

The Society for Redox Research AUSTRALASIA

NEWSLETTER (November 2022)

<p><i>President</i> <i>Term: 2021-2022</i> GUY JAMESON School of Chemistry, Bio21 Molecular Science and Biotechnology Institute, University of Melbourne 30 Flemington Road, Parkville VIC 3010 AUSTRALIA Phone: +61 383 447 098 Email: guy.jameson@unimelb.edu.au</p>	<p><i>Treasurer</i> <i>Term: 2020-2023</i> STANLEY CHAN School of Health and Biomedical Sciences, Bundoora Campus, RMIT University 264 Plenty Road, Mill Park VIC 3082 AUSTRALIA Phone: +61 399 257 353 E-mail: stanley.chan@rmit.edu.au</p>
<p><i>Secretary</i> <i>Term: 2021-2024</i> LOUISA ASHBY Centre for Free Radical Research, Department of Pathology and Biomedical Science, University of Otago Christchurch 2 Riccarton Avenue, Christchurch 8011 NEW ZEALAND Phone: +64 3 378 6223 Email: louisa.ashby@otago.ac.nz</p>	<p><i>President-Elect</i> <i>Term: 2021-2022</i> ANDREW BULMER School of Medical Science and Menzies Health Institute Queensland Griffith University Parklands Drive, Southport, QLD 4222 AUSTRALIA Phone: +61 7 5552 8215 Email: a.bulmer@griffith.edu.au</p>
<p><i>Early Career Researcher Representative</i> <i>Term: 2020-2023</i> JEREME SPIERS School of Molecular Sciences, La Trobe University Science Drive, Bundoora, VIC 3086 AUSTRALIA Phone: +61 3 9479 2947 Email: j.spiers@latrobe.edu.au</p>	

Contact email and Website:

The Society has an email managed by the secretary: sfrasecretariat@gmail.com

The SFRA website is as follows: www.sfr-australasia.org

Please get in touch if you would like to post any news, notices, links and other items of interest to Society members.

President's Report



A/Prof Guy Jameson

For the 2020 newsletter, ever the optimist, I stated it had been an arduous year, but things were looking up! Sad to say we ended up with 260 days of lockdown in Melbourne over the course of the global pandemic. The Society was hit hard, but we have managed to run two meetings online. In 2020, I moved the in-person meeting that I was organising, online and we had excellent talks and discussions with members and colleagues in Australia and New Zealand, plus friends from further afield in Europe and South America.

Last year, we ran another meeting online. Originally this was to be organised as part of the FAOBMB meeting in Christchurch and combine our 10th joint meeting with SFRR Japan. This fell through with many places still in lockdown or unable to travel. We therefore converted to an

online meeting with “nodes” so people in the same area could meet in person, while interacting online. The further spread of covid stopped this from going exactly to plan but the show went on! Many thanks to Louisa Ashby, Stanley Chan, Jereme Spiers, Andrew Bulmer and others with organising this.

But now we are in 2022! We can finally meet in person in Christchurch for our 30th meeting and 10th Joint meeting with SFRR-Japan. I really look forward to seeing many friends and colleagues in Christchurch for what I think will be an outstanding event, and my last as president. I want to thank the organising committee led by Prof Tony Kettle for all their hard work. See you there!

President Elect's Update

2022 has been another challenging year, although I personally feel the uncertainty of the COVID pandemic, associated supply chain disruptions and challenges to conducting research are abating. For example, it is wonderful that the Society is returning to face-to-face meetings, in place of our informal COVID impacted on-line yearly meetings – what a great opportunity to re-connect with peers and catch-up on the research findings of the past 3 years!

I would very much like to thank Guy for navigating the Society through the ‘COVID era’, for organising our informal annual research meetings, and for continuing to navigate with Stanley the challenges of changing the Society’s name (who thought it would be so complex and time consuming!). Thanks also to Louisa for confidently stepping up to the plate as Secretary – we feel impeccably well organised and to Jereme for adding valuable insight into ECR perspectives and activities. It will be my pleasure to lead the Society in 2023 and continue on the good work of our past Presidents by raising the profile of the Society and our science domestically/overseas, instigating new ECR awards and making it easier to join and engage in Society activities. Finally, I’d like to take this opportunity to wish everyone a safe and relaxing festive period and a safe and prosperous New Year.



