

## THE INTERNATIONAL RESEARCH GROUP ON WOOD PRESERVATION

## FOURTEENTH MEETING

Minutes of the Plenary Meeting held at Chevron Hotel, Surfers Paradise, Australia  
on Wednesday 11 May 1983 (8.30 - 10.00)

Participants

President: Mr J Michael Baker (United Kingdom)  
Secretary: Mr Ron Cockcroft (Sweden)

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| Mr John E Barnacle (Australia)                 | Dr Frank W Brooks (United Kingdom)     |
| Dr E W B Da Costa (Australia)                  | Mr Stuart W Carter (United Kingdom)    |
| Dr John R J French (Australia)                 | Dr Colin P Clubbe (United Kingdom)     |
| Mr W David Gardner (Australia)                 | Dr David J Dickinson (United Kingdom)  |
| Dr Harry Greaves (Australia)                   | Dr Rodney A Eaton (United Kingdom)     |
| Mr C Doug Howick (Australia)                   | Dr Geoffrey E Evans (United Kingdom)   |
| Mr Rex S Johnstone (Australia)                 | Professor John F Levy (United Kingdom) |
| Dr Liam E Leightley (Australia)                | Miss Jean M Taylor (United Kingdom)    |
| Dr Michael Lenz (Australia)                    | Miss Fairie Lyn Carter (USA)           |
| Mr Colin R Levy (Australia)                    | Dr David B Hatcher (USA)               |
| Dr Martin A Line (Australia)                   | Dr Jeffery P La Fage (USA)             |
| Mr Jack Norton (Australia)                     | Dr William S McNamara (USA)            |
| Dr John D Thornton (Australia)                 | Dr Alan F Preston (USA)                |
| Dr Kurt Messner (Austria)                      | Dr Elmer L Schmidt (USA)               |
| Sr Aldo Gandolfi, Jr (Brazil)                  |  |
| Dr Vishwa N P Mathur (Canada)                  | <u>Guests</u>                          |
| Dr John N R Ruddick (Canada)                   | Mr John Ardley (Australia)             |
| Dr Siegfried Cymorek (German Federal Republic) | Mr Geoffrey Barton (Australia)         |
| Mr Bo Berg (Finland)                           | Mr Thomas Bertinshaw (Australia)       |
| Monsieur Gérard R Y Déon (France)              | Mr Donald Bradley (Australia)          |
| Mlle Simonne A Lucas (France)                  | Dr Lyn Bolland (Australia)             |
| Monsieur Gérald Ozanne (France)                | Mr Donald Butler (Australia)           |
| Mr Frank F K Ampong (Ghana)                    | Mr Chen-Woo Chin (Australia)           |
| Mr Andreas Kanas (Greece)                      | Mr Iven Chrebtiv (Australia)           |
| Dr Nana Supriana (Indonesia)                   | Mr Dennis Clarke (Australia)           |
| Mr Shuichi Doi (Japan)                         | Mr Anthony Clauzel (Australia)         |
| Professor Dr Koichi Nishimoto (Japan)          | Mr William A Clifford (Australia)      |
| Dr Kunio Tsunoda (Japan)                       | Mr Laurie Cookson (Australia)          |
| Mr Hein F M Nijman (Netherlands)               | Mr James Creffield (Australia)         |
| Mr Kevin J Archer (New Zealand)                | Mrs Judy Creffield (Australia)         |
| Dr John A Butcher (New Zealand)                | Mr Phillip Dalhuty (Australia)         |
| Dr Michael E Hedley (New Zealand)              | Mr Peter Dimitrikakis (Australia)      |
| Dr A J McQuire (New Zealand)                   | Mr Peter Eddowes (Australia)           |
| Dr Richard J Murphy (New Zealand)              | Mr William Elliott (Australia)         |
| Dr David V Plackett (New Zealand)              | Miss Diana Francis (Australia)         |
| Dr Simon M Cragg (Papua New Guinea)            | Mr Ferruccio Genzo (Australia)         |
| Mr Willi E Conradie (South Africa)             | Mr Len Gilchrist (Australia)           |
| Mr Paul-Erik Dickèr (Sweden)                   | Mr Mark Greenacre (Australia)          |
| Mrs Marie-Louise Edlund (Sweden)               | Dr Gary Johnson (Australia)            |
| Professor Dr Björn Henningsson (Sweden)        | Mr Wal Johnson (Australia)             |
| Mr Jöran Jermer (Sweden)                       | Miss Rosalie Keirle (Australia)        |
| Dr Thomas Nilsson (Sweden)                     | Mr Lance Kennedy (Australia)           |
| Mr Carl-Erik Sundman (Sweden)                  |  |
| Mme Dr Charunee Vongkaluang (Thailand)         |  |

