

Minutes of the 55th Annual General Meeting
of the
New Zealand Freshwater Sciences Society Incorporated
Held in Tāmaki Makaurau/Auckland and online via Zoom
Wednesday 23 November 2022

The Annual General Meeting commenced at 12:55 pm and was chaired by Kate McArthur, President.

Present: Kate McArthur (President) and 48 voting members.

1. Welcome and Apologies

Apologies: Carolyn Burns, Jonathan Puddick, Kristy Hogsden, Natasha Petrove, Neil Deans, Raymond Chang

2. Minutes of the 54th AGM circulated

Motion from the Chair: That the minutes be accepted as a true and correct record of the 54th AGM (Kate McArthur/ Jenny Webster Brown– *carried*)

3. Matters arising

No matters arising

4. President's report [Kate McArthur]

Tēnā koutou katoa,

So long and thanks for all the fish...

When I started as NZFSS President in 2019, little did I know that three out of my four years in the role would be spent in a global pandemic and that we would be dealing with more than one simultaneous existential crisis bubbling along as the backdrop to our lives! However, whilst I am very much looking forward to handing over the reins and juggling a little less frantically the demands of family, consultancy and the presidency, I look back over these four years with some satisfaction and much gratitude.

2022 was a year in which I saw and experienced many members stretched to their limits as we attempted to make up for covid disruptions and to manage our way through yet more tricky times.

The executive team once more worked hard on your behalf, meeting online throughout the year. I have been well-supported by their excellent advice and very much encouraged by their enthusiasm throughout my time as President. We have spent our time this year organising two simultaneous conferences, updating awards processes and judging, awarding scholarships and prizes, creating the inaugural NZFSS mentoring programme, and building a new and independent website (at very short notice and high speed).

I'm proud of the efforts we have made as a team on behalf of the Society, and I sincerely thank every one of the executive team (and the other members who have assisted with various projects) for their commitment to getting on with the mahi, always in a very professional and supportive manner. I'd particularly like to acknowledge the long service of Amy Whitehead for her many years as Secretary/Treasurer, a role which has taken a significant portion of time over recent years, particularly prior to the separation into two roles and some streamlining of membership and accounting processes, I could not have got through the last four years without Amy's critical support, humour and knowledge of the Society's running. A special mention also to Natasha Grainger and Mary de Winton as our NZFSS representatives on the SIL Trust Awards Committee for many years – my thanks to you both.

I look forward to supporting the new executive team as immediate past president over the next two years and to seeing what new directions the Society might take in the future.

Te Wai Māori Rōpū

Te Wai Māori Rōpū continue to sustain the Society's network of experts and practitioners in indigenous science and mātauranga Māori, again providing critical support to me and the executive team this year whilst again being hampered by the inability to network kanohi ki te kanohi. I would particularly like to acknowledge and thank Yvonne Taura for her time and dedication to administering the rōpū and Joanne Clapcott for her leadership alongside Ian Kusabs over the last four years. It has been a privilege to work alongside and be supported by the rōpū leadership and membership.

Scholarships, NZFSS Medal and Honorary Membership Awards

Our third year of He Manawā-ā-Whenua and NZFSS freshwater research post-graduate scholarships of \$7,500 were awarded for 2022 to Alyssa Thomas (HMAW) and Caitlin Wheeler (NZFSS). Congratulations to you both!

The Awards Committee are pleased to announce Ton Snelder will receive the 2022 NZFSS Medal for his outstanding contributions to freshwater science. Congratulations Ton, we look forward to your plenary in Brisbane in 2023.

The membership voted unanimously to accept the executive committee's nomination of Philippe Gerbeaux as an honorary NZFSS member in recognition of his services to freshwater sciences, particularly wetland science and conservation and for his contributions to the Society. Philippe has been a past NZFSS executive committee member and on the organising committee of two very successful conferences: INTECOL 2021 and Shantytown 2002, which many will remember fondly. Philippe retired from DOC earlier in 2022 but continues to advocate for wetland conservation and wetland science. Congratulations Philippe on this much deserved recognition!

Best Student Paper 2022

This year's best student paper is awarded to Andrew Watson for his paper entitled Interacting effects of density and temperature on fish growth rates in protected freshwater populations.

