

**Minutes of the 36th Annual General Meeting
of the
New Zealand Limnological Society Inc.**

The AGM was held at Deakin University, Warrnambool, Australia. The meeting opened at 13.05 hrs, 3rd December 2003.

Present: Neil Deans, President
Brian Sorrell, Secretary-treasurer
and 34 members

1. Apologies:

Ian Boothroyd, Caroline Burns, Clive Howard-Williams, Jonet Ward, Mike Winterbourn, Roger Young.

Motion: That apologies be accepted. *(Neil Deans/John Stark carried)*

2. Minutes of the 35th AGM:

Motion: That minutes be accepted as a true and correct record of the 35th A.G.M. *(J. Harding/Dave Rowe carried)*

3. Matters arising from minutes:

- Life membership: This new category of membership, passed at the 35th A.G.M., has been on offer for the first time in 2003/04. No members have paid life membership yet.
- Page charges for RSNZ journals: The page charges proposed by RSNZ have been established – an email from Steve Thompson says that this is now a ‘done deal’. RSNZ has carried out an external review of costs and resolved to dissolve the paid Editor positions of journals. **Action:** Neil Deans to consult with Bob McDowall about any possible further response from the Society.

4. President’s report:

It is with great pleasure that I present my first annual report to the Limnological Society membership for the 2003 year at our Annual Conference.

Membership

Membership remains healthy with a slight increase to 359 members at the time of writing. The Society exists to promote and provide an opportunity for those with an interest in freshwater sciences to interact and learn. The interest in, and need within society for, freshwater science is increasing, at all levels. Student memberships stand at 50, reflecting a healthy interest, while many recent graduates are readily able to find employment given the

current economic climate or continue into post graduate research. Research opportunities are generally good, both at research institutions and universities.

Financial Statements

The Society remains in good financial heart. Even with the transfer of \$10 000.00 to the SIL Trust for disbursement for Society members attending overseas conferences and the support for 10 students to attend the 2003 conference in Victoria, the Society's accounts stand at some \$60 000.00. The Society, from last year's conference, has commitments in the production of the freshwater textbook and in the production of posters (see below).

I wish to make a vote of thanks to Society Secretary and Treasurer, Dr Brian Sorrell, for all his voluntary efforts at managing the accounts and also the secretarial duties.

Joint Freshwater Textbook in production with Hydrological Society

Immediate Past President Dr Jon Harding and Society Secretary Dr Brian Sorrell have been intimately involved with the editorial production of the textbook, together with Charles Pearson and Dr Paul Mosley from the Hydrological Society. Many of the Society's members have been invited to contribute chapters on particular topics for the book, which is intended to run to more than 40 chapters. The book updates earlier reviews on the state of our freshwater sciences and its size will be a reflection on the extension of our knowledge in the last 10 years or so in New Zealand. It is aimed at anyone working in the freshwater field, from the senior student to researchers and will be an essential reference for those involved in freshwater management. It is at the stage of editing and will be expected next year, which we await with interest.

Limnological Society Poster Production

David Spiers has been producing posters for production by the Society. One is on native freshwater fish and the other on macroinvertebrates, which we hope will be produced for distribution shortly. Given the importance of freshwater themes in education, these posters and possibly others which might be produced are likely to be popular with schools and raise both the profile of limnology and the Society.

Royal Society Relations and Freshwater Conference

The Limnological Society is a constituent society of the Royal Society of NZ, the umbrella body for all science in the country. An annual meeting of Presidents of the constituent societies was held in Wellington on 13 June, at which topics of interest to all scientists and societies were discussed. The relationship between the constituent societies and the Royal Society was once again a topic of discussion. Professor Carolyn Burns, a Fellow of the Royal Society and longstanding member of the Limnological Society, has been elected President of the Academy Council, which considers matters of academic interest across all the sciences represented by the Royal Society. Our congratulations go to Carolyn for this recognition.

The Royal Society held a conference on Freshwaters in Auckland on 13 and 14 November, in recognition of the International Year of Freshwaters. The Society was not involved in the organization of this conference except for Professor Carolyn Burns' role in the organizing

committee. Speakers were invited from a variety of sources, including from overseas and leading figures in water resource management. Some speakers were well able to pose or respond to the difficult issues over the future of freshwater management. The only speaker with a significant limnological research background was Dr Clive Howard-Williams, who managed to summarise the state of our freshwater science understanding to a non-limnological audience succinctly in a mere 30 minutes. The conference was timely, since the Government is debating the future of water management (see below).