*(continued overleaf)*

|                                  |                                       |
|----------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| Mr Dan McCarthy (Australia)      | Mr Tony Witheridge (Australia)        |
| Mr John McQuarrie (Australia)    | Mr Robin Yule (Australia)             |
| Mr John Massey (Australia)       | Dr Michael Micko (Canada)             |
| Mr Michael Moore (Australia)     | Mr Carl Bechgaard (Denmark)           |
| Mr David Morgan (Australia)      | Mr L Harmsen (Denmark)                |
| Mr Jack O'Sullivan (Australia)   | Mr Mohd Dahlan Jantan (Malaysia)      |
| Mr Robert Paton (Australia)      | Mr Tony Bergervoet (New Zealand)      |
| Miss Robyn Pogany (Australia)    | Mr Terrence Chiddle (New Zealand)     |
| Mr George Pope (Australia)       | Mr Peter Cobham (New Zealand)         |
| Mr Steve J Retter (Australia)    | Mrs Jeanette Drysdale (New Zealand)   |
| Mr Ian Robertson (Australia)     | Dr Peter Hayward (New Zealand)        |
| Mr Dick Smith (Australia)        | Mr Trevor Nash (New Zealand)          |
| Mr Russell Smith (Australia)     | Mr B Joseph Natera (Papua New Guinea) |
| Mr Roy Staples (Australia)       | Mr J Harry Sweeting (Singapore)       |
| Mr Keith Sweatman (Australia)    | Mr Sun Peng Yap (Singapore)           |
| Mr Paul Taylor (Australia)       | Mrs Marianne Cockcroft (Sweden)       |
| Mr Dietmar Torner (Australia)    | Mr Erling Saevig (Sweden)             |
| Mr Brian Vernon (Australia)      | Mr Peter Zaunschirm (Sweden)          |
| Mr John B Watkins (Australia)    | Mr Tsan-Fei Su (Taiwan)               |
| Mr Graeme Willoughby (Australia) | Mr Jai-Jang Wang (Taiwan)             |
|                                  | Miss Scarlett M Gray (United Kingdom) |

#### Documents before the meeting

- |   |  |                          |
|---|--|--------------------------|
| 1 | Agenda   | Document No: IRG/WP/5179 |
| 2 | Minutes of the Plenary Meeting held at Altin Yunus, Çeşme, Turkey on Thursday 27 May 1982              | Document No: IRG/WP/5167 |
| 3 | IRG Secretariat Financial Statement for the year ending 31 December 1982 by R Cockcroft                | Document No: IRG/WP/5173 |
| 4 | IRG Foundation Fund Report for 1982 by Lennart Borup and Björn Henningsson                             | Document No: IRG/WP/5176 |
| 5 | The Twelfth Report of the International Research Group on Wood Preservation 1982 - 1983 by R Cockcroft | Document No: IRG/WP/5177 |
| 6 | Applications for membership  | Document No: IRG/WP/5180 |
| 7 | Invitation to 15th Annual Meeting - Registration form  |                          |

#### ACTION

##### I OPENING OF THE MEETING

- 1 The President opened the meeting and a slight alteration to the agenda was approved.
- 2 Professor John F Levy had a message from the Princes Risborough Laboratory in the United Kingdom. Dr Tony Bravery had asked him to thank all the members of the Group who had recently written letters of support of the Laboratory during a period of indecision. The message was that PRL was still alive and well and in a few years time would move to a new site. The colleagues from PRL, who regretted their absence, all sent their greetings to the meeting.