Congratulations Andrew. As has been the case for as many years as I have been involved the judging was very close across all applicants, showing the very high calibre of work undertaken by NZFSS student members – well done to you all.

NZFSS Mentoring Programme

This year the NZFSS initiated a mentoring scheme, where mentors and mentees were matched and then encouraged to have sessions to work through goals of the mentee. The scheme was set up in the same way as the successful system used by the NZ Ecology Society. Mentoring can be a really satisfying way of giving back to the freshwater society through supporting the challenges faced by those earlier on in their career. Having a mentor can be beneficial in just having another freshwater minded person to bounce ideas around. A call will go out for expressions of interest for participants in this scheme again next year. In the meanwhile, anyone interested in putting their name forward, please contact Rosemary Miller (rmiller@doc.govt.nz). Many thanks to Rosemary for setting up the programme and volunteering once more to take it on in 2023.

Future conferences – submit your abstract and register for Brisbane 2023 now!

Despite ongoing challenges resulting from the pandemic and following our hiatus to in-person meetings in 2021, we managed to hold an in-person meeting, alongside the NZ Marine Sciences Society in Tāmaki Makaurau Auckland in late November 2022. I'd like to acknowledge and thank the Waiti Waitā organising committee for their hard work to bring us together to meet at AUT.

Our joint meeting with SFS and AFSS in Brisbane 2023 is fast approaching and abstracts and registrations are now open. <https://www.freshwaterdownunder2023.org/> Don't miss out on this exciting opportunity to network at a large international conference with delegates expected from across the world! Brisbane will be our official NZFSS meeting for 2023 but is being held in early June, outside of our usual meeting timing. Financial support will be available for students to assist with travel costs and the executive committee are looking to open a contestable fund (using budget surpluses) to assist any members without adequate access to funding to attend.

It has been a massive privilege for me to lead the Society over the last four years. I have learned much from each of you that I have worked with directly and I've enjoyed the teamwork and camaraderie. Many thanks for those who have sent messages of support over the years – it really kept me going. We have much to celebrate as a Society and you're a pretty awesome bunch of people to know and work with. Have a very well-deserved break and holiday this summer, I look forward to seeing many of you in Meanjin Brisbane in 2023.

Ngā mihi nui ki a koutou,

Kate McArthur

NZFSS President

A – Honorary membership

The Executive have approved the nomination of Philippe Gerbeaux as an honorary NZFSS member in recognition of his services to freshwater sciences, particularly wetland science and conservation, and for his services to the Society including membership on the executive committee and the organising of two society conferences in Shantytown and INTECOL 2020/2021.

Motion for vote: That the membership approve Philippe Gerbeaux as an honorary member of the NZFSS.

Voting

Yes: 43	No: 0	Abstain: 0
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5. Treasurer's report [Amy Whitehead]

Finances

Table 1. Statement of financial performance for the 2021-22 financial year.

Statement of Financial Performance

New Zealand Freshwater Sciences Society
Incorporated
For the year ended 30 June 2022

Account	2022	2021
Revenue		
Donations, fundraising and other similar revenue	1,908	(2,660)
Fees, subscriptions and other revenue from members	14,888	12,181
Revenue from providing goods or services	91	114
Interest, dividends and other investment revenue	1,611	2,085
Conference Revenue	28,248	18,228
Total Revenue	46,747	29,948
Expenses		
Costs related to providing goods or service	0	6,589
Grants and donations made	20,844	16,114
Conference Expenses	250	172
Other expenses	11,654	9,981
Total Expenses	32,748	32,857
Surplus/(Deficit) for the Year	13,998	(2,909)

Our total assets as at 30 June 2021 were **\$232,360**, including two Term Deposits (\$122,717). As of 20 November 2022, we have **\$219,545** in assets.

Total income earned for the 2021-2022 financial year was **\$46,747** (Table 1) and came primarily from the 2021 INTECOL conference (\$28,248), subscription income (\$14,888) and interest earned from our term deposits and current account (\$1,611).

Total operating expenses for the 2021-2022 financial year were **\$32,748**, including awards and scholarships (\$17,804), website redevelopment (\$4,546), accounting and audit fees (\$3,395), donation to the SIL Trust (\$3,040) and RSNZ membership fees (\$1,304).