2002 Limnological Society Annual Conference, Shantytown, West Coast

Congratulations to Dr Phillippe Gerbeaux and his team at the hugely successful conference held at Shantytown in the last week of November 2002. Record numbers of 187 delegates and of papers presented, as well as a well organized conference in the new buildings at Shantytown provided an excellent ambience for discussions on freshwater matters.

2003 Limnological Society Joint Annual Conference with ASL at Warrnambool

For the first time we are holding our conference offshore, in a joint congress with our Australian colleagues in the ASL at Warrnambool, in Victoria, Australia. This is intended to be an event every 4 years, and follows the very successful conference held in 1999 at Wairakei, jointly with the ASL. Registrations for the conference closed early in September after a sudden and unprecedented demand, which was unfortunate as only 40 Limsoc members were able to be accommodated out of the 250 or so attending. For those who are able to attend, we look forward to a stimulating congress and opportunity to compare once again the similarities and differences in the freshwater environments, research and management on either side of the Tasman Sea.

Royal Society Bronze Medal for John Quinn

Longstanding Limsoc member Dr John Quinn of NIWA has been acknowledged by the Royal Society with a Bronze Medal for his contribution to science, particularly in the promotion of science in the community. John has led a team investigating the effects of land use on freshwater environments based in the Waikato at NIWA for many years. John's particular contribution, in addition to his research, has been his role appearing in TV programmes such as 'No 8 Wired', in which he has succeeded in presenting material on freshwater topics of general public appeal. Congratulations John and we look forward to making a presentation of your medal at a suitable occasion in the company of your colleagues and fellow Limsoc members.

Government's Sustainable Development Programme of Action includes Water

While not trumpeted from the rooftops, Government initiatives are progressing in its Sustainable Development Programme of Action. One of the four major themes is freshwater management. Two others, on Sustainable Cities and Energy, may affect water ways in a variety of ways. Of the water programme, the main efforts are going into water allocation issues, land use effects on water bodies and identifying waters of national importance. A number of Society members are likely to be involved in this process, by provision of technical or policy advice.

Research Funding

Concerns have been raised by some University staff in particular over the process to access funds for public good type research. Concerns have been raised over how accessible the process now is for smaller scale researchers. It is unclear whether this is a widespread perception or limited only to a few. If it is to be followed up, more examples may need to be brought to light.

World Wetlands Day and New Zealand Freshwater Day

The year 2003 has been the International Year of Freshwater. With the exception of the Hydrological Society celebration of Freshwater Day at the end of October and the annual celebration of World Wetlands Day in February, public awareness of the significance of water in our lives and the wider environment has been minimal. Government is well aware of the importance of water, having identified freshwater management as a key issue for development of government policy (see above). Should your Society be making more of an issue of such events? If so, what do you suggest and how should we make it happen? Alternatively are we best to avoid the limelight and stick to our core business of providing a forum for freshwater science. Please let the Executive know if you have any views on this topic.

Water Information Directory

The Hydrological Society has been funded by the Ministry for the Environment to produce a meta-database on freshwater, called the Water Information Directory. Dr Ian Boothroyd has been commissioned to oversee the project, which is now available on a trial basis at www.wid.org.nz. Many Society members have been consulted in developing the database, both in its development and in getting appropriate information on to the database. It will be interesting to see what use the database gets and whether it can readily be maintained.

In summary, I am pleased to report the Society in good heart, continuing to serve the interests of its members given the major issues and challenges for those involved in the freshwater research and management fields.

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

5. Secretary/Treasurer's report:

Membership:

Total membership at 22 November 2003 was 358, compared with 356 in November 2001. Membership figures for the last four years are shown in Table 1 & 2. Total membership is similar to last year. The higher number of unpaid members than at the same time last year probably reflects the later subs mailout this year after the change of our balance date from 30 March to 30 June. Total numbers in arrears are similar to previous years and include 15 who will be deleted if they do not pay this year. A follow-up reminder will be sent to all unpaid/in arrears members shortly.

There have been 23 new members joining since November 2002 (14 student/unwaged and 9 ordinary).

Table 1. Financial status of membership

	2003	2002	2001	2000	1999
Members current:					
Paid	162	216	219	144	120
Unpaid	109	59	127	48	145
Members in arrears:					
1 yr	34	55	-	80	20
2 yr	12	-	-	24	18
3 yr	15	-	-	18	3
Other:					
Honorary	11	11	11	9	9
Legal req.*	1	1	1	1	1
Societies	5	5	2	2	2
Libraries	9	9	9	9	9
Total	358	356	369	335	326

* Not a member

Table 2. Type of membership

	2003	2002	2001	2000	1999
Ordinary	249	251	247	228	228
Corporate	22	23	27	25	25
Honorary	11	11	11	9	9
Unwaged/student	71	66	82	71	62
Other (Societies)	5	5	2	2	2