ACTION

II APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

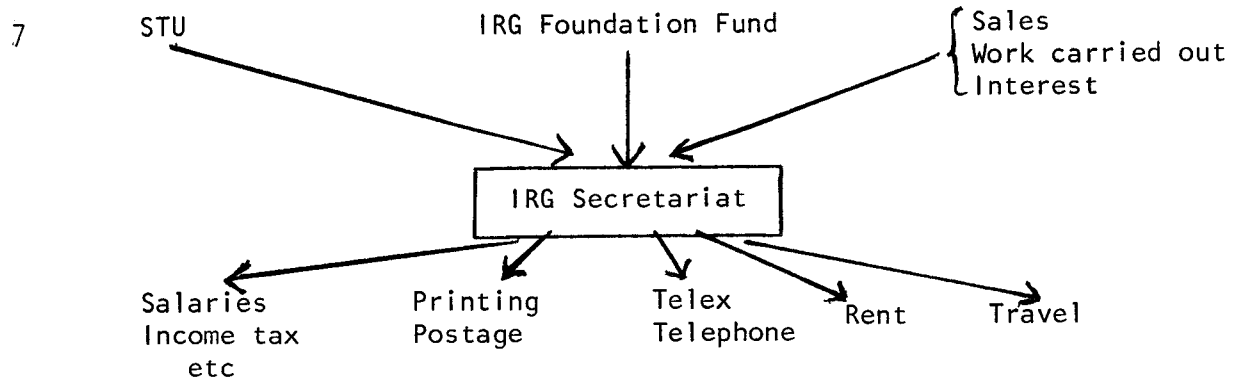
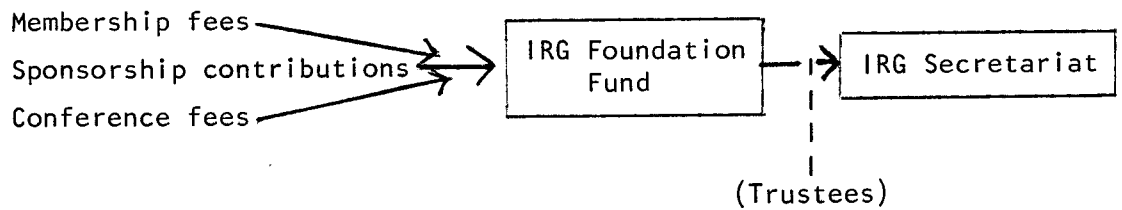
- 3 With the correction of the spelling of Ronneby Brunn, Document No: IRG/WP/5167 was approved.

III MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

- 4 The President referred to paragraphs 46 and 47 of the minutes. It was noted that there had been no specific response from sponsors re any areas of research that they felt needed attention, but the offer was still open if they wished to draw the Group's attention to any items they felt were being overlooked.
- 5 The request that Working Group Chairmen should define their objectives had been acted upon and these could be found in the Secretary's Annual Report.

IV FINANCE

- 6 Professor Björn Henningsson, for the benefit of new members, used the overhead projector to illustrate how the IRG funds were channelled.



- 8 He noted that the Secretary was not only the Secretary of the IRG, but was also responsible for a research project for the STU, the National Swedish Board for Technical Development.
- 9 He outlined the contents of Documents Nos: IRG/WP/5176 and IRG/WP/5173.
- 10 Thanks had to be expressed to the auditors who had given their time without charge.

ACTION

- 11 STU support had been secured until 30 June 1985, but at a recent meeting in Sweden it had been made quite clear that it would not be possible to continue with the project in the same way after 1 July 1985. But it had transpired that other possibilities might be discussed and he was optimistic that Sweden might be able to keep the Secretariat after this date, if the Group wished it to do so.
- 12 Coming to fees, the Finance Committee and the Executive Council had discussed these and were making the following proposals. Because of difficulties in planning ahead, it had been agreed to fix future conference fees at least two years ahead, but for 1984 these were to be held at the 1983 levels.

|                                   | <u>(1983)</u> | <u>1984</u> | <u>1985</u> |
|-----------------------------------|---------------|-------------|-------------|
| Personal membership fee           | SEK 190       | SEK 210     | not fixed   |
| Sponsorship (Recommended minimum) | SEK 1,900     | SEK 2,100   | not fixed   |
| Conference fees                   |               |             |             |
| Non-members                       | SEK 800       | SEK 800     | SEK 960     |
| Members                           | SEK 500       | SEK 500     | SEK 600     |
| with a late registration +        | SEK 200       | SEK 200     | SEK 240     |

