

## **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.

## Preface

The following Polymer Division Annual Report was prepared by me and submitted to the RACI in October 2005. Because the contents are still largely current, it seems reasonable to recycle it as my Chair's Report here. Details that I know need updating are as follows:

- **Deborah Ward**, the SA Branch (state) representative, is now employed at Schefenacker Vision Systems Australia.
- The **7<sup>th</sup> Australasian Polymer Summer School** is about to take place (will have taken place by the time this report is tabled). Details on this meeting can be obtained from Wayne Cook, Ian Dagley or Bob Gilbert. Despite a very strong lineup of lecturers being arranged, the number of registrations for 7APSS was somewhat disappointing. This is being addressed for the planning of future APSSs, a concept to which the Division remains committed.
- The **28<sup>th</sup> Australasian Polymer Symposium**, being held jointly with the 16<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference of the Australasian Society for Biomaterials, is about to take place (will be largely completed by the time this report is tabled). Currently there are 325 registered delegates, with the prospect of several more at the last minute. The financial position of the conference is secure, with a handsome profit expected. A major disappointment is the last-minute withdrawal of the Nobel Laureate Alan MacDiarmid due to a broken hip and hip replacement. Apart from this and the myriad small hiccups that are part and parcel of arranging a medium-sized conference, organization has gone largely to plan.
- A number of **Polymer Division awards** will be presented at 28APS, and it has been a pleasure for me to arrange for this recognition of the people concerned. However it is not yet appropriate to disclose the details of these awards – that will have to wait until a future report by the incoming Chair!

On which point, I would like to wish Chris Barner-Kowollik every success as PDSC Chair over the next year, and in particular I wish him well for organizing 29APS – it is already clear to me that the Division leadership is in excellent hands with Chris. Just as past Chairs such as David Lewis, Andrew Whittaker and Bob Gilbert have been invaluable in advising me over the last 15 months, so I offer my services to Chris for the times ahead.

Lastly, my sincere thanks to the numerous people who have helped me in running the PD and organizing 28APS/16ASB. In particular, it has been a pleasure to work with Martina Stenzel in the latter respect, and I am delighted to be welcoming her to the echelons of PD leadership – I look forward to the feminization of the PDSC! As de Gennes would say, the future is soft!

Greg Russell  
29 January 2006 (for 8 February 2006)

## Polymer Division Annual Report for 2004-5

### Members of the Polymer Division Standing Committee

The following appointments took effect at the AGM held on 1 December 2004 and will last until the AGM held at the 28<sup>th</sup> Australasian Polymer Symposium in February 2006:

- *Chair*: Greg Russell (University of Canterbury)
- *Chair-elect*: Christopher Barner-Kowollik (University of NSW)
- *Past-chair and representative on RACI Council*: David Lewis (SOLA R&D)
- *Secretary*: George Simon (Monash University)
- *Treasurer*: Chris Fellows (University of New England)
- *International affairs*: Rob Burford (University of NSW)
- *Editor*: Andrew Whittaker (University of Queensland)
- *Ordinary members* (6 + 1 co-opted): Stephen Clarke (Flinders University); Wayne Cook (Monash University); Chris Lukey (University of Wollongong); Graeme Moad (CSIRO Molecular Science); Mike O'Shea (CSIRO Molecular Science); Martina Stenzel (University of NSW); Stuart Prescott (University of Melbourne)
- *Student representative*: Karla Anderson (University of Auckland)
- *Branch (state) representatives*: NSW: Brian Hawkett (University of Sydney); Qld: Michael Monteiro (University of Queensland); SA: Deborah Ward (Research Laboratories Australia); Vic: Greg Qiao (University of Melbourne)
- *NZIC representative*: Neil Edmonds (University of Auckland)

### Awards and Prizes

As detailed in *Chem. in Aust.* **2005**, 72(4), 28, the following awards were made on 1 December 2004 at the 27<sup>th</sup> Australasian Polymer Symposium:

- David Hill (University of Queensland) – Distinguished Fellowship of the RACI
  - Hans Heuts (University of Murcia, Spain) – Polymer Division Citation
  - Hugh Brown (University of Wollongong) – Polymer Division Citation
  - John Quinn (University of Melbourne) – Treloar Prize for Oral Presentation at 27 APS
  - Georgina Such (CSIRO and University of NSW) – Treloar Prize for Oral Presentation at 27 APS
  - Raymond Joso (University of NSW) – Treloar Prize for Poster Presentation at 27 APS
- Another awardee at 27 APS was

- Kylie Varcoe (University of Queensland) – CRC for Polymers Prize

In February 2005 the following prize-winner was announced:

- Luke Connal (University of Melbourne) – O'Donnell Young Scientist Prize for 2004

Information on all the above Polymer Division awards can be found at <http://www.polymer.org.au/awards.html>.

