



The Society for Free Radical Research A U S T R A L A S I A

NEWSLETTER March, 2006

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The Executive would like to thank all those who have contributed to this issue of the Newsletter. We would also like to thank Dr Jiri Neuzil and the Organising committee for the successful 14th Annual Conference of SFRR(Australasia), held at Griffith University, Gold Coast, Australia, Dec 2005, in conjunction with SFRR(Japan) : details and reports on the event are enclosed in this Newsletter. As always, the Executive will continue to keep members informed of recent and up-coming events in Australasia and elsewhere around the globe via the current 2006 "Diary". Please feel free to submit relevant articles to the Secretary if you wish the information to be made available to the members of SFRR(A).



The Society for Free Radical Research A U S T R A L A S I A

MINUTES OF 2005 AGM

Held on Sunday 4th December, 5.30 pm at Griffith University

Present: SFRR(A) President – Ian Dawes, SFRR(A) President Elect – Kevin Croft, SFRR(A) Treasurer – Des Richardson, and ca. 35 members

1. Apologies

Clare Hawkins, Philip Burcham, Jan Gebicki, Sylvia Gebicki, Dave Pattison, Roger Dean

2. Minutes of 2004 AGM

The minutes of the 2004 AGM published in the March 2005 edition of the Society newsletter were passed as a true and accurate record of the meeting

3. Matters arising from the previous minutes

Covered in agenda items below.

4. Reports from SFRR(A) Executive and 2005 Conference organiser

President : Ian Dawes

Ian thanked everyone for attending the AGM and was pleased with the high turnout of members. He thanks Jiri Neuzil and the members of the local organising committee for a highly successful, well organized meeting and the high turnout of attendees from SFRR(A), SFRR(J) and elsewhere. 186 people had registered for the meeting with ca. 40 from Japan and significant numbers from the USA and Europe.

He thanked Geoff Kornfeld for his ongoing work in keeping the society website up to date, and all the members of the Executive for their work over the year. He also wished the Secretary good luck for the imminent increase in her family.

Treasurer : Des Richardson

Treasurer's Report for the SFRR (Australasia)

Summary of Accounts as of 1st of December, 2005

Opening Balance: (from last Treasurer's report of 2/12/2004) = \$ 53,246.67

Current Financial Members as of 1/12/2005:

(2005: 59 Australians and 44 New Zealander's; TOTAL = 103; Includes Conference Delegates from 2004 and people who have sent Application notifications)

(2004: 32 Australians and 6 New Zealander's; TOTAL = 38)

People who have sent Application notifications to me in 2005 requesting Receipts: 22

Income:

1. Deposits in Cheque Account Bearing Interest Balance: As of 16th Aug 2004: \$9843

Subscriptions Not Banked: \$255 Aus and \$140 NZ (not included in Balance below)

Interest Accrued up to Nov 16, 2005: \$32.42

Final Balance: as of 16th November 2005: \$9851.25

2. Term Deposits

Two separate term deposits (\$10,837.10 and \$32,667.63) were rolled into one and reinvested on 15th Dec, 2005 to take advantage of the higher interest rate offered

A total of \$43,504.73 was withdrawn from the Term Deposits and \$38,504.73 was reinvested into a Term Deposit on 15/12/2004 at 5.1% p.a. The remaining \$5000 was placed in the Cheque Account Bearing Interest.

Interest Accrued to 10/10/2005 = \$1624.66

Total: \$40,129.39 (reinvested on 10/10/2005)

Current Balance of all accounts (Including Term Deposits): \$ 49,980.64

Treasurer's Report for the SFRR (Australasia)

Summary of Accounts as of 1st of December, 2005 - CONTINUED

Expenditure:

Public Liability Insurance –Austbrokers RWA Pty Ltd	\$890
Affiliate Membership ASMR July 2005-June 2006	\$212.80
SFRRRI 2004 Dues	\$274.53
10 SFRR(A) Travel Awards to Gold Coast (\$500/each)	\$5000
Account Service Fees (as of last Bank Statement)	\$72.85

Comments:

1. Bank fees of \$10 AUS are charged for each subscription in New Zealand dollars (4 this year). This needs to again be examined. This problem has been noted in my reports for quite a few years.

2. A total of \$40,129.39 is in a Term Deposit Account. This is to take advantage of the far greater interest offered. The money can be withdrawn at any time for a small fee.

This money was reinvested on 10 Oct 2005 and will mature on August 5th, 2006. The money should then be rolled into a new Term Account to take advantage of higher interest rates.

