

## **Minutes of the RACI Polymer Division Annual General Meeting**

*Rotorua Convention Centre, Rotorua, New Zealand, Wednesday 8 February, 2006*

*Chaired by Greg Russell, Minutes taken by George Simon (Secretary)*

Meeting commenced at 6.45pm

Apologies from: D. Ward (SA Branch rep on the PDSC)

### **Chair's Report**

Greg Russell welcomed the members and handed out his report, which is appended. It contains a number of issues that arose later in the meeting.

### **Financial Report**

- Chris Fellows spoke to his report, which is appended.
- Main point was to note the contribution made to the Solomon Foundation.
- Other main items of expense were Polymer Summer School, PD meetings, and student subsidies. There was \$4k paid for "Future in Chemistry" program and a one-off payment into the Solomon Fund of \$34.21k.
- Rob Burford moved to accept the report, unanimously carried
- Given its mention above, Greg Russell pointed out the "Future of Chemistry" document published by the RACI and recommended people have a look at it (he brought with him copies to the meeting and distributed them).

### **Future Meetings**

- The symposium for Bob Gilberts 60<sup>th</sup> birthday was raised. It is being organized by Sean Smith (Physical Chemistry Division) and the Polymer Division (through Greg Russell). It is intended to be not-for-profit to celebrate Bob's contribution to science, the RACI and IUPAC. There was some discussion about the possibility of gaining sponsorship, e.g. from industry and IUPAC. Industry is a good idea, but IUPAC does not provide money for this sort of meeting. The Polymer Division was likely to contribute of the order of \$6k to help with bringing out 2 international speakers
- Chris Barner-Kowollik outlined the plans for the next APS, 29APS in Hobart, noting it now had its own website ([www.29aps.org](http://www.29aps.org)) . It is to be held in Hotel Grand Chancellery, close to Salamanca Place. He is looking for more suggestions for invited speakers in the next 2 – 3 weeks.
  - The fees would be in line with the 28APS fees, maybe 3-4% increased due to inflation. There was some discussion as to whether people wanted the proceedings on CD, in addition to book. The response was mixed. This could add some cost (maybe up to \$10) to the participant, if it was fully passed on.

- Deadline is 30 October 2006 for abstracts.
- By 15 November people will get formal notification of acceptance of abstracts.
- By December 1, they must have paid their fees (motivating these rules is the increasingly common practice of people submitting abstracts for the proceedings, and then not paying for or coming to the conference itself).  
Amongst other matters raised:
  - there should be 3 main sponsors and 8 trade exhibitors (hopefully more)
  - 194 people attending is the breakeven number
- Andrew Whittaker talked about PPC-11 meeting in December 2009, which he is co-organizing in Cairns with Wayne Cook, and made a brief but very polished PowerPoint presentation about it.
- Martina Stenzel, who will be organizer of the 31APS, mentioned that it was likely to be in February 2011 and was likely to involve cooperation with the RACI Colloids Division.
- The issue of the Australian Polymer Division Discussion Group. These have not been held for some time and are small discussion meetings for about 30-40 people. Andrew Whittaker encouraged people to consider organizing these. They are initiatives of individuals, supported by the Polymer Division, including financially to the tune of some \$2-3k.

### **Polymer Division Awards**

- The Solomon Lecture series in 2005 was reviewed, with the success of visitor Gerhard Wegner noted. David Lewis reported that Dave Tirrell was the speaker in 2006. It was suggested that his visit – likely in the July – November 2006 window, could possibly also overlap with a Polymer Discussion group or with Bob Gilberts special birthday symposium. Chris B-K noted that it would be good if these various conferences and tours in 2006 could be held latest November (or earlier) to prevent clashes with 29APS. David Lewis was thanked for his work in organizing Solomon lecturers.

### **Election of Office Bearers**

The following people were elected unanimously as office bearers of the Polymer Division:

Chair: Chris Barner-Kowollik  
 Past Chair: Greg Russell  
 Chair-Elect: George Simon  
 Secretary: Martina Stenzel  
 Treasurer: Chris Fellows  
 Editor: Andrew Whittaker

International Affairs: Bob Burford

Ordinary members:

Graeme Moad  
Wayne Cook  
Stephen Clarke  
David Lewis  
Peter Halley  
Michelle Coote  
Lachlan Yee

The retiring ordinary members, Chris Lukey, Stuart Prescott and Mike O'Shea, are thanked for their service. The new members to the PDSC, Peter Halley, Michelle Coote and Lachlan Yee, are welcomed and encouraged.

As a reminder, the following are already ex-officio members of the PDSC, having been elected by their respective branches:

N.S.W. representative: Brian Hawkett  
S.A. representative: Deborah Ward  
Vic. representative: Greg Qiao  
Qld representative: Michael Monteiro  
N.Z. representative: Neil Edmonds

**Miscellaneous Items and Discussion**

- It was noted that there were no applicants for the Division's O'Donnell Traveling Scholarship, and that it should be promoted more, and its details upgraded on the division's website; current closing date is December 2006 for 2007 prize.
- There was some discussion about the Polymer Division regulations and whether they could be updated. Greg Russell and David Lewis have been charged by the Standing Committee with the task of looking into various matters (too numerous to mention here; see the minutes of the preceding day's PDSC meeting for full details) and considering appropriate updating of the Regulations. It was proposed by Greg Russell and seconded by Wayne Cook that these changes be presented, discussed and voted on at the next AGM of the Polymer Division.
- Thanks were given to Chris Fellows and Andrew Whittaker for their excellent maintenance of the Web pages of the Polymer Division ([www.polymer.org.au](http://www.polymer.org.au)).
- Alison Green talked about "Chemistry in Australia", with which she is now involved, and the desire to improve its quality and acceptance. This was being undertaken in part by a readership survey. Alison encouraged the input of punchy articles of a short nature, or indeed of any content that PD members feel would spice up the magazine.

Meeting closed at 7.45pm.