- 13 Dr Harry Greaves, whilst having no objection to the increases proposed, and indeed thought the membership fees proposed were still low for a professional association, asked for the Group to accept the principle that a capitation fee, or a levy of some sort, could be charged by the organizers of the meeting towards its running costs.
- 14 Mr J M Baker thought that there were various ways of doing this, for example, it was very usual for a conference to separately bill the costs of any banquet or any excursion, or any ladies programme. If that were done, then the need for a capitation levy became much less pressing. Dr Greaves demurred.
- 15 Professor Björn Henningsson agreed with Dr Greaves that one could not run a conference totally on these proposed fees. It meant that one had to have some resources other than these and that was the philosophy that the Group had had upto now.
- 16 Dr John Butcher thought that the suggestion should be discussed by the Finance Committee rather than in the Plenary Meeting.
- 17 After some further discussion, it was agreed that the suggestion made by Dr Greaves should be considered by the Executive Council.
- B Henningsson
- 18 The President asked for the fees outlined above for 1984 and 1985 to be put for approval. After their adoption was proposed by Dr Harry Greaves and seconded by Professor John F Levy, the motion was carried unanimously.
- 19 The President thanked the Finance Committee Chairman for his presentation and work during the year.

## ACTION

### V APPROVAL OF APPLICATIONS FOR MEMBERSHIP

- 20 The President said that the Executive Council were recommending the approval of twenty-two further applications for membership. The names listed in Document No: IRG/WP/5180 were unanimously accepted.
- 21 He reinforced the point that the Finance Chairman had made earlier, in that as every new member cost the IRG money, more sponsors were needed. Members should ask themselves whether they had done all they could to encourage their industries and other organizations to become sponsors.

All members

### VI ANNUAL REPORT

- 22 The Secretary noted some spelling errors in Document No: IRG/WP/5177. In particular, the word 'breach' that occurred twice on pages 4 and 5 should be 'bridge'.
- 23 With these corrections, the report was approved. The President stated that it would be published in the B.W.P.A. News Sheet.\*

### VII DATES AND VENUES OF MEETINGS IN 1984 AND 1985

- 24 Mr Jöran Jermer presented a brochure that had been prepared by the IRG 15 Organizing Committee in Sweden. Visitors would be heartily welcomed to the Ronneby Brunn Conference Centre, at Ronneby, Sweden during 28 May - 1 June 1984.
- 25 Next Sr Aldo Gandolfi gave information about the meeting that was being planned to be held in Brazil in 1985. It would take place during 13 - 17 May 1985 at Guarujá in São Paulo State, about 80 km from São Paulo. Members would be met in São Paulo, a city of about 10,000,000 people. Everybody would be assured of an hospitable welcome.

### VIII MEETINGS IN 1986 AND BEYOND

- 26 The President reported that an official invitation had been received from the Ministry of Industry and Research in Paris inviting the Group to meet in France in 1986. The recommendation of the Executive Council was that this should be accepted.

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The report has been subsequently published in the B.W.P.A. News Sheet No. 172, May 1983

## ACTION

- J M Baker 27 It was agreed that the offer from France should be gratefully accepted. Mr J M Baker agreed to write to the Minister to inform him of the Group's acceptance. The venue would be made known in due course.
- 28 He continued that for 1987 the Group had agreed to meet in Vancouver, Canada. For 1988 and 1989, to follow the policy which had been adopted the previous year, the Group would be looking for venues somewhere in Europe. Any invitations should be formally addressed for consideration of the Executive Council.

## IX ELECTION OF NEW OFFICERS

- 29 The President reported that Dr Roger Smith had written to him at the end of 1982 and had regretted that for various reasons he could not take on the presidency, although he was by no means resigning from the Group and indeed hoped to support it wherever he could. Dr Smith had sent a cable apologizing for his absence and wishing the whole meeting well.
- 30 This resignation had lead the Executive Council to consider very carefully who should be the new President. He was happy to say that all the suggestions and views which had been received, both privately and collectively, had been that Professor Björn Henningsson should be asked if he would accept the position. He was happy that Björn had accepted the nomination.
- 31 The proposal was approved with unanimous acclamation.
- 32 Dr John A Butcher was elected as Vice-president.
- 33 These elections had lead to some changes being proposed in the Working Groups and the President gave the recommendations that had been proposed. These were as follows:

### Working Group I

Chairman: Dr Thomas Nilsson (Sweden)  
Vice-chairman: Dr Jeffery P Lage (U.S.A.)