3. Good News: A profit (\$7482.54) was returned from the 2004 Christchurch conference!

4. Request for SFRRRI dues – has just been received (30th November): 103 members x \$5US = \$515 US (approx = \$680 Aus). Not subtracted from the final current balance.

Secretary : Clare Hawkins

(1) Member database has been updated – includes names, email addresses and the institutions of all financial SFRR(A) members. This database has been forwarded to the Secretary of SFRR(International). The database will be updated in early 2006 to include the new members recruited at the Gold Coast Conference.

(2) The SFRR(A) website has been updated, the newsletter archive is up to date, and the 2006 membership forms are available for download for members not attending the Gold Coast conference to renew their subscription to SFRR(A). Many thanks to Geoff Kornfeld for maintaining the SFRR(A) website.

(3) The addition of scientist research profiles to the SFRR(A) website (as discussed at the 2004 AGM) has not proved overly popular with the SFRR(A) membership – only 4 profiles have been added to the website since the start of 2005. A request was made to the membership to submit further and updated profiles.

2005 Conference Organiser : Jiri Neuzil

Jiri thanked the local organising committee and the various sponsors of the meeting for making the conference such a success. He commented on the large number of attendees, both national and international and the diverse locations from which these people had come, which had fulfilled the organising committees' objectives of increasing and broadening the number of attendees at the meeting. He also commented on and thanked Griffith University for their support of the meeting, and particularly for making available the various facilities for no, or minimal, cost. In answer to a question he stated that the overall financial picture for the meeting was as yet unclear and whether a profit would be made.

In answer to a question regarding the relatively high registration fee for the meeting, he commented that unlike many previous meetings this fee included both the membership fee for the society (which has resulted in a much larger membership for the society) and the conference dinner. Both these items have previously been excluded, in many cases, from the registration costs. It was however noted that this increase was a cause for potential concern as it might impact on the attendance of junior researchers at future meetings. The organisers for future meetings were asked to take note of these concerns. The considerable advantages of holding conferences on university campuses were also noted for future meetings.

5. Election of SFRR(A) Executive 2006 - 2008

Nominations for President Elect: Des Richardson (nominated by Ian Dawes, seconded by Kevin Croft).

Elected unopposed.

Nominations for Treasurer: Dave Pattison (nominated by Mike Davies, seconded by Philip Morgan). Elected unopposed.

Nominations for Secretary: Clare Hawkins (nominated by Kevin Croft, seconded by Des Richardson). Ken Rodgers (nominated by Steven Gieseg, seconded by Rachael Dunlop). On a show of hands in the absence of both candidates, Clare Hawkins was re-elected as Secretary.

6. Future Meetings

2006 – Perth

The venue for the 2006 meeting was confirmed as Perth. The meeting will be held between the 1-4th December at the new University Club on the UWA university campus overlooking the Swan River. A range of different types of accommodation will be available ranging from student accommodation, through motels to city hotels, all of which are in close proximity to the venue. Kevin Croft has assembled a widely-based local organising committee, and has drawn up a draft budget. Kevin also gave a short presentation on the attraction of WA and encouraged all members to attend the meeting. Contact details of possible sponsors for the meeting would be welcomed by the organisers.

2007

An offer was tabled by Harald Schmidt (Monash University) to hold a meeting in Melbourne. This was agreed to be an exciting opportunity to return to Victoria which had not been the venue for a SFRR(A) meeting for a number of years. The meeting agreed with this proposal. However in later discussions with the Japanese scientists present at the meeting, that the Japanese society wished to invite SFRR(A) to participate in a further joint meeting of the two societies in 2007 at a venue (to be decided) in Japan. After some discussion, this suggestion was agreed upon by the Executive, and is recommended to the membership as the venue for the 2007 meeting.

2008

In the light of the above discussion with the Japanese society, it is recommended by the executive that the 2008 SFRR(A) meeting be held in Melbourne. Harald Schmidt confirmed that he was happy with this proposal.

2009

Steven Giese reported to the meeting that the Combio meeting will be held in NZ in 2009, and that this may be a suitable opportunity for a joint meeting. This was noted and will be explored further in due course when further details are available.

International Meetings

Michael Davies updated the members with details of forthcoming international meetings being organised under the auspices of SFRR(International).

2006 – Meeting to be held in Davos, Switzerland, between August 15-19th. Abstract submissions for this meeting are now open, and further details can be obtained from: www.sfr-congress.org

2008 – Meeting to be held in Beijing, China, just after the Olympics.

2010 – Likely to be held in the USA.

Any member of the Society attending these meetings (or those of SFRR(Europe) or SFRBM(USA)) is eligible for the (reduced) members registration rate as a result of their membership of SFRR(A).

