

## **Minutes of the 33<sup>rd</sup> Annual General Meeting of the New Zealand Limnological Society Inc.**

The AGM was held at the University of Canterbury, Christchurch. The meeting opened at 5.43 p.m., 20<sup>th</sup> November 2000.

**Present:** Ian Boothroyd, President  
Jon Harding, Secretary-treasurer  
and 51 members

### **1. Apologies:**

Mike Winterbourn, Graham McBride, John Green, Stuart Mitchell

*Motion:* That apologies be accepted.

*(Ian Boothroyd/Vida Stout carried).*

### **2. Minutes of the 32<sup>nd</sup> AGM:**

*Matters arising from minutes:*

- Society medal – The membership did not support the introduction of medals at this time, and it was decided that no further action would be taken at this stage.
- Student representation – This issue will be left to the in-coming committee.
- Listserv - MfE has the capability to host a listserv, and Bob Zuur offered to look into the possibilities of providing this service. The in-coming committee would liaise with MfE.

### **3. President's report:**

As I approach the fourth anniversary of my tenure as President, it is timely to reflect on the Society as it stands today, and some of the changes we have seen during that time.

The NZ Limnological Society of course, is not just the organisation that hosts an annual conference and produces a newsletter. It is one of the major sources for addressing issues of current interest to the government, and over the past four years we have written submissions to FRST on the Foresight process and the Strategic Portfolio Outlines, as well as to the Department of Conservation regarding the Biodiversity Strategy. The Society's role in influencing Government is growing – it is our collective voice.

The need to adapt to changing times is imperative: the annual conference needs to be relevant to all participants as it represents the major opportunity for transfer of research results and information as well as building relationships amongst participants. This is crucial with the changing shape of the research funding that the Government has recently announced. In this regard we now have a healthy attendance at conferences, culminating of course with the joint conference last year with the Australian Society of Limnology, a milestone for the Society. The conferences have largely changed their structure to reflect the needs of end-users, and multidisciplinary research programmes, and this is best reflected by the involvement of the Ministry of Environment and associated workshops - controversial at times, but nevertheless stimulating debate on important Limnological matters. NASWM commenced, and was largely forged through these meetings.

The state of the nation's 'brain drain' has been the focus of much media attention in recent months. The situation for limnologists remains unclear, and perhaps I am an optimist, but my experience of the last 4-6 years suggests that there is perhaps a healthier outlook for young limnologists within New Zealand – many of the students that have attended and presented at recent Limnological conferences seem to have found employment amongst the diverse range of Councils, CRIs, consultants, and government departments that exist in New Zealand. Of course, young scientists have often sought work overseas for part of their career, or at the very least, attend international conferences and gatherings. In this regard the Society is in good stead: Recent donations to the SIL 1987 Trust Fund, as well as anticipated proceeds from sales of recent publications (more below), means that funds are healthy and likely to grow further. Despite this, the SIL Trust applications for overseas travel was seriously under subscribed this year, and I urge students and their supervisors to look to this opportunity for funding. In addition, as Councilor of the Royal Society of New Zealand, I see very few applications from limnology students for the Royal Society Awards for Beginning Scientists.

The Society as whole is in a healthy financial position, with a doubling of general reserves over the past four years, largely generated from conference dividends. The effects of this are manifold, such as the support offered for the two publications this year, as well as to support students attend our own conferences.

We have also seen a greater recognition of limnologists at a national level with five members receiving Royal Society 'Research and Technology' medals over the past four years. Like most scientists, limnologists are often uncomfortable celebrating their careers and the contributions they have made. It rests upon the Society, and in particular, its executive, to make sure that the people of the freshwater sciences are recognised and well represented with all other scientists by the Government. We will discuss this point later in the meeting.

I have already mentioned the two major publications from the Society this year: the third edition of the 'Aquatic Insects Guide', and the 'New Zealand Stream Invertebrates' book. The guide continues to be the major reference for identification of aquatic insects, and forms the introduction to the discipline for many people. The publication of 'New Zealand Stream Invertebrates' represents yet another milestone for the Society, and is a major contribution to the New Zealand, and the international literature. We have of course just celebrated the publication of this book, but once again I want to thank Kevin Collier and Mike Winterbourn, and the authors for all of the efforts they have put into its publication, as well as NIWA as major sponsors of the project. I trust you all have a copy on your shelves already!

Several challenges lie ahead – the changing focus of government research funding to high export value, biotechnology-orientated outputs, the disinvestment process, the need for industry partnerships, the call for greater collaboration and multidisciplinary programmes, the substantial decrease in funding for research on lakes in New Zealand– the Society will need to be actively engaged in debate and lobbying in all of these arenas.

During my tenure as President I have benefited from the dedication and vision of two consecutive secretary-treasurers, and I extend my grateful thanks to Kevin Collier and Jon Harding for their hard working efforts during this time. The secretary-treasurers role is a demanding one, and is a key to the smooth running of the Society.

So overall I see the Society and limnology as whole in a healthy state but with some challenges to overcome in the near future. I am confident that the incoming Committee will continue to represent the membership and improve the profile of the Society.

Best wishes to you all.

Ian Boothroyd

*Motion:* That the President's report be accepted.  
(John Quinn/Carolyn Burns carried).

*Motion:* That Ian be thanked for his contribution as President of the Society, and his efforts to further the profile of New Zealand Limnology.  
(Carolyn Burns/Bob Zuur carried).

#### 4. Secretary/Treasurer's report:

##### *Membership:*

Total membership at October 2000 was 335, compared with 326 in November 1999. Membership figures for the last four years are shown in Table 1 & 2. In general, membership is gradually rising with a steady increase in student/unwaged members.

