gillian Taylor
- Sarah Simpson
- Carolyn Haslam
- Ian Torrie

ASTA website has electronic subscription forms (including direct credit instructions)
On website will be a list of current members for 2015

Ian Torrie: 2014 chem group meeting happened: shared meeting geared at 'how you use ict'. 25 attendees with 6 or 7 presenters. Really successful. Can do as a sci-evening. St Cuth's could host. 5-10min talk about use of tech. Anything from 'high-end' to 'low-end'.

Thanks to Carolyn.

Meeting declared closed.