6. Items for Newsletter

A request was made by the Secretary for any items for the newsletter. Mention was made of the recent widely read article on the history of the society by Roland Stocker, which was widely read and appreciated by the membership.

7. Location of SFRR(A) website / webmaster

It was agreed that the website would remain at UNSW as this appeared to be working well.

8. Other Business

None

Meeting was closed at ca. 6.20 pm.

The Secretary would like to thank Dr Michael Davies for taking the minutes at the AGM in her absence.

Conference reports from 14th Annual Meeting of SFRR(Australasia) / 3rd Joint Meeting of SFRR(Australasia) and SFRR(Japan) Gold Coast, Australia (2 – 5 December 2005)

Frances Blaikie

This was my first trip to the Gold Coast, and I'm definitely going back to visit! The heat and humidity was a new experience for me, and not one that I found especially comfortable, but it was good to be warm. I appreciated the wide range of topics and expertise that were evident at the meeting, and also the relaxed-yet-intentional atmosphere which fostered mutual information exchange.

The presentations from the chemical realm of the large continuum of subjects, from food and exercise science to physics, were of interest to me. The plenary lecture presented by Hideo Utsumi on

ESRI/MRI/OMRI/Nitroxyl probe method for analysis and imaging of free radical reactions and redox state was of particular relevance for me. I studied some MRI procedures during the year, and the PEDRI technique, which couples ESR and MRI using the Overhauser effect, is an exciting advancement in that field. I also enjoyed meeting the guys from Brisbane who are making novel fluorescent nitroxides as probes for determining oxidative stress levels in biological systems. It's really good to meet other organic chemists who are synthesizing chemicals for a biological application.

I wish to thank the organizers of the conference for the travel award, which enabled me to attend. I look forward to the next meeting.

Jason Wu

I found the 2005 SFRR (A) conference at the Gold Coast to be yet another great radical experience. Over 4 days there were many excellent talks and the diverse range of topics meant there was truly something for everyone. The interesting presentations by Professor Roland Stocker and Professor Maret Traber on the potential benefits (or lack there of?) of alpha-tocopherol supplementation certainly gave me plenty to think about for my own research. The visually animated presentations by many of the speakers from Japan were also different and refreshing. I enjoyed the poster viewing sessions and the opportunity to discuss them in depth with the presenters. The conference had a friendly and relaxed vibe, except when the topic turns to rugby and there are Aussies and Kiwis in near vicinity of each other. It was my second time at the Gold Coast and although I brought a squash racket, the lure of the beautiful beaches proved too much so I skipped the tournament for a swim (sorry Jiri!!). I'd like to thank the society and the conference organisers for the travel grant and the opportunity to attend this well organised and excellent meeting.

Philip Morgan

I recently had the privilege of attending the 2005 joint meeting of SFRR Australasia and Japan, at Griffith University on Queensland's Gold Coast. The Gold Coast was quite a contrast to Christchurch, the venue of the 2004 conference, with hot, humid and sunny weather, and not a sheep or snow-covered mountain in sight. Being surrounded by thousands of 18 year-olds celebrating Schoolies Week was a somewhat surreal experience, and made for some interesting night life, since the main purpose of this "cultural festival" is for a whole lot of people to get drunk together. Someone suggested that I shouldn't make parallels with the conference dinner at this point...

Science-wise, it was good to hear from a wide variety of highly-regarded speakers on a broad range of topics. The inclusion of the Japanese gave the conference a more international feel, and I was able to put a few more faces to the names I regularly come across when reading about oxidative matters. Having work presented ranging from basic mechanistic science right through to medicinal applications helped to show me how much work has been done, and how much more is needed.

Although I was the only person at the conference studying the chronic autoimmune disease systemic lupus erythematosus (SLE), I still found the conference very useful. Most of the methods discussed are readily adaptable to different systems, and SLE patients have most of the perturbations discussed at the conference anyway – increased free radicals and oxidation, dysregulated apoptosis, accelerated atherosclerosis, chronic inflammation and increased cancer rates are but a few of the problems associated with this disease. It was good to see different people approaching oxidative stress issues from at times very different angles.

Overall, the conference increased my understanding of the current status of free radical research in the region, as well as providing an opportunity to meet fellow free radical researchers, and giving me some research ideas to pursue. I look forward to the 2006 meeting in Perth, and the interesting SLE discussions we'll have because you've all joined me in this fascinating and much-needed area of research. I also wish to thank the Australasian branch of the Society for financial assistance to attend the conference in the form of a Young Investigator Award.

