

**Minutes of the 43rd Annual General Meeting
of the
New Zealand Limnological Society Inc.
(Trading as NZ Freshwater Sciences Society)**

The AGM was held at the Chateau-on-the-Park, Christchurch. The meeting opened at 12.00 pm, Wednesday 24th November 2010.

Present: Kevin Collier, President; Brian Sorrell, Secretary-Treasurer; and 53 members.

1. Apologies: Vivienne Cassie-Cooper.

2. Minutes of the 42nd AGM:

Matters arising from minutes: Dealt with under general business.

Motion: That minutes be accepted as a true and correct record of the 40th AGM (*Angus McIntosh/Kristy Hogsden carried*).

3. President's Report:

This year we saw the passing of one of our honorary life members Don Forsyth. Don was a long standing member of the DSIR Taupo lab where he worked on lake ecology, geothermal waters and chironomid taxonomy. He was a mentor to many members in the Society today and his legacy lives on through their work. The legacy of another of our founding members, Ann Chapman, is nearing completion with drafts of several chapters of the Crustacea book now with Trevor Crosby of Manaaki Whenua Press for layout. Huge thanks are due to Maureen Lewis for her efforts under difficult circumstances and to Mike Winterbourn for his relentless efforts to see this book through to its fruition. We hope to see it published before too long.

It is pleasing to see increasing student participation in the Society with the inaugural presentation of the best student published paper award. Thanks to Kristy Hogsden for leading this and we look forward to having student representatives from each university in the future helping us develop other ways that the Society can foster and encourage development of our next generation of leaders. Several other members have also helped the Society out this year. Alton Perrie attended the Constituents Society meeting on behalf of the Society. This meeting sounded a lot like the previous one I went to with general discontent with the communication and level of service provided by the Royal Society. In addition, Jon Harding has been appointed to the Royal Society Biological Sciences Advisory Panel.

This year is election time for the society, and several elected and non-elected committee members are standing down. It has been my privilege to serve as President for the last four years. Wendy Paul, who has done a great job keeping the website alive and up to date, is moving on to spend time in other areas. Jay Piggot of Otago University has kindly agreed to take over the webmaster position. Marc Schallenberg, Neil Deans, Chris Arbuckle and Dave

Speirs are also moving on from their elected positions, and I wish to acknowledge their input and support over the last few years. Thanks also to Brian Sorrell and Janine Wech for efficiently handling the Secretary-Treasurer responsibilities, and Hannah Rainforth for her efforts as newsletter editor. The Exec recently proposed some new positions to get members more involved in the Society, and it is pleasing to see some volunteers come forward. Jon Harding, Angus McIntosh, Kristy Hogsden, Adrian Meredith, Shirley Hayward, Dave West, Michele Stevenson, Shelley McMurtrie and Doug Booker, who along with Lea Bodea have done a fantastic job organising this conference in the face of considerable adversity.

This year there have been several developments related to freshwater management. NZFSS made a submission of the stocktake of Schedule 4 land. Thanks to all those who participated in the forum discussion and shared their expertise with this submission. The Freshwater NPS is still being debated and has come under scrutiny with the Land and Water Forum report which recognises the urgent need for such an instrument. On behalf of the Executive Committee I wrote to Minister Nick Smith and Alistair Bisley endorsing the revised NPS, and received a response from the Minister advising that he was delaying any decision until the Land and Water Forum reported back. Consultation meetings are now underway and it is to be hoped that forceful decisions will follow underpinned by sound science. To quote the Land and Water Forum report: “*Effective water management can only be achieved with quality science and knowledge*”. Today your work and our Society are more relevant than ever and we need a strong voice to keep this message to the fore.

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

4. Secretary Treasurer’s Report:

Total membership at 11 November 2010 was 418.

Table 1. Financial status of membership.