### Working Group II

Chairman: Dr Hubert Willeitner (Federal Republic of Germany)  
Vice-chairman: Dr Anthony F Bravery (United Kingdom)

### Working Group III

Mr Colin R Levy (Australia) had another year as Chairman  
Vice-chairman: Dr Harry Greaves (Australia)

### Working Group III

Dr Rodney A Eaton (United Kingdom) also had another year as Chairman  
Vice-chairman: Dr Simon M Cragg (Papua New Guinea)

## ACTION

- 34 With the exception of the respective Chairmen of Working Groups III and IV, all the foregoing names were new appointments.
- 35 There were also to be changes on the Finance Committee. It was proposed that Mr Henning Friis-Hansen (Sweden) should become the new Chairman. Dr Jeffery P La Fage (U.S.A.) had already replaced Mr G B Fahlstrom who had retired and it was now proposed that Monsieur Gerald Ozanne should become a member. He would replace Professor Oscar Wälchli who had notified the Secretariat of his intention to step down.
- 36 All the appointments were formally approved with acclamation.
- 37 It was noted that Dr D J Dickinson had been co-opted to stay on the Executive Council.

## X RATIFICATION OF RESEARCH PROGRAMMES AND PROPOSALS

- 38 The President stated that a number of members had believed the present system of Working Groups and Sub-groups had served them very well for a number of years, but had wondered whether it was necessarily the best way to proceed with IRG in the present circumstances. Whilst it was true that the Plenary Meeting was the decision-making body, it was very difficult to make really sound changes during the course of instant discussion in such a meeting. It was therefore being proposed that the new President and Dr John Butcher should lead an investigation on the way forward for IRG. It would be up to them if they wished to co-opt one or two other members onto a small sub-committee.

All members

- 39 Professor Björn Henningsson agreed that it would be necessary to receive suggestions and ideas on how the structure and working of the Group might be improved. He asked members to write to either him or Dr Butcher and he promised that all ideas put forward would be considered. With the growth of the Group to the size it was today some changes were obviously necessary. He hoped however that the informal spirit within IRG that had been so beneficial up till now could be maintained.
- 40 The proposal for such an examination was approved.
- 41 Dr A J McQuire commented that in 1975 in Papua New Guinea a healthy and vigorous child had been begotten and christened the Tropical Wood Preservation Group. It had been hoped that with time this young infant would grow up and solve all its originators' problems. Some at the time thought it would have been better to have had it adopted into an already established family, such as IRG. But the proud parents had thought that it might be too influenced by the sophisticated Europeans and might never get back home again. So they had tried to rear him in the area of his conception and birth, but unfortunately he had never been adequately nourished and about four years later he had died completely.
- 42 Since then several people, including himself, had tried to influence IRG members and Executive Council members to try and form a group within IRG to accommodate the needs and special requirements

## ACTION

of those interested in tropical wood preservation. He understood that this had not received overwhelming support.

- 43 Since then he had reconsidered the idea and now felt that it was perhaps a retrograde step to try and have IRG sub-divided on any national or regional basis. What was wanted was a structure so that everybody working in wood preservation research and practice could have all their needs taken care of. Within the existing groups many of these were, such as termites, soft rot and marine borers which were covered by Working Groups I and IV. Preservatives and processes were covered by Working Group III which as indicated in the Annual Report provided a special link between tropical and temperate wood preservation. What he felt was lacking was some forum for problems of wood species effects on treatability and preservative performance. These effects were of course not limited to the tropics, but he felt that these formed the real hub of the problems encountered in tropical wood preservation.
- 44 If some re-arrangement to cover areas such as these could be made, then this would take care of the requirements of those who were formally in the Tropical Wood Preservation Group and who would like to see more work done in this part of the field.
- 45 The President thought that these were the sorts of comment that were needed and he asked again that members should write to the new President.
- 46 The existing research programmes were taken as accepted.

## XI ANY OTHER BUSINESS

- 47 The President reported that there was one item of business which the Executive Council would like to raise. There were four distinguished life-long members and it was proposed that this should be increased to five by adding to the list the name of Professor Dr Oscar Wälchli of Switzerland. Professor Wälchli had been a founder member of the Group and also its second President. He had played a notable part in the Working Groups and had served on the Finance Committee.
- J M Baker 48 It was agreed that the President should write and inform him of his election to this honour.
- J M Baker 49 Following a proposal from Dr John N R Ruddick, it was agreed that the Meeting should send a letter to Professor Dr Martin Gersonde regretting that there was no input this year from the BAM (Bundesanstalt für Materialprüfung in Berlin-Dahlem) and hoping that next year in Sweden their previous vigorous input could be developed again.
- 50 The Presidents thanked the members for their support during the years, the Australian organizers and sponsors and declared the meeting closed.