

**Minutes of the 42nd Annual General Meeting  
of the  
New Zealand Limnological Society Inc.  
(trading as NZ Freshwater Sciences Society)**

The AGM was held at Forum North, Whangarei. The meeting opened at 5.30pm, 25th November 2009.

Present: Kevin Collier, President  
Brian Sorrell, Secretary-Treasurer  
and 47 members

**1. Apologies:**

Sandy Milner, John Stark, Jonet Ward, Vivienne Cassie-Cooper, Hannah Rainsforth.

Motion: That apologies be accepted. (*Chris Arbuckle/Neil Deans carried*).

**2. Minutes of the 41st AGM:**

Matters arising from minutes:

Dealt with under general business.

*Motion:* That minutes be accepted as a true and correct record of the 41<sup>st</sup> AGM. (*B. Sorrell/Carolyn Burns carried*)

**3. President's report:**

This year was tinged with sadness with the passing of one of our founding members, Ann Chapman, and the death of Jim Bannon who studied at Waikato University and was an enthusiastic ambassador for freshwater science. Ann's 40-year contribution to freshwater ecology and her passion for the subject to the end should be inspirational to all of us. Ann was actively writing up earlier work when she died – her revision of the book *An Introduction to the Freshwater Crustacea of New Zealand*, with Maureen Lewis, will be an enduring legacy. The previous version stood the test of time, and is still widely used over 30 years after its publication. The text for the book revision is currently with Trevor Crosby of Manaaki Whenua Press, and once he receives the final contribution from Maureen, Trevor will be sending it to Mike Winterbourn who has kindly agreed to act as reviewer. We hope to see this book published before too long.

This year we have seen some new communication developments with the launching of our new web site and forum. I think you will agree that Wendy Paul has done a fantastic job bringing the NZFSS web site into the 21st century, and keeping it updated and engaging. Thanks also to Jay Piggott and Marc Schallenberg for providing input into the design. It pays to keep an eye on the website to stay up-to-date with issues and events. The forum continues

to be under-utilised, but now that we have the website and forum linked there is the opportunity to use the forum and our bulletin board as our primary means of communication and phase out the yahoogroups email. I would urge you all to register for the forum to engage in discussions or just keep in touch with what is happening. Hannah Rainsforth produced an excellent newsletter this year, and there may be some opportunity in the future to present some of this content on the web site.

On Society matters, we were pleased this year to welcome Kristy Hogsden to the NZFSS executive as the student representative. Kristy has initiated an award for the best student paper which will be offered for the first time in 2010 – any volunteers to sponsor the cash prize would be most welcome. We look forward, through the student representative, to better meeting the needs of student members who are after all the future of our Society. Thanks also to Janine Wech for efficiently handling the Secretary-Treasurer responsibilities in Brian Sorrell's absence, and Chris Arbuckle for co-ordinating strategic conference sponsorship on behalf of the Society. Rudi Hoetjes, Steve Pohe, Amy McDonald and Emma Simpson have done a fantastic job along with Sian Potts and HydroSoc representatives in organising this conference. Bringing freshwater to the regions is an important part of getting the message across, and to be able to do this jointly with our HydroSoc colleagues provides added benefits for us all.

During the course of the year, there were further developments with the National Policy Statement on Freshwater Management. Oral submissions were heard a few months ago, and my thanks to Neil Deans for presenting on behalf of the Society in my absence overseas. By all accounts, the NZFSS submission was highly regarded by the commissioners who considered it the most helpful submission received. This is a tribute to the ideas and dedication of all those who contributed to the workshop and forum discussions that formed the basis of our submission. This year I also made a submission on behalf of the Society on the Water Research Strategy which was being used to underpin future research directions and sadly lacked an ecological focus. We need to be vigilant of the changes in freshwater management and funding that are currently occurring at a rapid pace, to ensure that ecological issues are maintained at the forefront and are not circumvented by economic imperatives. I draw your attention to the New Zealand Freshwater Management Forum scheduled for February next year supported by the newly formed Water NZ, the NZ Business Council for Sustainable Development, and Irrigation NZ. If you get the opportunity, please go along to reinforce the sole ecological voice from NZFSS talking on ecological issues.

I move from the Chair that this report be accepted. *(Kevin Collier/Carried)*.

#### 4. Secretary Treasurer's Report:

##### Membership

Total membership at 10 November 2009 was 439.