	2010	2009	2008	2007	2006
Members current:					
Paid	148	172	89†	252	178
Unpaid	240	163	202	44	76
Members in arrears:					
1 yr	-	36	37	37	48
2 yr	-	39	36	2	28
3 yr	-	-	2	-	11
Other:					
Honorary	11	11	11	11	11
Life	4	3	3	3	3
Legal req.*	1	1	1	1	1
Societies	5	5	5	5	5
Libraries	9	9	9	9	9
Total	418	439	395	364	370

* Not a member

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

Table 2. Type of membership

	2010	2009	2008	2007	2006
Ordinary	288	294	263	235	244
Corporate	15	28	31	32	30
Honorary	11	11	11	11	11
Life	4	3	3	3	3
Unwaged/student	95	98	82	78	77
Other (Societies)	5	5	5	5	5

Finances:

The accounts were audited by Stephen Dine of Brown Web Richardson, 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 2010 were \$83,189. Income was exceeded by expenditure by \$1847 in 2009/10.

Income: Our subscriptions income was \$4392, which was our greatest single income item this year. Interest was \$2427.

The conference turnover continues to dominate our finances. Our conference activities maintained a sound excess of income over expenditure (\$3135 c.f. \$1710 in the previous year). The actual profit of the Whangarei conference (NZFSS 50% share) was \$4624. 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 main expenditure item in 2009/10 has been the printing costs of the newsletter (\$2656).

We have one term deposit, the combined Jolly Fund, with \$59,993 at 1 Nov 2010. The Current Account at 1 Nov 2010 was at \$15,258.

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

Motion: That the Society accounts for 2009/10 be accepted (*Brian Sorrell/John Harding-carried*).

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

5. S.I.L 1987 Trust Fund

Kit Rutherford tabled the 2009/10 financial statement, and that the loss on investments is a paper loss only. Nevertheless, it was agreed that the Trust does need other income to achieve its aims. The possibilities of canvassing donations or running an appeal were discussed. Members were reminded that donations can be made with subscriptions.

Motion: That the Society transfer \$10,000 of Society assets to the S.I.L. 1987 Trust. (Roger Young/Philippe Gerbeaux- carried).

6. Publications:

Webmaster's Report: Wendy Paul reported that the forum is still underused and encouraged more use of it. Jay Piggott has offered to take over the role from Wendy, who is stepping down.

Newsletter: Hannah Rainforth highlighted the recent newsletter and encouraged members to respond quickly to future requests for information as the newsletter is now a large job. Kati Doehring has offered to take on the role of Assistant Editor to help Hannah.

Posters: Numbers are decreasing and reprints may need to be considered. Offers for writing new posters will be welcomed.

Crustacean book: Kevin Collier reported that publication is imminent and that profits will be shared with Manaaki Whenua Press.

Freshwaters of NZ: Jon Harding raised the possibility of a second edition being prepared in 2 or 3 years' time as the first printing is nearly sold out.

7. Future Conferences:

The 2011 conference in Australia with ASL will be held from 26-30 September in Brisbane in conjunction with the Rivers Symposium. ASL President Fran Sheldon reports that costs are not yet finalized. Philippe Gerbeaux raised the idea of the 40th Anniversary of the Ramsar Convention being celebrated at the conference.

Motion: That the Society allocate \$10000 to assist student travel to the Brisbane conference. (Dave West/Jo Clapcott – carried).

The 2012 conference will be held in 2012; Gerry Closs and Marc Schallenberg have kindly offered to chair the organising committee. The suggestion for 2013 is Hamilton, jointly with Marine Sciences and the Australasian Society for Fish Biology.

8. Election of Society Officers:

The following officers were nominated and duly elected:

- *President:* Nominations David Hamilton (Angus McIntosh /Jon Harding).
Motion: Nominations close (Carolyn Burns/Neil Deans carried)

David Hamilton elected President unopposed.