Finances:

- The accounts were audited by Stephen Dine of Brown Webb Richardson Ltd, Hastings.
- I.R.D. approved our application for change in balance date from 30 March to 30 June, meaning that we ran 2002/03 as a 15-month year. Finances for this year differ slightly from other years for this reason.
- The Society ended the financial year with an operating surplus of \$6,472. The success of the Shantytown conference (profit of \$2135) was an important component of this, as were invertebrate book (\$1022) and bulletin (\$1010) sales. Subscription payments (total \$8827) were a record figure, thanks largely to recovery of a large amount of arrears (\$862).
- We have one term deposit, the combined Jolly Fund, with \$44,522.96 at 1 November 2003. The Current Account at 1 November 2003 was at \$14,135.16
- A feature of expenditure for 2002/03 were the payments and penalties of outstanding GST for the two years we should have been GST-registered and income tax for 2001/02 (total \$5534). Other major expenditure includes two RSNZ subscriptions (\$550 each) falling in the same year due to our change in balance date, and our fee of \$400 to RSNZ for application for tax-free status.

- I.R.D. are still processing our application for tax-free status. They have a recommendation letter from RSNZ recommending that we be approved. It is likely that some additional income tax and interest will have to be paid for the 2002 year during which the application was in process.
- Following the 2002 AGM, the Society has embarked on a programme of expenditure to carry out activities meeting our aims. Expenditure since 30 June 2003 and not shown in the financial report includes (i) transfer of \$10000 from the Society funds to the SIL Trust Fund and (ii) \$5000 used to support ten students for travel to the Australian conference. Other planned expenditure is \$4500 for the freshwater resource posters produced by Dave Speirs and \$10000 for the Freshwaters of New Zealand textbook.

Motion: That the Society Accounts for 2002/03 be accepted. (*Brian Sorrell/Lindsay Chadderton– carried*).

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

6. SIL Trust report

Treasurer's report tabled.

7. Freshwaters of New Zealand Textbook

Jon Harding reported that the book will be going to press in 2004. It is likely to have 47 chapters and be in the order of 800 – 1000 pages. Most chapters have been received and are currently at least in draft form. The book will be sold on a 50:50 profit-share deal with the NZ Hydrological Society.

8. Fish and Invertebrate Posters

The Secretary/Treasurer provided a report provided by Dave Speirs on progress with the posters. The fish poster has been produced and refereed by members, with the invertebrate poster to follow shortly. The quote for printing 1750 A1 size of each poster (matte finish on recycled poster paper) is \$4500, which is the sum the Society has earmarked for this venture. Dave is keen to get volunteers from our major organisations to assist with distribution. *Action:* Dave Speirs and Brian Sorrell to contact members to assist with distribution once the posters are printed.

9. Future Conferences

- John Maxted reported on progress in organising the 2004 conference in the Auckland region, November 2004. A venue at a resort on Waiheke Island has been secured, with plenty of space for plenary talks and parallel sessions. Transport is likely to be available to get delegates to the Waiheke ferry from the airport. Field trips have also been organised.

- 2005: Jon Harding and Angus McIntosh volunteered to organise the 2005 conference in Canterbury, possibly at Hanmer Springs.

10. General Business

- Name of Society: There was extensive discussion about a possible name change for the Society, a matter investigated in the mid-1990s and not resolved. Issues included whether the current name was helpful, especially in communicating our science and broadening the appeal of the Society. After discussion, the name “New Zealand Freshwater Sciences Society” was agreed as a suitable suggestion. It was also suggested that the logo could also be re-examined.

Motion: That the legal and other issues surrounding a name change be investigated as a matter of urgency, and a proposal produced. (*Neil Deans/Barry Biggs carried*). **Action:** Neil Deans to follow up.

- Policy: The possibility was discussed of the Society producing policy documents for freshwater issues, similar to those produced by the Australian society. Associated with this was the Society providing press releases, and what mechanism should be in place for this, and making submissions to government. Several members raised the distinction between the Society being advocates for a position or providing advice, and that the latter should remain its function. Another possibility was collaboration with the Australian society on matters of common interest. **Action:** The Executive to come back to the membership with suggestions.
- Awards: The question of whether the Society should have awards for its professional members as well as students was raised. The purpose of such awards would be to celebrate the achievements of members. **Action:** The Executive to come back to the membership with suggestions.
- World Wetlands Day: Philippe Gerbeaux reminded members that World Wetlands Day is held every February 2nd, and that the Society could provide publicity material at WWD events.
- Coin: Jon Harding reminded members about the special \$5 fish coin that was produced in 2002.

Meeting closed 14.45 hrs.