

**Minutes of the 35th Annual General Meeting
of the
New Zealand Limnological Society Inc.**

The AGM was held at Shantytown, West Coast. The meeting opened at 17.10 hrs, 12th November 2002.

Present: Jon Harding, President
Brian Sorrell, Secretary-treasurer
and 52 members

1. Apologies:
Bob Zuur, Jonet Ward.

Motion: That apologies be accepted. (*Jon Harding/Chris Richmond carried*).

2. Minutes of the 34th AGM:

Matters arising from minutes:

- These were dealt with under general business.

Motion: That minutes be accepted as a true and correct record of the 34th A.G.M. (*B. Sorrell/K. Rutherford carried*)

3. President's report:

2002 seems to have been a relatively busy year for the Society with several issues on-going. Early on in 2002 I held an e-poll on our Society's distribution list regarding the issue of Accreditation. As I indicated in the Newsletter a significant number of members considered this issue worthy of investigation. Since then Ian Boothroyd has chaired an ad hoc sub-committee on this issue and we will hear from Ian later in this meeting.

As many of you will be aware next year we are committed to a joint Conference with the Australian Limnological Society. In order to encourage attendance at this Conference the Executive has agreed to allocate \$10000 of our Reserves to support student travel to this joint Conference. We envisage that this should be sufficient to pay for the airfares of about 20 students.

During the course of the year I have been approached by several Scientific Societies suggesting possible joint conferences in the future, furthermore the Royal Society is also discussing the idea of holding Scientific Congresses which might provide a venue for Constituent Societies to hold their Conferences. As a Society we have traditionally made an effort to hold a LimSoc only conference every alternative year, and it is probably an appropriate time to assess the members' feelings on this policy.

Some years ago Bob McDowall was invited to give the annual Cawthron Lecture in Nelson, and during his presentation Bob noted the fact that New Zealand's freshwater fauna has been noticeably absent from New Zealand Postage stamps. During much of the year I have been in discussion with NZ Post, and I am happy to announce that NZ Post have decided to issue a

Commerative coin next year which will feature the Giant Kokopu. They have also indicated their interest in producing a native fish stamps series in subsequent years.

Recently we have also been in discussions with members of the NZ Hydrological Society concerning the idea of producing a joint text book(s) which would update the information in "Waters of NZ", "Inland waters of NZ", and "NZ Lakes". This book might consist of 2 volumes, one on lentic systems and one on lotic systems. It would be jointly funded by our Societies and would include a wide range chapters many of which might be co-authored by hydrologists and limnologists.

This year is an election year for Society Officers, and I will not be seeking re-election as President. I would like to thank the Society for giving me the opportunity to represent you over the last two years.

Finally, I would like to public thank Brian (who actually does most of work) and the other members of the Executive who have made running the Society so easy.

I move from the Chair that this report be accepted.

Motion: That the President's report be accepted. (*Jon Harding/Carried*).

4. Secretary/Treasurer's report:

Membership:

Total membership at 2 November 2002 was 356, compared with 369 in November 2001. Membership figures for the last four years are shown in Table 1 & 2. The small decrease is because we have been very strict this year in applying the policy of deleting members from the database if they have not paid for 3 years, following last year's lenient policy of offering an arrears amnesty. Because of the amnesty, all members in arrears are listed as '1 yr in arrears' in Table 1. However, this figure includes 20 members who have not paid for 3 yrs and who will be deleted at the end of the financial year if they do not pay by then, and 16 members who have not paid for 2 yrs. Happily, the number of paid-up members is similar to last year and higher than at the same time in the preceding three years.

The deletion of unfinancial members has been offset by the addition of 21 new members since November 2001 (6 student/unwaged and 15 ordinary). Table 3 is a profile of the membership by time since joining the Society.

Finances:

The accounts were audited by Stephen Dine of Brown Webb Richardson Ltd., Hastings.