The Society made an **operating surplus of \$13,998** for the year ended 30 June 2022.

Membership

We currently have 538 members, with a slight decrease since last year (Figure 1 Table 2). This decrease relates to the removal of members who were more than one year in arrears with their membership fees and a handful of resignations. The number of each membership type has remained reasonably stable over time. We currently have 33 *Student (First Year Free)* members (at a cost of \$495 to the society in lost membership fees).

A reminder that we also have a *Corporate Member* category that allows organisations to request a single invoice for all members at the waged rate of \$55 per person. Please contact the Treasurer (info@freshwater.science.org.nz) if you are interested in setting this up for your organisation.

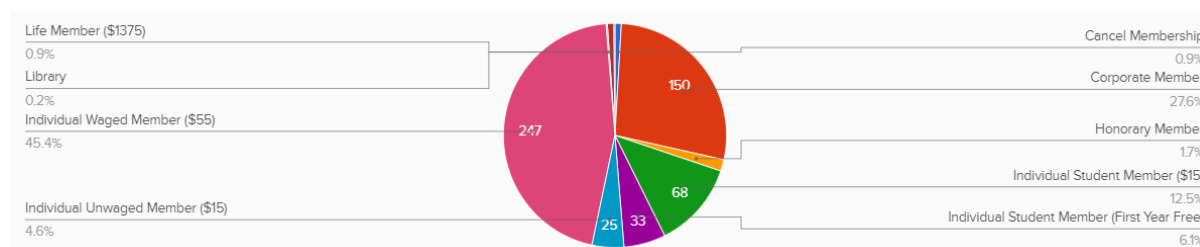


Figure 1. Breakdown of NZFSS members by membership type as of 20 November 2022

Table 2. Membership numbers by type over the past five years.

Membership type	2022	2021	2020	2019	2018
Waged	397	429	438	380	361
Unwaged & Students	126	127	126	114	105
Honorary	9	9	9	9	9
Life	5	4	4	4	4
Libraries & Societies	1	1	16	16	16
TOTAL	538	570	593	523	495

There are currently 162 members who are in arrears for this financial year (Figure 2). This number includes members who we have lost contact with, or who may have moved away from freshwater science and have not resigned from the Society, or who are active in the Society but keep forgetting

to pay their subs. In addition, there are a number of Corporate Members whose institutions have yet to pay their invoices. There is also a subset of members for whom NZFSS emails are going to spam and, therefore, are not receiving their invoices. Members who are still in arrears on 30 June 2023 will be considered non-financial and removed from the membership database as per Section 6.a of the Constitution.

If you are unsure of your membership status, please login to the NZFSS website and make sure to update your contact details while you are there. Please also check your spam folder for NZFSS emails and ensure the info@freshwater.science.org.nz is added to your Safe Sender list.

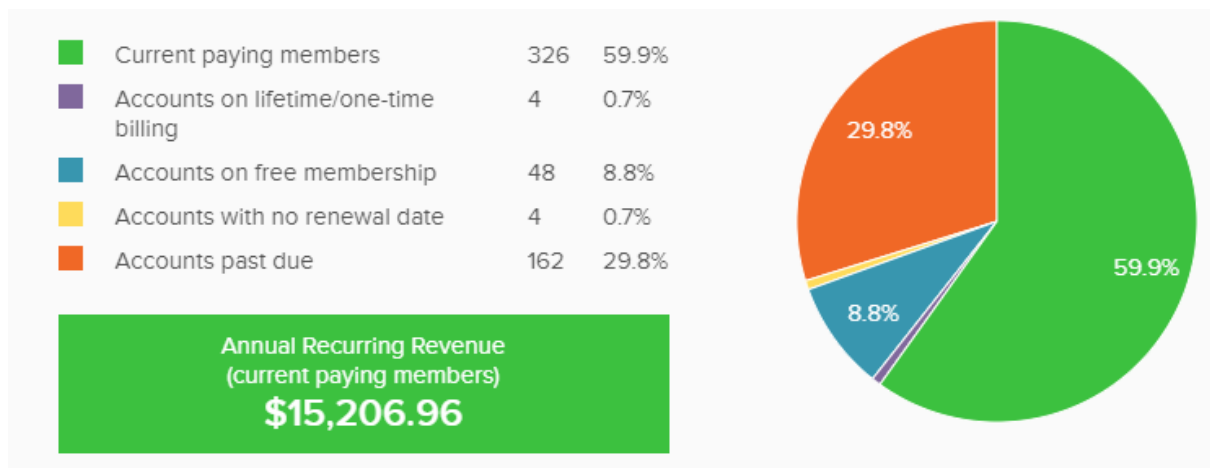



Figure 2. Financial status of members on 12 October 2021

Motion from the Chair: That the Society accounts for 2021-2022 be accepted (Amy Whitehead / Angus MacIntosh – *carried*)

Motion from the Chair: That the Society appoints Findex as the auditor for the 2022-2023 accounts (Amy Whitehead/ Gerry Closs– *carried*)

6. SIL 1987 Trust Fund report [Kit Rutherford]

SIL 1987 Trust		Financial Statement 2nd October 2022			
IRD number	83-600-519				
		Account number	Maturity	Interest	Amount
TOTAL ASSETS at FY ending 30th September 2021					\$74,685
8/10/2021	BNZ Ready Money	02 0343 0048 153 000			\$829
30/09/2021	AMP	S335382	Fixed Interest (AIT)		\$22,685
8/10/2021	BNZ TD #01008	9348153-01008	6/10/2023	1.60%	\$7,932
8/10/2021	BNZ TD #00014	0009316362-00014	11/05/2022	1.05%	\$20,470
8/10/2021	BNZ TD #00015	0009316362-00015	5/02/2022	1.00%	\$5,104
8/10/2021	BNZ TD #00016	0009316362-00016	9/10/2021	1.00%	\$7,666
8/10/2021	BNZ TD #00024	0009316362-00024	16/09/2022	1.45%	\$10,000
TOTAL ASSETS at FY ending 30th September 2022					\$76,737
16/09/2022	BNZ Ready Money	02 0343 0048 153 000			\$2,214
30/09/2021	AMP	S335382	Fixed Interest (AIT)		\$22,685
16/09/2022	BNZ TD #01008	9348153-01008	6/10/2023		\$7,932
16/09/2022	BNZ TD #00014	0009316362-00014	11/05/2023	2.70%	\$20,783
16/09/2022	BNZ TD #00015	0009316362-00015	5/02/2023	2.35%	\$5,191
16/09/2022	BNZ TD #00016	0009316362-00016	5/02/2023	2.35%	\$7,786
16/09/2022	BNZ TD #00024	0009316362-00024	16/09/2023	4.00%	\$10,146
5% of assets					\$3,837
Increase in assets					\$2,052
Available for 2023 awards					\$5,888
Income/expenditure				deposits	withdrawals
8/10/2021	BNZ Ready Money	\$829.26			
20/01/2022		student prizes			-\$1,600
16/12/2021		NZFFS levies		\$3,040.00	
monthly		bank fees			-\$60
16/09/2022	closing balance	\$2,209.26			
NETT				\$3,040.00	-\$1,660
		2/10/2022			
Notes					
There were no travel awards in the FY ending September 2022					

7. Te Wai Māori Rōpū [Joanne Clapcott]

Whāinga/Purpose 1: Provide a support network for Māori freshwater scientists, researchers, and students, including mentoring and identifying research scholarship opportunities for emerging Māori scientists, researchers, and students.

Tukunga/Methods:

- Membership approximately 70 members
- Produced a newsletter as well as numerous emails to rōpū members – job opportunities, scholarships, publications, graduations, awards, projects etc.
- Selected the successful applicant for the Manawā a whenua scholarship

Whāinga/Purpose 2: To support and advise the NZFSS executive committee on Te Ao Māori worldview & appropriate kawa and tikanga.

Tukunga/Methods:

- Participated at NZFSS executive hui throughout the year
- Contribute to conference organising committees for Waiti Waitā 2022 and Freshwater Sciences 2023

Whāinga/Purpose 3: Develop and foster partnerships with indigenous freshwater organisations, scientists, researchers, and students internationally.

Tukunga/Methods:

- Still Covid impacted
- Social media profile via Twitter (880 followers)
- Continue to develop networks with indigenous researchers overseas

Whāinga/Purpose 4: Be a point of contact for iwi, hapū and the wider community interested in freshwater sciences, management and research from a Māori perspective.

Tukunga/Methods:

- Supporting all members to be points of contact.

8. General Business

Kate McArthur circulated briefing notes to members prior to the AGM for members to consider prior to the meeting. The notes were then discussed.

B - NZFSS Executive Committee Elections

As per the NZFSS Elections policy, nominations were called for executive committee positions via email to members two months prior to the AGM. Nominations noted in the table below were all supported in writing by at least two NZFSS members and accepted by the nominees.

Elected positions: Kate McArthur, Amy Whitehead and Melanie Vermeulen have indicated they will not stand again for the executive committee, with Shirley Haywood indicating she would assist any new nominee if required but not stand for the position if a nominee was found. Amy has also indicated that she will support any new nominee for Treasurer into the role. Volunteers from the membership were sought to fill these positions.

NZFSS representatives on the SIL Trust Awards Committee are required by the SIL Trust Deed to be elected in the same manner as the NZFSS executive committee. Natasha Grainger and Mary de Winton have indicated they would like to step down and nominations were received to fill these roles by Katie Collins and Eleanor Gee.

Rōpū representatives (Ian Kusabs, Siobhan Nuri) were elected at the Te Wai Māori Rōpū annual meeting at 12:30pm Tuesday 22 November during the Waiti Waitā conference.

Position	Current	Elected
President	Kate McArthur	Jenny Webster-Brown
Past President	Marc Schallenberg	Kate McArthur
Vice President	Jenny Webster-Brown	Joanne Clapcott
Treasurer	Amy Whitehead	Justine Quinn
Secretary	Melanie Vermeulen	Issie Barrett
Newsletter Editor	Shirley Hayward	Christina McCabe
Assistant Newsletter Editor	Vacant	Ignacio Reyes Sainz
Rōpū Māori	Joanne Clapcott, Ian Kusabs	Ian Kusabs, Siobhan Nuri
Student Representative/s	Chris Meijer	Maran Muthiah, Holly Harris
Website Manager	Raymond Chang	Raymond Chang
Community Outreach	Vacant	Brett Stansfield
Advocacy/Submissions	Rich Allibone	Rich Allibone
Awards coordinator	Michael Pingram	Michael Pingram
SIL Trust Awards NZFSS reps	Natasha Grainger, Mary de Winton	Katie Collins, Eleanor Gee

Co-opted positions: Rich Allibone, Michael Pingram and Ray Chang have indicated their intent to stay on as co-opted committee members, with Ray Chang advising he is available to take on a different committee position if needed. Chris Meijer is stepping down as the Student Representative but is also happy to stay on in an assisting role and has indicated that it is desirable for the student membership to have two committee reps in future to share the load. This leaves one student representative and Assistant Newsletter Editor co-opted positions vacant, and we sought volunteers from the membership to fill these roles at or prior to the AGM. Maran Muthiah and Holly Harris volunteered as new student representatives, allowing Chris to stand down. Ignacio Reyes Sainz volunteered as Assistant Newsletter Editor. Brett Stansfield volunteered for the Community Outreach position.

Jenny Webster-Brown – Presidential nominee

As per our elections policy Jenny has provided a statement of intent with her acceptance for the nomination as President of the Society, this is appended to these briefing papers as **Attachment 2**.

Call for nominees for Vice President and Treasurer occurred. Joanne Clapcott was nominated by Jenny Webster-Brown for the Vice President role and this nomination was supported by Kate McArthur.

Motion for vote: That members accept the nominations for the executive committee

Voting

Yes: 37	No: 0	Abstain: 0
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Meeting adjourned at 1:28 pm due to a scheduling issue that meant the room was no longer available.

Part Two of the Annual General Meeting resumed at 5:30 pm on 29 November 2022 via Zoom and was chaired by Jenny Webster-Brown, Vice-President.

Present: Jenny Webster-Brown (Vice-President) and 20 voting members.

Apologies: Helen Warburton, Kit Rutherford, Angus McIntosh, Kate McArthur

B - NZFSS Executive Committee Elections (Part Two)

Justine Quinn approached Kate McArthur after Part One of the AGM and volunteered to be Treasurer. This nomination was supported by Amy Whitehead.

Motion for vote: That members accept the nominations of Justine Quinn as Treasurer

Yes: 21	No: 0	Abstain: 0
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C - Discussion on progressing contestable fund

The opening of a contestable fund to spend surplus cash was agreed at the 2021 AGM. However, the work to coordinate and administer such a fund has not yet been undertaken, therefore the fund has not been open for applications in 2022 as intended. We are seeking volunteers from the membership to administer the fund. We want the fund to be open ASAP to facilitate any members without available funding to attend the SFS/AFSS/NZFSS conference in Brisbane in June 2023.

Marc Schallenberg, Donna Sutherland, Justine Quinn (as Treasurer) and Keren Bennett have volunteered to form a sub-committee to co-ordinate and administer the surplus contestable fund.

D – Complementary NZFSS membership for executive and rōpū committee members and potential for stipend or outsourcing of administrative tasks

Outgoing executive members wish to acknowledge the significant time contribution made by committee members and the rōpū administrator (currently Yvonne Taura). The President and Treasurer recommend that the Society recognises this contribution by agreeing to waive Society membership fees in future for these positions for the durations of committee participation. The Society accountants have commented that it is common practice for Society committee members to have their fees waived and they were surprised that we had not implemented this already.

Motion for vote: That the membership agrees to waive Society membership fees for executive committee members (both elected and co-opted), NZFSS SIL Awards Committee representatives and Te Wai Māori Rōpū administrators during their terms of office.

Voting

Yes: 21	No: 0	Abstain: 0
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In previous year we have previously discussed the need to recognise the time spent by some committee members/administrators for the smooth running of the Society, potentially through a small annual stipend. Alternatively, some administrative tasks could be outsourced to an external professional provider. As the Society membership has grown the administrative burden to maintain

the membership database, keep members informed through email and other fora and other basic administrative duties has also grown. In recent years this has hampered the capacity of the executive to contribute to strategic tasks and may put new members off taking up executive roles, due to the administrative time burden. We have tried without success to recruit a volunteer from the membership to assist with social media and comms. The executive committee recommend that these options are investigated further, and a solution implemented that can be accommodated within current annual operational and contingency budgets.

Motion for vote: That the membership approve the use of Society funds, where available within the annual operational and contingency budget to:

- 1) pay a stipend/s for basic administrative duties necessary for the running of the NZFSS and Te Wai Māori Rōpū, and/or

Yes: 21	No: 0	Abstain: 0
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- 2) for the executive to investigate and engage an external provider to provide some or all of those duties.

Yes: 21	No: 0	Abstain: 0
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E – Other business

AGM time allocation

Jenny Webster-Brown: We should allow 1.5 hours for future AGMs to avoid the two-part AGM. All members agreed that this would be preferable

NZFSS Logo

Stella McQueen: The logo could do with a refresh.

The members present decided that we should have a competition where members can submit a design. Could have a two-tiered competition, which both serious and humorous submissions.

Christina McCabe volunteered to help judge the competition.

Newsletter submissions

Justine Quinn: Questioned whether calls for newsletter submissions had been sent out yet.

Amy Whitehead noted that the newsletter timing was behind schedule this year and a call for submissions would be sent out early in 2023 once the new Newsletter Editor (Christina McCabe) was up to speed.

Executive meetings

Jenny Webster-Brown: Proposed that the Executive sets regular meeting times bimonthly so that they are in people’s calendars early.

All Executive Committee members present indicated that this was a good idea. Issie to send meeting invites.

2023 NZFSS Meeting

Roland Eveleens: Wanted to know if there had been any talk of an NZ based conference/meeting in 2023?

Joanne Clapcott pointed out that we need to be careful not to have something that would be deemed as competition for the Brisbane conference. But members were generally in agreement that an informal meeting (or series of regional meetings) later in the year would be good. Could be done via Zoom or in person. The AGM would likely be in December as per usual via Zoom.

The meeting closed at 6:13 pm.