A/Prof Andrew Bulmer

Treasurer's Update

The current financial position of the SFERRA remains relatively stable, despite the financial challenges imposed by COVID-19 since 2020. On the Australian side, the total assets of the Society currently sit around \$66K, which is \$6.5K gain from the same time of 2021. This is attributed to a combination of new memberships, membership renewals, and interest earned from term deposit, particularly in the recent months resulting from the interest rate rise by the federal reserve bank. Currently, the term deposit is on a month-to-month investment option which attracts an interest rate of 0.95% p.a. The SFERRA executive committee do have plans to switch to a slightly longer-term investment option (e.g. 3-month) which would attract interest rate of 3.2-4% p.a. On the banking front, the executive committee is seeking to move to a different financial institution (Westpac Bank) which offers a 2-step signatory authorisation on transaction, instead of the simultaneous parallel authorisation (require both signatories logging onto the same computer) of CBA.

The finance of the NZ account is largely unchanged except the banking format is mainly online. The opening balance this year (NZD\$5,000) has permitted the Society to provide the advance float to the organising committee for the upcoming conference. On behalf of the Society and the conference organising committee, I would also like to thank the SFRR-Japan's sponsorship of the upcoming joint society conference 2022, at Christchurch.



Dr Stanley Chan

ECR Representative's Update

It has been a challenging few years for ECRs with the lack of in-person conferences and meetings limiting exposure to potential supervisors and employers. At the upcoming meeting we will be aiming to promote engagement between senior researchers and ECRs looking for networking opportunities. We will also be reaching out during the in-person meeting, through the Society mailing list, and via the SFERRA Twitter account to consolidate our Society ECR mailing list and establish a mid-year ECR networking event.



Dr Jereme Spiers

Secretary's Update

It is almost a year since our annual meeting via zoom, in December 2021. Thank you to all who took part that day (50 participants), it was great to feel SFERRA members' enthusiasm for the opportunity to communicate as a Society, and good to be able to provide some younger researchers with the chance to present their work. Now, we in Christchurch are really looking forward to hosting the upcoming in-person conference – very exciting! The response to coming together for our 10th Joint societies meeting with SFRR-Japan has been very pleasing. I'm not wanting to jinx anything at this stage, but we have 90 registrants; including 26 from Australia, 14 from Japan, and 3 travelling from USA. It will be excellent to interact in person again as a Society of scientists engaged in redox research. Best wishes to all for the conclusion of 2022, and for a successful start to the new year.



Dr Louisa Ashby

**ATTENTION!- Open call for nominations
for SFERRA President-Elect**

At this year's AGM (6 Dec 2022 in Christchurch), we need to appoint a new President-Elect. This role on the Executive Committee is for the next two years (2023-24), followed by another two years (2025-26) as President of the Society. This presents an exciting opportunity for an enthusiastic member of the SFERRA.

Please advise the SFERRA executive committee of nominations for this position - Guy Jameson is collating the nominations for this position, please contact him directly guy.jameson@unimelb.edu.au

Treasurer's report (2021)

1. Comments

Memberships were automatically carried forward from 2019 and 2020, due to the impacts of COVID-19. I would like to thank all those current financial members that have made the effort to pay their membership fees to the Society for 2021.

Please note that memberships from 2020 are being carry forward. This means those have attended the Sydney conference in 2019 and the online meeting in 2020, their membership will remain active in 2021. However, we do encourage everyone to consider renewing their membership as form of support to the Society (Full, AUD\$45/NZD\$50; Student, AUD\$25/NZ\$27).

Membership forms and payment details will be available on the website (<http://www.sfrr-australasia.org>) or by contacting myself (stanley.chan@rmit.edu.au) or the secretary.