The Society ended the financial year with an operating surplus of \$19886. Most of this is from profits of the Christchurch and Palmerston North conferences (total \$9273, less \$2000 seeding funds for Palmerston North), which were both received during the 2001/02 year. Subscription payments (\$6799) were also improved over previous years.

We have one term deposit, the combined Jolly Fund, with \$42,388.43, a large increase on the figure of \$30,558 at the same time last year, due to this income. The Current Account as at 1

November 2001 was at \$23,928.19, reflecting a good return on this year's subs mailout. A further \$10,000 will be transferred to the term deposit when it next matures (January 2003). Sales of the invertebrate book banked during 2001/02 were \$6322.

The Society is now GST-registered and all subs and domestic invertebrate book sales include GST at 12.5%. Overseas book sales are zero-rated and donations and interest are exempt. We were liable for GST in both 2001/02 and 2000/01, and our net payment of GST to IRD for that 2-year period was \$913.68 plus \$820.25 penalties. The overall effect of GST on our finances is relatively small.

Table 1. Financial status of membership

	2002	2001	2000	1999	1998
Members current:					
Paid	216	219	144	120	175
Unpaid	59	127	48	145	
Members in arrears:					
1 yr	55	-	80	20	65
2 yr	-	-	24	18	33
3 yr	-	-	18	3	6
Other:					
Honorary	11	11	9	9	9
Legal req.*	1	1	1	1	1
Societies	5	2	2	2	3
Libraries	9	9	9	9	9
Total	356	369	335	326	301

* Not a member

Table 2. Type of membership

	2002	2001	2000	1999	1998
Ordinary	251	247	228	228	219
Corporate	23	27	25	25	25
Honorary	11	11	9	9	9
Unwaged/student	66	82	71	62	47
Other (Societies)	5	2	2	2	3

Table 3. Profile of membership by joining date.

< 1 yr	1 – 5 yrs	6 – 10 yrs	11 – 15 yrs	16 – 20 yrs	21 – 30 yrs	30+ yrs*
21	142	62	24	28	31	28

* Includes 7 founder members.

Income Tax:

On 1 October RSNZ approved our application to be recognized as a tax-exempt scientific promotion society under Section CB4(1) of the Income Tax Act. The application is now with I.R.D., who have the final say on whether this is approved, and on approval of our request to change our balance date to 30 June.

Motion: That the Society Accounts for 2001/02 be accepted. (*Brian Sorrell/Ian Boothroyd – carried*).

Motion: That there be a special vote of thanks to the Secretary/Treasurer for the work involved in pursuing the tax-free status. (*Jaap Jasperse – carried*).

Motion: That the Auditor for the next financial year be Stephen Dine, Brown Webb Richardson Ltd., Hastings. (*Brian Sorrell/Chris Richmond – carried*).

5. SIL Trust report

Treasurer's report tabled.

The adequacy of the sums being awarded to support Travel Awards was raised, and the need to either wind up or augment the Trust debated. It was agreed that the Trust Awards are worthwhile and prestigious and that the Society should continue to support them rather than winding up the Trust, and that awards of \$2500 are the minimum to allow the Trust to achieve its goals.

Motion: That the Executive be responsible for deciding each year how much of the Society's funds should be donated to the Trust. (*Jon Harding/Jaap Jasperse – carried*).

6. Election of Limnological Society Officers

The following officers were nominated and duly elected:

- *President:* Nominations Neil Deans (*Angus McIntosh/Dave Speirs*).
Motion: Nominations close (Ian Boothroyd/Philippe Gerbeaux carried)

Neil Deans elected President unopposed.

- *Secretary/Treasurer:* Nominations Brian Sorrell (*Ian Boothroyd/Carolyn Burns*).
Motion: Nominations close (Kit Rutherford/Chris Richmond carried)

Brian Sorrell elected Secretary/Treasurer unopposed.

- *Committee Officers:* Nominations John Maxted (*Neil Deans/Philippe Gerbeaux*); Ian Boothroyd (*Kit Rutherford/ Lindsay Chadderton*)
Motion: Nominations close (John Stark/Jon Harding carried)

John Maxted and Ian Boothroyd elected Committee Officers unopposed.