Attention is also drawn to the following Polymer Division members who have won notable RACI prizes over the last year:

- Christopher Barner-Kowollik (University of NSW) – Rennie Memorial Medal
- Tom Davis (University of NSW) – H.G. Smith Memorial Medal
- Bob Gilbert (University of Sydney) – RACI Applied Chemistry Award

**Conferences/Symposia**

- 6<sup>th</sup> Australasian Polymer Summer School; Wednesday 24 to Saturday 27 November 2004; held at Sunset Cove, Cape Jervis, SA; 46 attendees (including 6 speakers).
- 27<sup>th</sup> Australasian Polymer Symposium; Sunday 28 November to Thursday 2 December 2004; University of Adelaide. This conference was organized by David Lewis, attracted approximately 250 delegates, and made a handsome profit. It can be counted as a significant success.
- Connect 2005, 3-7 July 2005, Darling Harbour (Sydney): Two days of Polymer Division talks were organized by Brian Hawkett, each day beginning with a conference plenary (Bert Meijer on 5 July, Koichi Tanaka on 6 July). The program brought together presenters with interests in both synthesis and characterisation of polymers and polymeric nano-structures.

**Forthcoming Conferences/Symposia**

- 7<sup>th</sup> Australasian Polymer Summer School; Monday 30 January to Thursday 2 February 2006; Ballarat Lodge (Victoria).
- 28<sup>th</sup> Australasian Polymer Symposium; Sunday 5 February to Thursday 9 February 2006; Rotorua Convention Centre (New Zealand), [www.plevin.com.au/28aps2006/](http://www.plevin.com.au/28aps2006/). Important features of this conference are that it is being held in New Zealand and that it is being combined with the 16<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference of the Australasian Society for Biomaterials. The latter exciting move reflects the direction in which much polymer chemistry is heading. One day of the conference will be devoted to combined sessions; at other times all delegates will be free to attend whichever meeting they prefer. The APS meeting will be headlined by Nobel Laureate Alan MacDiarmid. It is hoped to attract 350 attendees to the combined conference.

**Publications and Information Dissemination**

All our scientific meetings produce proceedings. Especially worthy of mention from the last year is:

- 27<sup>th</sup> Australian Polymer Symposium Book of Abstracts (ISBN 0-9580382-3-6). Where formerly the Division kept members informed via a newsletter distributed by email, it now uses electronic means of communication. There are two avenues:
  - An email list ([poly\\_group\\_aust@cmr.uq.edu.au](mailto:poly_group_aust@cmr.uq.edu.au)) of approximately 800 people that is maintained by Andrew Whittaker at the University of Queensland.
  - The Division web page ([www.polymer.org.au](http://www.polymer.org.au)), now administered by Chris Fellows, provides up-to-date information on the activities of the PD as well as linkages to the RACI web page and other polymer organizations.

**Other**

Another forthcoming activity that is highly worthy of mention is that Prof. Gerhard Wegner will be visiting the SA, Vic, NSW and Qld Branches as a Solomon Lecturer over the period 5-15 November 2005. Prof. Wegner is director of the Department of Solid State Chemistry at the Max Planck Institute for Polymer Research in Mainz, Germany. The Solomon Lectures are now held in conjunction with the Australian Academy of Technological Sciences and Engineering and are the second major event for the PD (behind the APSs).

**General Statement**

The aim of the Polymer Division is to serve all scientists, engineers and technologists in Australia and New Zealand who have an interest in polymer science and technology. Members of the RACI are given reduced conference rates and are able to serve on the Polymer Division Standing Committee – the group charged with the responsibilities of running the division in a professional and responsible manner and of promoting polymer science in Australasia. The Polymer Division constitution gives members of the New Zealand Institute of Chemistry equal rights with RACI members. The primary foci of Polymer Division activities are the Australasian Polymer Symposia (APSs), held every 12-18 months. The Division has a very strong commitment to (research) students and recognizes that they are our future. This commitment is reflected in the following benefits for students: low registration costs at APSs, travel subsidies to APSs and other conferences, and prizes to recognize excellence. We believe that this type of support enhances the university experience of students and promotes excellent polymer science and technology in the Australasian region.

Respectfully submitted by  
Dr Greg Russell  
on 10 October 2005

## Polymer Division Financial Report 2004-2005

All of our funds are now in the hands of RACI HQ, and are audited centrally. We have no direct access to our monies, and do not need to submit an independent annual report to the RACI. Transactions between 1<sup>st</sup> July 2004 and 31<sup>st</sup> January 2006 are summarised below.

**1/7/2004 Opening Balance:** \$262,703.46

### Expenses

<i>Solomon Foundation:</i>	\$34,218.25
Our promise to contribute 50% to this fund has finally been met.	
<i>Support of Meetings:</i>	\$32,000.00
Float for APS 28,	\$7000
Float for APS 29,	\$10,000
Deposit for PPC-11 at Cairns Convention Centre,	\$2000
Wollongong ICMS,	\$5000
Polymer Summer School,	\$8000
<i>Contribution to 'Future of Chemistry' project:</i>	\$4000
<i>Student Travel and Prizes:</i>	\$13,210.24
<i>Standing Committee Travel on RACI Business:</i>	\$2842.72
<i>Spent by State Bodies on State Projects:</i>	\$4109.53

### Income

<i>RACI Interest Allocation:</i>	\$4517.00
<i>GST Allocation:</i>	\$120.00
<i>27<sup>th</sup> APS Profit:</i>	\$21,967.82

**31/1/2006 Balance:** **\$198,925.54**

Funds held in trust for state bodies  
(1/3 of conference profits since 1993, less spending by state bodies):

Queensland:	\$66,492.86
Victoria:	\$10,661.86
South Australia:	\$4315.76
New South Wales:	\$2265.58

**31/1/2006 Polymer Division Balance:** **\$115,189.49**