

# Australian Neutron Beam Users Group Annual General Meeting

Tuesday 4th December, 2007

Present: Craig Buckley (President), Brendan Kennedy (Vice President + Treasurer), Chris Ling, Jill Trehwella, Stewart Campbell, Jamie Schulz, Andrew Nelson and 38 other members

Apologies: Ian Gentle.

## 1) **ANBUG President Report** (Craig Buckley)

An overview was given of what ANBUG has achieved over the last year. Of particular note was the success of the OPAL opening event. Other aspects included:

- the HIFAR closing ceremony
- LIEF grant for ISIS access
- member serving on the BIAG, PAC, NCRIS and AINSE subcommittee's

Craig also gave an overview of the membership makeup of ANBUG and why it exists - to represent the views of the Australian Neutron Scattering community.

## 2) **Financial Report** (Brendan Kennedy)

Brendan gave an overview of the ANBUG accounts. ANBUG currently has \$81817.04 invested in a Business account. This is funds remaining from ICNS2005. It was suggested that the capital remain static, with the interest being used as a travel award. This would be granted to outstanding students to enable them to visit international conferences such as ICNS.

**ACTION:** The executive should consider the advantages/disadvantages of charging a membership fee.

## 3) **OPAL/NBI Update** (Rob Robinson)

The first half of the year was successful, with Wombat and Echidna commissioning progressing well, Kowari measuring a diffraction peak and first neutrons into Platypus (although a time-of-flight spectrum wasn't measured). Instrument construction of Quokka and Taipan are also progressing, with Koala returning from France. Designs for Sika and Pelican are also continuing.

However, since OPAL has not been operating since July, so commissioning progress is limited until the reactor comes back up, hopefully early in the new year.

## 4) **Sample environment update** (Scott Olsen)

Scott highlighted the major sample environment purchases made this year (such as the NZ high field magnet, the rapid-heat quench cell for SANS and the robotic sample changer for the powder instruments).

He listed the responses from the recent ANBUG survey that will focus the priorities for which environments are built next.

## 5) **ANBUG user survey** (Andrew Nelson)

An overview was given of the ANBUG user survey which recently closed. Important information was gleaned on the future usage of the instruments, which instruments should be built next and what sample environments will be important.

**6) Neutron Scattering Decadal Plan** (Herma Buttner)

This plan considers the future for Neutron scattering in Australia for the next 10 years. Such as scientific direction, operations of the NBI, new instruments being built, etc. The plan will soon be released to the public for comment, via the Australian Academy of Sciences.

**7) Asia-Pacific neutron scattering association** (Brendan Kennedy)

The membership should consider views on what type of layout such an association could provide.

- a) Should the association be a group of facility directors?
- b) Should it be an association of user groups?
- c) Should it be co-operation within the region in organising events such as Neutron schools or conferences?

No decision was made, but the topic should be considered by the executive before the international participants meet again.

**8) Neutron School** (Herma Buttner)

The recent summer school on neutron diffraction was a success, with a lot of oversubscription. Surveys show that the participants really enjoyed the course. The next school is scheduled for July 2008, which will be focussed on materials science.

It was mentioned that the Koreans are planning a school for July, however, we have already started planning ours.

**9) ARC Lief grant** (Don Kearly)

The possibility of adding a Be filter option for Taipan was discussed (TOSCA at ISIS is an example of such an instrument). This would be used in areas such as catalysis, H storage or Clathrates. There are several universities involved with the LIEF grant.

**10) ANBUG awards** (Craig Buckley)

There were two awards:

The first award was for Career Achievements in Neutron Science. This was awarded to Prof. Brian O'Connor (Curtin).

The second award was for Excellence in Neutron Science over the past 10 years. This was awarded to Prof. Erich Kisi (Newcastle).

The members present at the meeting congratulated the recipients (although they could not be present).

**11) Next symposium** (Craig Buckley)

The next symposium will be held in Dec 2008, hopefully with lots of results from OPAL.

Thanks were given to Chris Ling for organising the last two. Daniel Riley and Trevor Finlayson have agreed to organise the next one.

**12) Any other business**

There was none

**13) Next ANBUG AGM**

This will be held at the next AANSS symposium.