2. Summary of Australian Accounts (01/12/2020-22/11/2021)

Opening Balance (01/12/2020) of Australian accounts:	<u>\$62,532.29</u>
Cheque Account Bearing Interest:	\$16,968.57
Term Deposit	\$45,563.72
Total Income:	\$1,492.18
Total Expenditure:	\$3,703.31
<u>Income – Expenditure:</u>	<u>-\$2,256.13</u>
Closing Balance (22/11/2021) of Australian accounts:	<u>\$60,276.16</u>
Cheque Account Bearing Interest:	\$14,575.26
Term Deposit	\$45,700.90

3. Summary of BNZ Account in New Zealand

Opening Balance (31/08/2020) of New Zealand account:	<u>NZD\$6,242.56</u>
<i>Deposits</i>	
Membership fees:	NZD\$50.00
Interest on NZ current account	NZD\$2.50
Total NZ Income (31/08/2020 – 31/08/2021):	NZD\$52.50
Total NZ Expenditure (31/08/2020 – 31/08/2021):	NZD\$1,300.00
<u>Income – Expenditure:</u>	<u>-NZD\$1,247.50</u>
Closing Balance (31/08/2021) of New Zealand account:	<u>NZ\$4,995.06</u>

Minutes from the 2021 Annual General Meeting



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AUSTRALASIA

Friday 3rd December 2021– at the online annual meeting via Zoom, attended by multiple individual logins (up to 28) as well as congregated groups in Dunedin (4 people), Christchurch (14) and Gold Coast (6).

Chair: Guy Jameson (President)

Minutes: Louisa Ashby (Secretary)

AGM opened 1:15pm (NZ time)

1. President's report

Brief recap of recent SFRRRA annual meetings – the last in-person conference was in Sydney in 2019 (forest fires in the region), last year was the first online-format conference due to the COVID pandemic, and was organised by Melbourne. This year the original plans were for SFRRRA 2021 to co-join the FAOBMB conference in Christchurch together with the SFRR Japan, but due to the ongoing pandemic, an online format for a more informal SFRRRA annual meeting 2021 was adopted.

Three discussion points for today:

(a) Awards

The executive committee has started reviewing the SFRRRA awards. Currently the major award is for Distinguished Service. The plan is to consider introducing new awards with an interest to support and recognise early/mid-career researchers.

(b) Online banking

The current online banking offered by Commonwealth Bank in Australia is proving difficult as two signatories are still required to be together in-person. The plan is to open an account at Westpac (online) to help with this problem.

(c) Plans for SFRRRA 2022 meeting

Discussion opened with recognition that although an in-person conference is desirable, an online option may have to be opted for at short notice, as illustrated by the current emergence of new Omicron variant of COVID.

-Tony Kettle offered Christchurch to organise and host the SFRRRA 2022 conference, with the intention to start planning as a combined online and in-person format. Liz Ledgerwood pointed out that next year should be the 10th SFRRRA&J joint meeting. Paul Witting offered to coordinate Australia (East Coast) for the online aspect of the meeting. Paul also indicated that Adelaide may be worth exploring as a new host in the near future too.

-Andrew Bulmer raised the idea of considering alternative “off-site”, or new locations, not previously used for SFRRRA meetings, eg: Hobart, Cairns. Greg Anderson agreed that exotic locations can work for conferences (eg: Biolron planned for Darwin Aug 2023) but it helps to have local university people involved.

-Guy Jameson wrapped up the discussions with an unopposed summary that the plan is:

2022 - SFRRRA&J joint societies scientific meeting – hosted by Christchurch

2023 – Paul to initiate discussions next year with Adelaide as a possible location for SFRRRA 2023.

Future plans for an exotic location remain open for further discussion.

2. Treasurer's report

Stanley Chan presented his report with Powerpoint slides. All accounts are paid, otherwise there has been minimal activity in the three SFRRRA accounts (cheque account and term deposit in Australia, and cheque account in NZ) due to not having an in-person conference and waiving membership fees. Taylor & Francis and MDPI sponsorships are in the process of being sorted out for continuation into next year. SFRRRA membership going forward requires addressing the fees situation.

