Notice of AGM 2024: Queenstown Molecular Biology Society Inc.

AGM of the Queenstown Molecular Biology Society

September 3rd 2024, 4.45pm

Rydges Hotel

Minutes:

1. Attendees: Rachel Purcell, Bjorn Oback, Austen Ganley, Andrew Shelling, Shaun Lott, Vanessa Morris, Christoph Goebl, Alan Cameron, Arielle Sulit, Jaydee Cabral, Alex Leonard

2. Apologies: Amy Osborne, Billy Sheppard

3. Minutes of last AGM
   Moved that the minutes of the 2023 AGM be approved - by Rachel Purcell, seconded by Bjorn Oback; approved

4. Reregistering as an Incorporated Society under the new Act
   Moved that QMBS reregisters as an Incorporated Society - by Rachel Purcell, seconded by Andrew Shelling; approved

5. Setting the annual QMB membership fee
   Moved that the QMB membership fee for 2024 be waived - by Jaydee Cabral, seconded by Shaun Lott; approved

   Need to sort out a way to properly maintain the registration list. Two ideas are to have a 5-year membership option; and to get the registration list from LBE and send them the link to join.

6. Annual report from Chair (Rachel Purcell)
   Thanks to Bjorn for organizing the meeting. Thanks to Justin for all his help organizing the meeting. Thanks to the other members of the committee with their help in running the meeting. Membership of 210 - 60 more than last year. This came about because we proposed to move the meeting to Christchurch, which required membership to vote. Spent a lot of time considering the move to Christchurch, including discussing with the other societies. Electronic voting resulted in an overwhelming majority of voters voting in favour of moving to Christchurch, hence this was enacted. This is a trail basis, therefore we will need to discuss at next year's AGM, although because of bookings Christchurch is locked in for 2024, too. Tak Mak is coming next year as the plenary. We decided to hire an accounting firm to run the finances. They obtained tax refunds for us and they also bill the trades for us, so very effective use of money. Julian Eaton-Rye has resigned after many years of service. Thanks to Connor Watene-Sullivan for all his help around the mihi whakatau, and he will help next year, too. Finally, thanks to Jade for all her work - always doa fantastic job.

   Delegates were around 600 without trade numbers. Looking to probably break even. Need to get more student numbers, as there were very few QMB posters this year.

Moved that the annual report from the Chair be accepted - by Vanessa Morris, seconded by Shaun Lott; approved.

7. Yearly financial statement from Treasurer (QMBS accountant)
   Moved that the yearly financial statement be approved - by Andrew, seconded by Vanessa Morris; approved

8. Report from Convenor of 2023 Meeting
   Jade was great with giving timelines, etc and Justin also helped a lot. They had a group of people organising the meeting, including postdocs to divide the jobs, which worked well. They had a business panel during the meeting targeted to students - seemed to be well-received. Had monthly meetings from April when they first took on the job. Biggest emphasis is to thank Jade for all her help. Number one challenge was speakers who went over time - how to keep things on track. Had some problems with AV not being present that seems to have been fixed this year.

9. Election of QMBS Officers
   a. Chair - nominations are Rachel Purcell
      Rachel Purcell elected
   b. QRW Convenor - nominations are Rachel Purcell
      Rachel Purcell elected
   c. Secretary - nominations are Austen Ganley
      Austen Ganley elected
   d. Treasurer - nominations are Billy Sheppard
      Billy Sheppard elected
   e. Sponsors/Trades Liaison Officer - nominations are Billy Sheppard
      Billy Sheppard elected
   f. Awards Officer - nominations are Amy Osborne
      Alan Cameron also indicated interest in being involved. Decided to delay election till after canvassing Amy Osborne.
   g. Other Committee members (rules specify up to three other members) - nominations are Vanessa Morris, Shaun Lott, Andrew Shelling, Christoph Goebl, Alan Cameron, Arielle Sulit
      Bjorn Oback appointed as Committee member as the 2024 Convenor.
      Jaydee Cabral is a maybe - Austen will e-mail.
      Sarah Diermeier did not stand for re-election as she is leaving the country

10. Conflicts of interest report
    Austen will send out a request for conflicts of interest to the QMBS Committee members as part of the requirements under the new Incorporated Societies Act.

11. Convenor of 2025 QMB Meeting and 2025 Satellites
    The Convenor of the 2025 QMB meeting is not decided yet.
    Could decide the theme first and then find someone appropriate. One idea is future of NZ Science, as this should be topical with the change in legislation. Could send out an expression of interest to the members.
    Action point (**Rachel/Christoph**): expression of interest for organising new QMB main meeting to be sent out with the next comminque to members.

    Satellites organized/potentia for the 2025 QMB meeting are to date:
    - ASI is wanting to run a satellite.
    - Phil Wilcox wants to run a satellite, potentially around indigineous genomics and/or eDNA.
    - Interest around heart as another satellite.

Want to make sure we target our major consistuents for satellites for next year to make sure we get attendance. Structural biology and infectious disease are potential options.

Would be good to talk to other aligned socieities to see if they want to join together.

12. Other Business

Would like to move a formal vote of thanks to Julian Eaton-Rye for his considertable contributions as Treasurer for QMBS over many year. Moved by Rachel Purcell, seconded by Shaun Lott; approved

We need to discuss what we are going to do in terms of branding regarding being in Christchurch. Need to make sure that people know its going to be in Christchurch.

Could use the exit survey for the next (2025) meeting as a way of canvasing opinions on whether the move to Christchurch is supported as a permanent move.

Meeting closed at 6pm