## Botanical Society of Otago AGM, 8th May 2019

**Agenda**

**Chair:** Gretchen Brownstein

**Apologies**: Robyn Bridges, Moira Parker

**Minutes of 2018 AGM**, **Chairman’s and Treasurer’s reports**: (Posted on the BSO website and distributed at the meeting)

**Nominations for Election of Officers**

Chair

Vice Chair

Secretary

Treasurer

Committee (up to 10 members)

Website

Newsletter

Publications

Social officer

Membership

Communications

Student liaison

Botanical art

Other business*:*

**Minutes of Botanical Society of Otago AGM, 9th May 2018**

*Allison Knight*

Chair: Gretchen Brownstein

Apologies: Mary Anne Miller, Robyn Bridges, Ian Geary, Geoff Cutfield, David Lyttle, Jean Bretherton

Minutes of 2017 AGM, Chairman’s and Treasurer’s reports: Posted on the BSO website, distributed at meeting and accepted as read.

Election of Officers: The following were elected unopposed.

Chair *Gretchen Brownstein* Vice Chair *John Barkla* Secretary *Allison Knight* Treasurer *Mary Anne Miller* Committee: *David Lyttle (*Publications*) Robyn Bridges* (Communications officer), *David Orlovich* (Web manager) *Tina Summerfield* (University liason) *Esther Dale* (Badges, online marketing) *Lydia Turley* (FaceBook, Newsletter Editor) *Ian Geary* (Student liason) *Sharon Jones* (Botanical Art) *Sarah Kilduff*

The new chair welcomed the two new committee members, Sharon Jones and Sarah Kilduff. She proposed a vote of thanks to David Lyttle for all the hard work he has put in as chairman over the last 9 years, and to the rest of the elected committee for all the work they have done over the last year to keep the Society flourishing (as long as everyone remembers to pay their membership subscriptions at the beginning of each year!). Gretchen also thanked retiring members Bridget Thomas for her work on the committee, Kate Caldwell for the fantastic job she has done on the newsletter and Facebook, and John Steel who has been a staunch supporter of the Botanical Society since its inception 43 years ago and has indicated that he will continue to be supportive.

Meeting closed in a record is 5 minutes! *- can we ever beat that?*? May 2018 *BSO Newsletter* **84 29**

**Chair’s 2019 annual report**

**Gretchen Brownstein**

Trips and talks – We held ten trips and ten talks last year, spanning a wide array of botanical subjects. Talks ranged from genetics to textiles and from palaeobotany to restoration. The trips were just as diverse, exploring many interesting bits of Otago and Southland from the coast to the mountains. The committee spends a fair amount of time working to develop a programme that we think will interest the membership. These events are about getting together to learn and share, so the more people who participate the better the event. And as always, if you have a suggestion for a trip or talk, please let us know.

Membership – Our membership is holding steady at 98 members. 67 have paid dues for 2019 so far, which is great to see and a vast improvement on last year. As always, we would love to see this number grow, so bring your friends and colleagues along to the events and show them just how wonderful botanical life is!

Website / Facebook – This year saw a major change to our website. We now have our own domain name ([www.bso.org.nz](http://www.bso.org.nz)) and the Diary database system is running again. Thank you to Lydia Turley, David Orlovich, Hadley O’Sullivan, and Daniel Pritchard for making that happen! Both the website and facebook are still the go-to places for any BSO information.

Newsletter – We produced three volumes of the newsletter this past year. These had a total of 92 pages, including 12 original articles contributed by our members along with numerous reports on the trips and talks held during the year. Sharon Jones provided the lovely cover art and we were able to produce a full colour print version due to a donation from Bill and Nancy Malcolm.

Committee – I would like to acknowledge the stellar job everyone on the committee does! It takes a fair effort to keep the society running smoothly. Thanks to Allison Knight for her work as secretary and for being the connection between us and the other botanical societies. Mary Anne Miller does a wonderful job keeping count of the accounts and making sure all the paperwork is up to scratch. A big thanks to Robyn Bridges for looking after the membership and room bookings. Thanks to Lydia Turley for doing a great job editing the newsletter, and keeping our website and facebook page up to date. Sarah Kilduff kindly stepped up this year to help out with drinks and nibbles; and she also provides a great connection with the DCC. Many, many thanks for all the hard work the rest of the committee puts in (Tina Summerfield, Esther Dale, Ian Geary, David Orlovich, and Sharon Jones). Lastly, a special thanks to David Lyttle and John Barkla for chairing meetings when I was on fieldwork and for freely sharing all their knowledge. I reckon between them they must have half a century of BotSoc committee knowledge which we couldn’t do without!

To wrap up, I would like to echo what David wrote last year in his annual chair’s report; just how important your active membership is. Through members’ participation on trips and in talks we all have a chance to share and learn botanical knowledge and by engaging with the community through our society we can promote botanical science and raise environmental issues. So, a big thanks to you, our members!

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| **Statement of Financial Position** | | |  |  |  |  |
| **Botanical Society of Otago, P O Box 6214, Dunedin North 9059** | | | | |  |  |
| **CC24010** |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| For the year ended 31 March 2019 | |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| **CAPITAL** | **Current Assets** |  |  |  | **2019** | **2018** |
|  | Everyday Account | |  |  | 6,451 | 3,651 |
|  | Audrey Eagle Publishing Account | |  |  | 11,641 | 11,182 |
|  | Business Online Saver Account | |  |  | 5,699 | 8,077 |
|  | Accounts receivable | |  |  | 75 | 531 |
|  | Inventory - publications | |  |  | 72 | 60 |
|  | Petty Cash |  |  |  | 15 | 13 |
|  | **Current Liabilities** | |  |  |  |  |
|  | Sundry payables |  |  |  | 0 | -49 |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  | **Working Capital** |  |  |  | 23,953 | 23,464 |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| **Membership** | General |  |  |  | 57 | 26 |
|  | Students |  |  |  | 7 | 1 |
|  | **Total paying members** | |  |  | **64** | **27** |
|  | **Life members** |  |  |  | **2** | **2** |
|  | Complementary newsletters - libraries & allied societies | | |  | 25 | 24 |
|  | Newsletters distributed including electronic versions | | |  | 91 | 53 |
|  |  | | |  |  |  |