- *Secretary/Treasurer:* Nominations Brian Sorrell (Neil Deans/Ngaire Phillips).
Motion: Nominations close (David Hamilton/Gerry Closs carried)

Brian Sorrell elected Secretary/Treasurer unopposed.

- *Committee Officers:* Nominations Susie Woods (*Roger Young/Kate McArthur*); Deniz Özkundakci (*Michael Pingram/David Hamilton*)
Motion: Nominations close (Bruno David/Kati Doehring carried)

Susie Woods and Deniz Özkundakci elected Committee Officers unopposed.

- *Newsletter editor:* Hannah Rainforth (*Dave West/Natasha Grainger*).
Motion: Nominations close (Roger Young/Gerry Closs carried)

Hannah Rainforth elected Newsletter Editor unopposed.

- *S.I.L. Trust Fund Awards Committee:* Nominations Mary de Winton (*Ngaire Phillips/Marc Schallenberg*); Natasha Grainger (*Kevin Collier/David Hamilton*)
Motion: Nominations close (Ngaire Phillips/David Hamilton carried)

Mary de Winton and Natasha Grainger elected S.I.L. Trust Fund Awards Committee unopposed.

Several members have kindly offered their time to assist as co-opted Executive Members for specific tasks:

- Janine Wech as Assistant Secretary-Treasurer;
- Jay Piggott as Website Manager;
- Kristy Hogsden as Student Representative;
- Kati Doehring as Assistant Newsletter Editor;
- Mike Patrick as Media Monitor;
- Justine Coup for Community Outreach;
- Jane Kitson as Maori Representative.

9. General Business:

Professional Code of Ethics: The option of a code of ethics for freshwater scientists was raised at the 2009 AGM. Jon Harding reported on the discussion of this matter that occurred on the forum, and the codes adopted by other Societies. Supporters on the forum cite the need to provide credibility for freshwater scientists, opponents raised concerns of enforcement issues and who would get to make decisions about enforcing such a code. 37 members returned the questionnaire on the forum with votes at 60% in favour and 35% against. The Ecological Society of America was given as an example of a Society with such a code, with recommendations and guidelines although it is not enforced. Carolyn Burns reported that we are eligible to use the RSNZ code and process for enforcement – but noted that some of these in the past have resulted in legal actions at great cost. It was uncertain whether a RSNZ ruling would be binding. It was also noted that the Environment Court Code of Conduct would always supersede any code the Society adopts.

Motion: The Executive should consider the matter and report back at the next AGM. (*David LeCren/Jon Harding – carried*).

Maori Representation on Executive Committee: Ian Kusabs reported on the increase in numbers of Maori scientists, students and iwi involvement in freshwater issues, and the benefits to the Society of better interacting with the Maori community, getting community advice from a Maori perspective, involvement of Maori members in conferences, and providing a support network for Maori students and scientists. He also noted that Jane Kitson's role as Maori Rep on the Executive was based on a mandate from the Society's Maori members.

The meeting welcomed Jane to her new role and thanked Ian Kusabs for facilitating the matter.

Press Statement from NZFSS on Land-Water Forum and the National Policy

Statement: Carolyn Burns and Kit Rutherford presented their draft recommendations that included support for the LWF and changes to the wording, especially using the phrase '*refine and adopt*'. Jon Harding noted the urgency in adopting a version of the NPS. The meeting supported the Society finalising the matter. Kevin Collier suggested that wording emphasise the need for recommendations for quality science and knowledge to underpin management.

Motion: The reworded press release be adopted as a press release and sent to the minister. (Carolyn Burns/Kit Rutherford – carried).

Further Matters: David Hamilton thanked Kristy Hogsden for organising the student mentor programme and encouraged its expansion, and reminded members of benefits of being S.I.L. members, including receiving the new journal 'Inland Waters'.

Appreciation to outgoing President:

Motion: That Kevin Collier be thanked for his successful period as President. (Neil Deans - carried).

The meeting closed at 2.00 p.m.