An effort has been made to reduce membership-in-arrears and unpaid membership, however this continues to be a problem as many members wait until the Conference (which is half-way through the financial year) to pay their subscription.

Table 1. Financial status of membership

	2000	1999	1998	1997	1996
<b>Members current:</b>					
Paid	144	120	175	179	132
Unpaid	48	145			
<b>Members in arrears:</b>					
1 yr	80	20	65	39	67
2 yr	24	18	33	29	58
3 yr	18	3	6	36	6
<b>Other:</b>					
Honorary	9	9	9	8	7
Legal req.*	1	(1)	(1)	(1)	(1)
Societies	2	2	3	3	-
Libraries	9	9	9	9	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>335</b>	<b>326</b>	<b>301</b>	<b>303</b>	<b>270</b>

\* Not a member

Table 2. Type of membership

	2000	1999	1998	1997	1996
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Ordinary	228	228	219	214	209
Corporate	25	25	25	26	7
Honorary	9	9	9	8	7
Unwaged/student	71	62	47	52	44
Other (Societies)	2	2	3	3	3

*Finances:*

- The accounts were Audited by Adrian Parlane, Accountant at the Cawthron Institute.
- The Society ended the financial year with an operating surplus of \$4,311. As indicated in the Auditors statement the Auditor is unable to offer an opinion on the financial statements of the Society. This has been a re-occurring situation which may be at least partially rectified by requiring the Conference Committee to provide audited accounts of the Conference.
- We have one term deposit the combined Jolly Fund with \$17,819
- The Current Account as at 25 October 2000 was at \$8,699.54
- Stream invertebrate book sales – The Society & NIWA provided \$26,833.87 for the production of 750 copies of the Stream Invertebrate Book. Of this NIWA's invested funds provided \$19,836.40 and the Society contributed \$6,997.47. The book was released in September and to date \$2,228.45 has been banked from sales. The Society needs to sell approximately 140 books to break even.
- The financial status of the Society each year invariably hinges on the success or otherwise of the Annual Conference. This becomes particularly important when the Conference is an expensive one.

*Motion:* That Conference organizing committees be required to supply audited accounts after each Conference to the Society.

*(Jon Harding/Neil Deans carried)*

Table 4. Comparison of the Conference costs compared to the Societies income & expenditure.

	<b>1999-00</b>	<b>1998-99</b>	<b>1997-98</b>	<b>1996-97</b>	<b>1995-96</b>
<b>Society's Income</b>	44,537	19,971	18,472	30,700	10,478
Expenditure	40,226	17,651	21,259	21,336	13,381
<b>Profit/loss</b>	4,311	2,320	(2,787)	9,364	(2,903)
<b>Conference</b>					
Income	36,690	11,280	11,040	22,748	7,064
Expenditure	36,678	9,927	15,202	17,100	6,455
<i>Profit/loss</i>	12	1,353	(4,162)	5,648	609
<b>Conference as % total</b>					
Income	82%	56%	59%	74%	67%
Expenditure	91%	56%	71%	80%	48%

- **Auditor**

The new Auditor will need to be approached by the incoming Secretary

*Motion:* That the Society Accounts for 1999-2000 be accepted.

*(Neil Deans/Carolyn Burns carried)*

**5. SIL Trust report**

Kit Rutherford presented a report on the status of the SIL Fund. An anonymous donation was made to the Trust of \$20,000.

*Motion:* That the Society official thanks the donator for their very generous contribution to the Trust.

*(Bob McDowell/Jonet Ward carried)*

**6. Election of Limnological Society Officers**

- President – Jon Harding was nominated

*(Kevin Collier/Brian Sorrell)*

*Motion:* That nominations be closed

*(Ann Chapman/Carolyn Burns carried)*

- Secretary/treasurer – Brian Sorrell was nominated

*(Jon Harding/Mike Scarsbrook)*

*Motion:* That nominations be closed

*(Richard Allibone/Carolyn Burns carried)*

- Committee members –

Russell Death was nominated

*(Ian Boothroyd/Carolyn Burns)*

Philippe Gerbeaux was nominated

*(Ian Boothroyd/Jonet Ward)*

*Motion:* That nominations be closed

*(Colin Townsend/Brian Sorrell carried)*

- Newsletter Editor – Roger Young was nominated

*(Ian Boothroyd/Murray Neilson)*

- Website Manager – Stephanie Parkyn was nominated

*(Mike Scarsbrook/Greg Burrell)*

- SIL Awards Committee representatives – John Stark & Mike Winterbourn were approached, and agreed to continue.

**7. Future Conferences**

- The 2001 Conference will be held in Palmerston North. Russell Death has volunteered to Chair the Conference committee.
- The 2002 Conference will probably be held in Hokitika.
- The 2003 Conference may be a joint one in Australia with the ASL.

**8. General Business**

- Revisions of Awards Committee functions – The meeting discussed extending the functions of the Committee to include recommending nominations for Royal Society Medals, and any other national and international awards that might be appropriate from time to time. The membership agreed that the Committee should take over this role.
- Society policy on submissions – the meeting discussed the need for the Society to make written submissions on national issues, policy statements etc. It was agreed that the Executive would continue to co-ordinate that role and would canvas members through the listserver and approach appropriate individuals.
- National Wetland Trust - has been formed and several Society members are Trustees. The Trust will seek to encourage wetland preservation and research and is building up funds to support this.

- Honorary life members – Dr Robert McDowall and Professor Michael Winterbourn were elected honorary life members for their outstanding contributions to New Zealand Limnology.

Meeting closed 7.30pm.