-Greg Giles commented that the term deposit gain was low - it was pointed out that interest rates currently are generally low everywhere.

-Andrew Bulmer moved that current SFRRRA membership status is rolled over for 2021 to 2022, and that a call for membership fee payment will be resumed for the Christchurch conference 2022. Seconded: Guy Jameson. Unopposed.

-Discussion continued about increasing the money that is put towards travel awards, invitations to international speakers. Liz Ledgerwood pointed out that sponsorship can also be used for student prizes and plenary speaker travel costs.

-Guy Jameson moved that the Treasurer's Report is accepted including up to \$5000 to be used for travel awards for the SFRRRA 2022 conference, with final approval to be given by the executive committee. Seconded: Liz Ledgerwood. Unopposed.

3. Secretary's report

Not required in 2021.

4. Election of SFRRRA Executive officers

Not required in 2021.

5. General Business

To facilitate SFRRRA banking processes, additional signatories are required.

-Guy Jameson moved that Louisa Ashby be added as a signatory for the Bank of New Zealand account. Seconded: Christine Winterbourn.

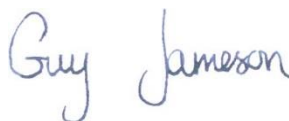
- Liz Ledgerwood moved that Guy Jameson, Stanley Chan and Andrew Bulmer are signatories on the Australian bank accounts. Seconded: Christine Winterbourn.

Meeting closed at 2:10 pm (NZ).

The content of the above minutes is confirmed to be accurate and a true reflection of the meeting on the day.



Dr Louisa Ashby
Secretary



A/Prof Guy Jameson
President

Dates for your diary 2023

Redox Biology in Translation: SFRR-E Annual Meeting

June 6-9 2023

Vienna, Austria

<https://www.redoxvienna2023.com/>

Joint meeting 2023: 30th SfrBM & SFRRI 21st Biennial Meeting

November 15–18, 2023

Punta del Este Convention & Exhibition Center, Punta del Este, Uruguay

<https://sfrbm.org/>

Australian residents – please find the fillable pdf of the membership form on the SFRRA website



Society for Redox Research (Australasia)
Formerly known as *Society for Free Radical Research Australasia*
2022 MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION/RENEWAL FORM
(Australian memberships)

Title: **Name:**
Address:

Phone: **E-mail:**

Website address (for inclusion as a link on the Society website):

Research Interests (short description for the membership directory):

Please indicate:
 Yes, I attended the SFRRA meeting 2021 therefore my membership currently requires no fee payment.
 I did not attend SFRRA meeting 2021, I would like to renew my SFRRA membership
Or
 I am a new member of SFRRA

Annual Fees:
 Full Membership AUD\$45* Student Membership AUD\$25*

Electronic Funds Transfer Account name: SFRR Australasia
Account number: 10178136
BSB: 06 2284 (Commonwealth Bank)

Please tick the appropriate box above. For payment, please make an electronic funds transfer to the account detailed above in Australian dollars. Please include “*surname2022*” as reference: e.g. “Smith2022”

Australian membership inquiries can be directed to Dr. Stanley Chan, Treasurer SFRR(Australasia) stanley.chan@rmit.edu.au

* If you are in NZ, please use the NZ membership form.

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:**

New Zealand residents – please find the fillable pdf of the membership form on the SFRRA website



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Or

I am a new member of SFRRA

Annual Fees:

Full Membership NZD\$50

Student Membership NZD\$27

Electronic Funds Transfer

Account name: SFRRA

Account number: 02 0800 0858347 000

BNZ, New Zealand (SWIFT code: BKNZLN22)

Please tick the appropriate box above. Payment to be made via electronic funds transfer to the account detailed above in NZD. Please include “*surname2022*” as reference: e.g. “Smith2022”

For alternative payment methods, please contact Dr. Louisa Ashby (sfrasecretariat@gmail.com).

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: