

## Minutes of the 37<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting of the New Zealand Limnological Society Inc.

The AGM was held at the Waiheke Island Resort. The meeting opened at 17.30 hrs, 2<sup>nd</sup> December 2004.

**Present:** Neil Deans, President  
Brian Sorrell, Secretary-treasurer  
and 51 members

### 1. Apologies:

Ann Chapman, Lindsay Chadderton, David Hamilton, Mike Patrick, John Stark, Jonet Ward, Mike Winterbourn.

*Motion:* That apologies be accepted. *(Neil Deans/Colin Townsend carried).*

### 2. Minutes of the 36<sup>th</sup> AGM:

*Matters arising from minutes:*

- *Income Tax:* The treasurer reported that IRD approved the tax-free status of the Society in December 2003.
- *Freshwaters of New Zealand:* The president reported that the project has been completed and the Hydrology Society is handling sales, and thanked the large number of members involved as editors, authors and reviewers.
- *Fish and Invertebrate Posters:* Dave Speirs reported that 1500 copies were printed initially from Society funds and that a further 3500 copies were produced from the generous support of DoC, Auckland Regional Council and Tasman District Council. The next poster will feature aquatic plants and is being prepared with help from John Clayton and colleagues in the Aquatic Plants Group at NIWA. Dave invited members to suggest further ideas such as wildlife and birds.
- *Society Policy:* The President reported on the Executive discussion regarding Society Policy, in which it was felt that the Society should be in a position to represent the scientific consensus of its members in relation to freshwater issues, but that the production of policy documents that could be divisive or seen as environmental advocacy was not our role. The Executive were asked to consider this further and report back to the members. Carolyn Burns pointed out that as a constituent organisation of RSNZ, the Society does not need its own ethics policy, as it is linked to RSNZ ethics policy.
- *Member's achievement awards:* The President outlined ideas from the Executive on how the Society could honour scientific and other broader achievements of its members in freshwater sciences, and received general support of the concept from members. Members suggested such awards should not be made too often and should not overlap with achievements already recognised by RSNZ medals. Members were invited to contact Jon Harding, who will develop the ideas further, with comments and suggestions.
- *Fortieth anniversary:* Ian Boothroyd reported on three ideas for celebrating the Society's 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary – a book to capture the history of the Society, a special issue of NZJMR, and a special social function. Members raised the possibility of

seeking special sponsorship for the event, and making video interviews with founding and senior members. Ian Boothroyd welcomed any further ideas and suggestions from members.

*Motion:* That minutes be accepted as a true and correct record of the 36<sup>th</sup> A.G.M. (*B. Sorrell/Mike Scarsbrook carried*)

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

I am pleased to present my annual report to the Limnological Society for the 2004 year at the Annual Conference at Waiheke Island. I would like to acknowledge the contributions made by my fellow members of the Executive of the Society, who have been happy to undertake tasks or contribute on matters as required. Two members will be standing down; Dr Ian Boothroyd, who has made many contributions to the Society over the years, as a past President and long-serving member of the Executive; and John Maxted, who together with Ian has organised this year's conference and made a valuable contribution to the Executive this year. Other Executive members are standing again.

#### *Membership*

The membership remains at a similar level to the last several years, with a healthy mix of students and other members. It is somewhat disappointing to report, however, that about half the membership, at the time of writing, have yet to pay this year's subscription or are in arrears. At \$40 each an ordinary membership is a modest cost to belong to a Society which facilitates many advantages to its members and the wider community, many of which are summarised below.

#### *Financial Statements*

First, I would like once again to acknowledge the efforts made on our behalf by Brian Sorrell, our very efficient Secretary-Treasurer. Brian puts in a great deal of hard work, largely in his own time, from which we all benefit.

This financial year has seen the fruition of many projects which have been in the pipeline for several years. We have transferred \$10 000 to the SIL Trust (see below) to enable them to continue their work; have funded the production of posters and provided a considerable portion of the costs of student travel to last year's Australian conference. This, together with the contingent cost of our share of the production of the Freshwater Book and the absence of any conference profit since our conference was offshore, means our expenditure has considerably exceeded our income. It is clear, however, that this has been foreshadowed at previous AGMs, where decisions were made to invest our considerable assets in activities to further the Society's objectives. As we still have some \$50 000 in reserves, I believe the Society to be both in a sound financial position and investing wisely in the future of limnology.

#### *Freshwaters of New Zealand*

I am very pleased to be able to promote this fine joint effort between our Society and the Hydrological Society. Particular thanks must go to our members Jon Harding and Brian Sorrell, who together with their hydrologist fellow editors Paul Mosley and Charles Pearson have put a great deal of hard work into what amounts to 'the state of our science'. In addition to their efforts, some 43 members are included amongst the authors, several of whom have contributed to more than one chapter and at least one has been involved with three. It has truly been a joint effort. It will have wide application in education and water resource management, so make sure you order your copy today.

#### *Limnological Society Posters*

Many thanks to David Spiers and Environment Waikato for getting these posters designed and printed with Society funds. They have proven so popular with schools that we have run out so and we have sought and received additional funding from the Department of Conservation, Auckland Regional Council and Tasman District Council for an additional print run. Another poster of aquatic plants is being prepared with help from NIWA.

#### *Invertebrate Book*

Some members will have a copy of this excellent publication, of which we still have some copies in stock. In order to make it available to more members, we are offering copies to members at the conference at half the usual price.

#### *40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary*

The 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Society is fast approaching. Ian Boothroyd and Ann Chapman are considering producing a book to review the Society's history and look forward to our future. This will be discussed further at the AGM but should be supported by all those who have been involved with the development of the Society. We are fortunate to still be benefiting from the contribution of a number of founder members, whose input would be valued.

#### *Society Name*

A major item of business for the Executive this year has been consideration of the Society's name. At the suggestion of Ian Boothroyd, we have proposed a "trading" name change to "New Zealand Freshwater Sciences" which has been considered by the membership and is therefore proposed for consideration at this AGM. There is no change proposed to the Society's rules or logo.

#### *Society Policy*

The Executive was asked last year to investigate the appropriateness of developing policy to further the Society's objectives. As part of this, the policies of our sister organisations, such as the ASL and NABS were scrutinised. It soon became apparent that there were two types of policy; one relating to Society procedures, which were an extension of Society rules, and another relating to the Society taking a position on a particular matter of relevance to Society objectives. On discussing it with those familiar with the process undertaken by societies elsewhere or similar science societies here we became concerned that while the former type of policy was probably redundant, the latter was potentially divisive of the Society's membership. Alternatively any "non-divisive" policy would likely be too general to have any particular effect, while being very time consuming. The Executive therefore opted not to take the matter any further at this stage. I would invite anyone who has any burning issues which they consider should have Society policy on them to bring them to the attention of the Executive where they could be reconsidered.

#### *Prizes for ordinary member presentations at conferences*

The Executive were asked to consider this matter at last year's AGM. We have not given it much consideration, partly because it is part of the next item. We also considered that this might introduce an element of competition and judgement for ordinary members which might be counterproductive to the normally informal, relaxed atmosphere which is characteristic of our conferences.

#### *Recognition of contributions made by members*

A matter considered from time to time and raised at the last AGM is the question of whether or in what way we recognise contributions made by our members. A number of our members have received Royal Society Medals in recent years in recognition of their achievements according to the Royal Society criteria. There are some whose contribution to limnology or the Society may not have been

recognised but would not be eligible for Royal Society recognition. Many of our sister societies do recognise major contributions by members in this way. The Executive have not formed a final view on the matter, but would welcome comments. I suggest that we investigate this further and put a proposal for consideration at next year's AGM.

#### *SIL Trust*

The Society agreed last year at the AGM to provide a \$10 000 sum to the SIL Trust to ensure it remains able to provide funds to support travel for members and visitors, where appropriate. One Travel Award was made in 2003/04 to Susie Wood for attending the International Conference on Toxic Cyanobacteria in Norway, and Susie has provided a detailed report on her trip in the latest Newsletter. We do not have an update on the SIL Trust's finances as their Secretary, Kit Rutherford, is overseas and unable to furnish us with an update in time for the AGM.

#### *Membership of external organisations*

The Limnological Society is one of the 60-odd constituent societies of the Royal Society of New Zealand. This gives us an opportunity to vote for a member of the Society Council, and an opportunity for our representative to meet annually and discuss matters of relevance to all those involved with science. It also provides some opportunities to make use of some of the facilities available to Royal Society members. We received some financial support, for example, for Dr Mike Barbour to attend and speak at the plenary session of this year's conference.

#### *2003 Joint Annual Conference with Australian Society of Limnology, Warrnambool, Victoria, Australia*

Our first offshore conference, organised ably by our ASL hosts, was held at the pleasant town of Warrnambool on the southeastern Victorian coast. A disappointment for a number of our members was the sudden cut off of registrations, limiting attendance of Limsoc members to about 40 out of the 250 or so delegates. Despite this, those who attended enjoyed the chance to meet and discuss limnological topics with our Australian colleagues. Although many of the problems are of a different nature and scale in Australia, the research and management approaches are often similar. We look forward to the opportunity to welcome our Australian colleagues to New Zealand in another 3 years.

#### *2004 Annual Conference at Waiheke Island*

Our second offshore conference is being held at the pleasant Waiheke Island Resort. For those unable to make it to the conference, this is looking very promising, well organised by John Maxted, Ian Boothroyd and Grant Barnes. About 165 delegates and some 84 presentations are programmed, with about a third of the presentations being from students, from a wide variety of areas.

#### *Proposed conferences*

The 2005 conference has been planned to occur in Nelson, jointly with the Ecological Society, with Trevor James leading the conference organisation. Suggestions for conference topics and/or plenary speakers would be welcomed. Due to difficulties in securing the only venue likely to be big enough to host the anticipated numbers likely to attend, the conference timing is set down for the week of 28 August to 1 September. The 2006 conference is pencilled in for Rotorua, with enthusiastic support from David Hamilton and local Rotorua members.

#### *Government's 'Sustainable Development Programme of Action'*

An external topic of major interest for freshwater science is the government's 'Sustainable Development Programme of Action', which will likely touch many of our members over the next year

or two. One of the four themes related specifically to freshwaters, with components investigating policy responses to issues including dealing with diffuse source pollution, more efficient water allocation and methods for determining waters of national importance, there is much of interest to limnologists. Several papers will update those attending the conference this year, with some involvement in the process by the Society as invited by the Ministry for the Environment. Undoubtedly we will all be interested in what emerges from this process.

### *Conclusion*

I am pleased to report the Society in good heart and continuing to provide a variety of opportunities for members to further the freshwater sciences.

I move from the Chair that this report be accepted.

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

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

### *Membership*

Total membership at 13 November 2004 was 360.

Membership figures for the last four years are shown in Table 1 & 2. Total membership is similar to last year. Total numbers in arrears are similar to previous years and include 8 who will be deleted if they do not pay this year. A follow-up reminder will be sent to all unpaid/in arrears members early in the new calendar year.

There have been 22 new members joining since November 2003 (11 student/unwaged and 11 ordinary).

Table 1. Financial status of membership

	<b>2004</b>	<b>2003</b>	<b>2002</b>	<b>2001</b>	<b>2000</b>
<b>Members current:</b>					
Paid	154	162	216	219	144
Unpaid	100	109	59	127	48
<b>Members in arrears:</b>					
1 yr	47	34	55	-	80
2 yr	24	12	-	-	24
3 yr	8	15	-	-	18
<b>Other:</b>					
Honorary	11	11	11	11	9
Life	1	-	-	-	-
Legal req.*	1	1	1	1	1
Societies	5	5	5	2	2
Libraries	9	9	9	9	9
<b>Total</b>	<b>360</b>	<b>358</b>	<b>356</b>	<b>369</b>	<b>335</b>

\* Not a member

Table 2. Type of membership

	2004	2003	2002	2001	2000
Ordinary	252	249	251	247	228
Corporate	23	22	23	27	25
Honorary	11	11	11	11	9
Life	1	-	-	-	-
Unwaged/student	68	71	66	82	71
Other (Societies)	5	5	5	2	2

### *Finances*

- The accounts were audited by Stephen Dine of Brown Webb Richardson, Hastings.
- The Society embarked on the expenditure programme developed from the Shantytown 2002 AGM and hence ended the financial year with an operating deficit of \$11588. This predominantly consisted of (i) transfer of \$10000 from the Society funds to the SIL Trust Fund, (ii) \$4444 used to support ten students for travel to the Australian conference, and (iii) \$4322 for the freshwater resource posters produced by Dave Speirs
- I.R.D. finally approved our application for tax-free status after prolonged correspondence and negotiation, meaning that the Society is no longer liable for income tax – an important consideration given the higher tax requirements for incorporated than unincorporated Societies. They have nonetheless charged income tax and interest for the period during which they deliberated over the application as predicted last year, which is a significant proportion of this year's expenditure.
- Offsetting these expenditures was income from the invertebrate book (\$2321 gross) and bulletin (\$518) sales. Subscription payments (total \$7010) are down on the previous year due to more unpaid members.
- There was no conference income (or loss) this year due to our participation in the ASL conference instead of holding one of our own.
- We have one term deposit, the combined Jolly Fund, with \$35,909.52 at 1 November 2004. The Current Account as at 1 November 2004 was at \$23,198.74
- The other major expenditure that will arise shortly is our contribution to *Freshwaters of New Zealand*, which is budgeted at \$17500, although this will depend on negotiations between HydroSoc and Caxtons over the number of faulty books and sales between now and when this is finalised.
- It has been decided that as of the week of the conference, the invertebrate book cost will in future be discounted by 50%. 12 copies of the book were sold between 1/7/04 and the week of the conference – but as many copies were sold again in the week of the conference once the price was discounted.

*Motion:* That the Society Accounts for 2003/04 be accepted. (Brian Sorrell/Carolyn Burns–carried).

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

The meeting agreed that a gift of two bottles of wine should be made to Stephen as thanks for auditing this year's accounts.

## 5. SIL Trust report

The Treasurer was unable to attend and provide a report. A report will be provided for the next newsletter. The President noted that one award was made in 2003 to Susie Wood, and that the Awards Committee had determined to make one award in 2004/05 to David Burger for conference attendance in Europe in 2005.

## 6. Future Conferences

The President thanked Ian Boothroyd and John Maxted for organising a highly successful 2004 conference.

The 2005 Conference will be held in the Nelson, jointly with the Ecological Society. Trevor James is chairing a conference committee. The timing will have to be earlier than usual (28 August – 1 September) due to unavailability of a large enough venue at our usual time. It was noted that this may cause difficulties for Canterbury, Victoria and Massey staff to attend, although most postgraduate students should still be able to attend from these Universities.

David Hamilton has agreed to chair a committee to host the 2006 conference in Rotorua.

The 2007 Conference, scheduled for the South Island, is due to be another joint conference with ASL, and will also be the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary conference.

## 7. Election of Limnological Society Officers

The following officers were nominated and duly elected:

- *President:* Nominations Neil Deans (*Dave Speirs/Mike Scarsbrook*).  
*Motion: Nominations close (Jon Harding/Carolyn Burns carried)*

Neil Deans elected President unopposed.

- *Secretary/Treasurer:* Nominations Brian Sorrell (*Neil Deans/Carolyn Burns*).  
*Motion: Nominations close (Roger Young/Mike Scarsbrook carried)*

Brian Sorrell elected Secretary/Treasurer unopposed.

- *Committee Officers:* Nominations Trevor James (*Neil Deans/Philippe Gerbeaux*); Roger Young (*Angus McIntosh/Jon Harding*)  
*Motion: Nominations close (Carolyn Burns/Jon Harding carried)*

Trevor James and Roger Young elected Committee Officers unopposed.

- *Newsletter editor:* Mike Winterbourn (*Jon Harding/Neil Deans*).  
*Motion: Nominations close (Mike Scarsbrook/Steph Parkyn carried)*

Mike Winterbourn elected Newsletter Editor unopposed.

- *S.I.L. Representatives:* Nominations John Stark (*Maureen Lewis/Jon Harding*); Mike Scarsbrook (*Carolyn Burns/Steph Parkyn*)  
*Motion: Nominations close (Philippe Gerbeaux/Maureen Lewis carried)*

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

Steph Parkyn continues as a co-opted member as website manager. David Hamilton was co-opted in the role of 2006 conference organiser.

## **8. Adoption of trading name**

The Secretary reported that 80% of returns responded positively to the propositions on the adoption of a trading name in the referendum included in the last subs mailout. 155 of 358 members voted. Although in discussion it was noted that the proposed name did not include some topics such as brackish lakes, and could include topics we do not cover such as groundwater, it was felt the proposed name did reflect what we do overall. It was also noted that the new name would raise the profile of the society and link us more to international societies.

*Motion:* That the New Zealand Limnological Society adopts a trading name to better identify the purpose of the Society to the wider public, while retaining its existing name for constitutional, legal and similar purposes. *(Neil Deans/Thomas Wilding - carried).*

*Motion:* That this trading name be “New Zealand Freshwater Sciences Society”. *(Neil Deans/Thomas Wilding - carried).*

## **9. General Business**

- **Newsletter Format:** The President reported that Mike Winterbourn raised the issue of possible changes to the format, including having it as an electronic document, with hard copies produced only for members without electronic access, and more frequent production or at other times of the year. It was noted that newsletters on the website are currently not secure and this would raise privacy issues regarding membership details. The number of members willing to contribute or solicit contributions could be an obstacle to more frequent issues.

Meeting closed 18.30 hrs.