- *Newsletter editor:* Mike Winterbourn (*Jon Harding/Ian Boothroyd*).
Motion: Nominations close (Jon Harding/Ian Boothroyd carried)

Mike Winterbourn elected Newsletter Editor unopposed.

Motion: That Roger Young be thanked for his editing of the newsletter. (*Jon Harding – carried*).

- *S.I.L. Representatives:* Nominations John Stark (*Jon Harding/Lindsay Chadderton*); Mike Scarsbrook (*Kit Rutherford/Steph Parkyn*)
Motion: Nominations close (Chris Richmond/Philippe Gerbeaux carried)

John Stark and Mike Scarsbrook elected S.I.L. Representatives unopposed.

Steph Parkyn continues as a co-opted member as website manager.

7. Future Conferences

The 2003 joint Conference will be hosted in Australia at Warrnambool, Victoria by the Australian Society for Limnology. ASL President Andrew Boulton presented information to members about the venue and travel and accommodation logistics during the conference, and offered assistance from ASL in providing letters of support and possibly financial help to LimSoc members. LimSoc members were invited to contact Andrew for any assistance required. The Executive has also committed \$10000 of Society funds to provide travel support for NZ-based student members to attend the conference.

The 2004 Conference will be held in the Auckland region. Ian Boothroyd and John Maxted have volunteered to form the Conference Committee.

Following the usual procedure, the 2005 conference should be held in the South Island.

The frequency of joint and LimSoc-only conferences was discussed. The benefits of LimSoc meeting alone were emphasised and it was agreed that at a minimum each alternate conference should be held alone. The need for timing to allow attendance by University-based members was re-emphasised.

8. General Business

- **Life Membership:** Following the constitutional amendments made by postal referendum, the new category of Life Membership, whereby payment of one single sum confers life membership on an individual, has been created. Life Membership is distinct from Honorary Membership, which is a complimentary membership awarded to distinguished members. There was an extensive discussion of the appropriate fee for Life Membership.

Motion: That the fee for Life Membership be set at 25 years of the Annual Subs for Ordinary membership (currently \$1000). (*Neil Deans/Lindsay Chadderton - carried*).

- **Registration of Freshwater Biologists –** Ian Boothroyd presented the results of the survey carried out by the sub-committee, gauging interest from users of freshwater information in the idea of registration. There was little interest in the idea and the

meeting agreed that the survey indicated that there was little need for such accreditation.

Motion: That the idea of Registration of Freshwater Biologists be abandoned. (Bob McDowall/Philippe Gerbeaux - carried).

- Joint Freshwater Textbooks with HydroSoc: The President discussed a proposal from the Hydrological Society for LimSoc and HydroSoc to collaborate on the production of freshwater textbooks that would update the earlier *Inland Waters of New Zealand* and *Waters of New Zealand* books. A preliminary outline of a two-volume set (one lotic volume, one lentic volume) was discussed, with members volunteering their time for writing and both Societies funding production costs. Ways of defraying costs, including having a web-based resource, were discussed, and it was agreed that the idea should be pursued further by the Executive in discussion with HydroSoc. Jaap Jasperse volunteered to assist with the discussions.
- Resource Material to General Public and Schools: Dave Speirs asked for interest from members in developing resource materials such as posters for the general public and schools, with sponsorship covering production costs. Suggested topics included fish, invertebrates, and native aquatic plants. *Action:* The Executive to follow up this issue.
- RSNZ Journals: The changes in policy for the RSNZ journals were discussed, particularly the implication of page charges. *Action:* An official letter to be sent by the Executive to RSNZ outlining the Society's concerns.
- ASL President Andrew Boulton formally thanked the Society for the S.I.L. Trust Guest Lecturer award that supported his visit and for the Society's hospitality during the conference.

Meeting closed 19.25 hrs.