

AUSTRALIAN ACADEMY OF SCIENCE

National Committees for Science: ANNUAL REPORT TO COUNCIL on 2010 activities

NATIONAL COMMITTEE FOR: Plant and Animal Sciences

CHAIR: TJ Higgins

PERIOD COVERED IN THIS REPORT: 1 January - 31 December, 2010

Please complete and return this form by 14 January 2011.

NOTE: This report will be published on the Academy of Science website at www.science.org.au/natcoms

Chapter 1 MEETINGS OF THE NATIONAL COMMITTEE

THE NATIONAL COMMITTEE MET ON:

- Feb 26 2010 Canberra
- Sept 10 2010 Canberra

THE FOLLOWING MEETINGS ARE PROPOSED FOR 2011 (include date and place, if possible):

- March 2011 Canberra
- September 2011 Canberra

MEETINGS OF INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS AFFILIATED WITH ICSU

IN 2010 THERE WAS A GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF IUBS in Cape Town, South Africa

IN 2011 THERE WILL NOT BE A GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF IUBS:

The next GENERAL ASSEMBLY will be held in 2012 in China

I RECOMMEND TO COUNCIL THE FOLLOWING VOTING AUSTRALIAN DELEGATION: (include title, name, address, telephone, email and fax number)

Professor John Buckeridge

Head of School

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Melbourne

Contact Details

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AUSTRALIAN OFFICE HOLDERS IN ICSU AND AFFILIATED BODIES

AUSTRALIANS WHO HELD OFFICE IN 2010 WERE:

(include all appointed/elected memberships of subsidiary bodies, standing committees, commissions etc. as well as appointments to Bureau/Executive positions in the governing body).

PERSON	INTERNATIONAL BODY	POSITION	TERM OF OFFICE
John Buckeridge	IUBS	IUBS Executive	to 2012
John Buckeridge	IUBS Ethics Commission	Chair	on-going

THE FOLLOWING NOMINATIONS WILL BE MADE IN 2011:

PERSON	INTERNATIONAL BODY	POSITION	TERM OF OFFICE
John Buckeridge	IUBS	Executive Comm	to 2012

ACTIVITIES OF NATIONAL COMMITTEE – Please include comments on progress achieved on projected activities identified in your 2010 Business Plan. 2010 Business plans can be viewed at www.science.org.au/natcoms

Go to <http://www.science.org.au/reports/2010anrep.html>, to view the Chairs' Reports on 2009 activities.

I SUBMIT THE FOLLOWING REPORT TO COUNCIL ON THE ACTIVITIES OF THE NATIONAL COMMITTEE IN calendar year 2010 (200-250 words):

[Your Report, as presented here, will be published in the National Committees for Science section of the Academy's Annual Report for 2010-2011].

The Committee identified gaps in knowledge/capacity and discussed a number of areas of concern.

Bioinformatics and Genomics

-Noted that Australia is lagging behind international work.

Systematic Taxonomy

-Concern was raised regarding the decline in people working in systematic taxonomy. This area was identified as an area of low demand but high strategic importance.

Ethics

-The issue of potential conflict of interest was raised as government funding was reducing, thus the percentage of research being conducted using private funding was increasing.

Food Security and Building Better Production and Agricultural Landscapes

-It was suggested that by doing research related to climate variability, Australia is being a good global citizen, assisting the world to prepare for climate change. As Australia has a variety of climatic zones it is uniquely positioned to undertake such research.

Capacity

-This issue was raised from two angles:

- Squeezing of support for strategic basic research in Australia has reduced capacity
- Lack of salary support to maintain capacity – mentioned in the Cutler Review

2. The Committee made submissions on

- a) Meeting Australia's research workforce needs; A consultation paper to inform the development of the Australian Government's research workforce strategy (Department of Innovation, Industry, Science and Research)
- b) A Productivity Commission inquiry into rural research and development corporation arrangements
- a) The Productivity Commission's Draft Report on Rural Research and Development Corporations

The terms of four members expired at the end of 2010:

- Professor David Day
- Dr Tim Entwisle
- Professor Robert Saint
- Professor Mark Westoby FAA

The following were nominated to EXCOM as replacements or observers:

- Associate Professor Kristine French, University of Wollongong, President-elect, Ecological Society of Australia.
- Dr Kathy Belov, The University of Sydney, Secretary, Genetics Society of AustralAsia.

- Dr Kevin Thiele, University of Western Australia
- Professor John Buckeridge, RMIT. Observer As Immediate Past President of IUBS
- Professor David Day, Flinders University. Agreed to extend his membership by one year to provide continuity within the committee.
- Professor Roger Leigh, University of Adelaide. To represent the Australian Council of Deans of Agriculture

Please complete and return this form by 14 January 2011:

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