**Table 1. Financial status of membership.**

	2009	2008	2007	2006	2005
Members current:					
Paid	172	89†	252	178	237
Unpaid	163	202	44	76	42
Members in arrears:					
1 yr	36	37	37	48	38
2 yr	39	36	2	28	20
3 yr	-	2	-	11	8
Other:					
Honorary	11	11	11	11	11
Life	3	3	3	3	1
Legal req.*	1	1	1	1	1
Societies	5	5	5	5	5
Libraries	9	9	9	9	9
Total	439	395	364	370	372

\* Not a member

† Not comparable with other years due to Visa processing problems in 2007/08.

**Table 2. Type of membership**

	2009	2008	2007	2006	2005
Ordinary	294	263	235	244	260
Corporate	28	31	32	30	24
Honorary	11	11	11	11	11
Life	3	3	3	3	1
Unwaged/student	98	82	78	77	71
Other (Societies)	5	5	5	5	5

##### Finances:

Our new on-line banking system has streamlined the banking and saved time considerably, and is operating smoothly. We have been steadily recovering the subscriptions after the Visa banking problems during 2007/08.

The accounts were audited by Brown Web Richardson Ltd, Hastings.

The Society continues in sound financial condition and is in a good position to continue supporting its aims. Our total assets (including equity in stock of unsold Bulletin and Freshwaters books) at 30 June 2009 were \$88,709. Expenditure was exceeded by income by

\$8734. This profit was mainly supported by our subscriptions income, which returned to around its usual value (\$8004) now that our Visa banking problems have been resolved. Other main income items for this financial year were net profit of \$1232 from sales of Freshwaters of NZ and the Bulletin, and \$2998 interest on our bank accounts.

The conference continues to dominate our finances. The penalty fees from Queenstown 2007 (\$3369) were paid during 2008/09 and therefore conference expenditure is higher than in most other years (total conference expenditure of \$10,017). Despite this, our conference activities maintained a modest excess (\$1710) of income over expenditure. Due to the timing of payments of deposits, profits and penalties from different conferences, income and expenditure from individual conferences continue to appear in different financial years, making direct comparisons difficult.

The other major expenditure item in 2008/09 was \$2831 for the new website design. One point of note is that, with most members receiving their newsletters electronically, our printing costs are now very low.

We have one term deposit, the combined Jolly Fund, with \$48,595 at 30 June 2009. The Current Account at 30 June 2009 was at \$28,967.

I request that the Secretary-Treasurer's report be accepted.

*Motion:* That the Society accounts for 2008/09 be accepted (*Brian Sorrell/Kit Rutherford-carried*).

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

## **5. S.I.L 1987 Trust Fund**

Tabled by Kit Rutherford (Treasurer, S.I.L. Trust).

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### **Charities Commission**

We are now registered with the Charities Commission.  
Annual Return submitted on 30<sup>th</sup> September 2009 – no problems.

### **Investments**

We have still not fully recovered from the share market crash of early 2009. We are ~\$1,000 down on where we were this time last year, despite having made no awards last year.

SIL 1987 Trust  
Annual Accounts 2008-2009  
Start date 30th September 2008  
End date 30th September 2009

	Account number	Number of units	Unit price		
Statement of Accounts as at 17th September 2008					
17/10/2008	BNZ Ready Money	02 0343 0048153 000		\$38.21	
30/09/2008	International Equity Trust	1633996	12611.9114	\$1.9127	\$24,122.80
	NZ Strategic Bond Trust	1633996	8638.8395	\$1.6523	\$14,273.95
	Total	1633996			\$38,396.76
20/05/2009	International Equity Trust	1633996	12611.9114	\$1.5055	\$18,987.23
	NZ Strategic Bond Trust	1633996	8638.8395	\$1.6545	\$14,292.96
	Total	1633996			\$33,280.19
5/08/2009	International Equity Trust	1633996	12611.9114	\$1.8165	\$22,909.54
	NZ Strategic Bond Trust	1633996	8638.8395	\$1.6637	\$14,372.44
	NZ Strategic Bond Trust	1633996	0		-\$14,372.44
	NZ Bond Trust	811896	12.39018	\$1,159.9864	\$14,372.44
	Total				\$37,281.98
17/10/2009	Nett dividends	02 0343 0048153 000			-\$0.19
					-\$1,114.78

Notes

- 1 The value of investments decreased because of volatile sharemarkets
- 2 No travel awards were made by the Trust during this reporting period
- 3 There was no expenditure apart from bank fees
- 4 These accounts are unaudited

Signed



21st September 2009

James Christopher Rutherford  
Treasurer

Kit Rutherford noted that with the passing of Ann Chapman it would be advisable to elect a new trustee in 2010.

*Motion:* That the Society transfer \$10000 of Society funds to the S.I.L. Trust (*Jon Harding/David Hamilton - carried*).

## 6. Publications and Communications

**Webmaster's Report:** Wendy Paul reported that the revised website was up and running, and noted that there are currently 270 members on the group email and only 18 users of the forum. The benefits of simplifying communication by abandoning the group email and focusing more on the forum were discussed.

*Motion:* That the Society abandon Yahoogroups and use the Forum for communication in future. (*Wendy Paul/Janine Wech – carried*).

**Newsletter:** The President congratulated the new Editor, Hannah Rainsforth (*in absentia*) on a fine 2009 newsletter.

**Posters:** The President reported that there are fewer than 1000 of each of the existing posters remaining and that demand is now levelling off. He requested members to consider volunteering for producing an algal poster as the next in the series. Chris Arbuckle noted the use of posters in Enviroschools and suggested members should advertise their availability more widely. The meeting expressed thanks to Dave Speirs again for the poster initiative.

**Crustacean book:** Kevin Collier reported that the final material is now with Maureen Lewis, to be reviewed by Mike Winterbourn. Publication at Manaaki Whenua Press is still planned,

provided an appropriate business plan can be agreed with Trevor Crosby. Carolyn Burns queried whether having the book published online as an e-book would be possible, as it would greatly assist people using it for species identification. The President agreed to investigate this option, suggesting that an online pdf one year after publication may be feasible.

## 7. Future Conferences

Jon Harding reported on the 2010 Christchurch conference, which will have 'Freshwater Solutions' as the theme. The venue will be Chateau on the Park, and current ideas include opportunities for breakout sessions as well as field trips.

The President reported on discussions with ASL for the scheduled joint 2011 conference in Australia, and that he is currently discussing with Fran Sheldon (ASL) about timing in September to fit with the River Symposium in Brisbane. It was noted that September remains a problem for students and staff of NZ universities as it is during semester time. Angus McIntosh supported the quality of the joint conferences but expressed concern for this problem to be resolved. Kate McArthur noted the value of linking this to the Rivers Symposium for Council members, and Adrian Meredith also noted that September was a good month for conference attendance for Council staff.

Options for 2012 and 2013 include Taupo with the planned Lake Taupo symposium, and possible joint meetings with the Australian Society for Fish Biology and NZ Marine Sciences Society.

*Motion:* The Society supports the need for a joint conference with NZMSS. (*Chris Arbuckle/Roger Young – carried*). Gerry Closs to follow up.

Jon Harding reminded the Society of the need to have conferences in centres readily accessible to most members. John Quinn noted that Brisbane was very accessible and inexpensive from most NZ centres.

## 8. General Business:

**IWA Diffuse Pollution Conference:** Rob Davies-Colley drew members' attention to the 2011 conference of the International Water Association Specialist Group on Diffuse Pollution, which will be held in Rotorua, and encouraged members to attend.

**Student Paper Award:** Kristy Hodgson explained the initiative of the Society encouraging students to publish their research by having a student paper award of \$500. The meeting expressed strong support for the idea, and Carolyn Burns offered to help draft the criteria. Members were asked to help by exploring options for a sponsor.

*Motion:* The Society agrees to a student paper award, starting in 2010. (*Kristy Hodgson/Gerry Closs – carried*).

**Professional Code of Ethics:** The President raised the concept of the Society exploring the options of a code of ethics for freshwater scientists. Members raised issues regarding who

would be qualified to judge compliance with such a code, what criteria could be used to judge whether a member is complying, and what action would be taken against a member found not to comply. The related question of what professional obligation a membership of NZFSS actually carries was also raised. Potential benefits of such a code noted were the value of a set of standards that set aspirations for Society members to follow, and the public relations benefits of a Society carrying such standards. Carolyn Burns reminded the meeting that NZFSS is a constituent society of RSNZ, which does have such a code, available on their website.

Jon Harding and Gerry Closs agreed to explore the idea further and report back to the Executive.

**Freshwater Report Card:** Marc Schallenberg raised the idea of the Society putting together an annual report card on the status of fresh water in New Zealand. Several members supported the idea and Neil Deans suggested it should become a Forum topic. Kevin Collier noted that this could overlap with MfE's statutory responsibilities and Chris Arbuckle noted that SoE reports are downloadable from the MfE website.

**S.I.L. Representative:** Carolyn Burns announced that she has stepped down as New Zealand's representative to S.I.L. after thirty years' service, and that the NZ members of S.I.L. have elected David Hamilton as the new NZ representative to S.I.L. The meeting duly congratulated David on his election, who thanked Carolyn for her thirty years of service, and noted that she had also been S.I.L. President during her tenure. David also invited members to consider increasing their attendance at S.I.L. congresses.

David Le Cren thanked all the Executive members for their service on behalf of the Society.

The meeting closed at 7.10 pm.