Rachel Wilkie

Set amongst the tropical golden beaches of Gold Coast Australia the 3rd Joint Meeting of the Society for Free Radical Research Australasia and Japan was truly a memorable experience. Although a wide variety of topics were covered by the invited speakers from 13 different countries, all reiterated the fundamentals of free radical research, and demonstrated how these principal ideas and techniques can be applied to understand a variety of complex research questions. The opening plenary address given by 'apoptosis guru' Sten Orrenius from the Karolinska Institute in Sweden was fascinating. His presentation described the mechanism of cytochrome c release from mitochondria and its important role in regulating apoptosis. For me it was a highlight of the conference having read many of his research articles and with my own research interests being in the field of neutrophil apoptosis.

As I am nearing the end of my second year of PhD study I was eager to discuss my results with others in the same field. The poster session provided an excellent setting for this with all participants being very approachable, and offering many ideas. I found explaining my poster to others in a relaxed environment helped consolidate my understanding of my thesis and I left the conference with a renewed outlook on my research. I would like to thank SFRR Australasia for offering me a student travel award to provide the financial support to attend the insightful and well-organised conference and look forward to the next combined meeting in Japan.

Victoria Adlam

The 2005 SFRR(A) conference was both interesting and informative. It was a great chance to catch up with people I met last year and also to meet many new ones. The talks covered a diverse array of topics within the field of free radical research ranging from chemistry to molecular biology to clinical studies. I particularly enjoyed talks by Marc Fariss on the hepatoprotective role of mitochondrial α -tocopherol in toxic oxidative stress, Brian Salvatore on synthesis and studies of a new class of amide analogues of tocopheryl esters and Kazuo Umezawa on molecular design and anticancer activity of a novel NF- κ B inhibitor DHMEQ. The poster session was a good chance to discuss research and ideas with other participants and the conference dinner was great fun. The conference provided an excellent opportunity to meet with collaborators face to face and discuss ongoing projects. I would like to thank the organizers for the opportunity to present some of my PhD research and the society for providing funding for me to attend.

Dates for your Diary

Date	Conference	Location	Contact / Details
June 29 – July 2 2006	6 th Costam/SFRR(ASEAN) International workshop 2006, micronutrients, Oxidative stress and environment	Damai Beach, Sarawak, Malaysia	sarnesar@mpob.gov.my secretariat@costam.org.my
Aug 15–19 2006	XIII Biennial meeting of ISFRR	Davos, Switzerland	http://www.sfrr-congress.org info@SFRR-Congress.org
Sept 21-24 2006	Oxidative stress, skin biology and medicine	Andros Island, Greece	http://www.pharm.uoa.gr/oxstress rallis@pharm.uoa.gr
Sept 30 – Oct 6 2006	International Free Radical Summer School	Spetses Island, Greece	www.freeradicalsummerschool.dk
Oct 29 Nov 1 2006	4 th International Conference on mechanism of action of nutraceuticals	Tel-Aviv, Israel	shler@netvision.net.il
Dec 1-4 2006	SFRR(Australasia)	UWA, Perth	Kevin Croft kcroft@cyllene.uwa.edu.au
Nov 15–19 2006	Society for Free Radical Biology and Medicine, 13 th annual meeting	Denver, Colorado, USA	http://www.sfrbm.org/
Nov 14-18 2007	Society for Free Radical Biology and Medicine, 13 th annual meeting	Washington DC, USA	http://www.sfrbm.org/

Useful websites for additional free radical meeting information :

<http://www.oxyclubcalifornia.org/>

<http://www.sfr-europe.org/>

<http://www.sfrbm.org/>

Society for Free Radical Research (Australasia)
2006 MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION/RENEWAL FORM
DUE 1st January 2006

Title: _____ **Name:** _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____ **Fax:** _____

e-mail: _____

Research Interests (short description for the 2006 membership directory):

Annual Fees:

Full Membership Aus\$30 / NZ\$35 Student Membership Aus\$15 / NZ\$17

Electronic Funds Transfer

Account name : SFRR Australia

Account number : 06 2284 10178136

BSB : 06 2284 (Commonwealth, Randwick, NSW)

Please tick the appropriate box above and send a cheque payable to “Society for Free Radical Research (Australasia)” in Australian dollars to:

Dr David Pattison, Treasurer, SFRR (Australasia)
Heart Research Institute
114 Pyrmont Bridge Road
Camperdown
NSW, 2050
Australia

Signature: _____

Date: _____

(Student membership only - ask your supervisor to complete the declaration below)

I confirm that the above applicant is at present a student under my supervision.

Name:

Signature:

Institution:

Date:
