

Minutes of the 44th Annual General Meeting
of the
New Zealand Limnological Society Inc.
(Trading as New Zealand Freshwater Sciences Society)

The AGM was held at the Brisbane Convention Centre, Queensland on Wednesday 28th September, 2011. The meeting opened at 4:35 pm.

Present: David Hamilton, President; Janine Wech, Assistant Secretary-Treasurer; and 34 members.

1. **Apologies:** Kevin Collier, Brian Sorrell, Susie Wood, Hannah Rainforth, Jane Kitson, Kristy Hogsden, Jon Harding, Kit Rutherford, Caroline Burns, Gerry Closs, and Vivienne Cassie-Cooper.
2. **Minutes of the 43rd AGM:** Review of elected and co-opted members
 - Officers elected to the executive:
 - David Hamilton – President
 - Brian Sorrell – Secretary-Treasurer
 - Susie Woods – Committee Officer
 - Deniz Özkundakci - Committee Officer
 - Hannah Rainforth – Newsletter Editor
 - Mary de Winton – S.I.L Trust Fund Awards Committee Officer
 - Natasha Grainger – S.I.L Trust Fund Awards Committee Officer
 - Co-opted members:
 - Janine Wech – Assistant Secretary/Treasurer
 - Kati Doerhing – Assistant Newsletter Editor
 - Jay Piggott – Website Manager
 - Kristy Hogsden – Student Representative
 - Mike Patrick – Media Monitor
 - Jane Kitson – Maori Representative
 - Justine Coop – Community Outreach

Matters arising from minutes: Dealt with under general business.

Motion: That the minutes be accepted as a true and correct record of the 43rd AGM (*David Hamilton / Neil Deans – carried*)

3. President's Report:

People may be somewhat confused about what has really happened to improve freshwater management at the national level over the past year; they may not be alone. The Land and Water Forum had successfully brought together water stakeholders from a diverse range of organisations and put together set of recommendations on freshwater management for NZ. We then waited for a National Policy Statement (NPS) in Freshwater Management that would set bottom-line environmental standards that had to be met, in line with the recommendations from the Land and Water Forum. Unfortunately the National Policy Statement was substantially weakened and a number of the recommendations made by the Land and Water Forum were removed. NZFSS made a media statement following the release of the NPS. At the time of our AGM, NZFSS is about to endorse a recommendation for an environmental reporting bill which would provide for regular, independent 'State of the Environment' reporting. This bill will hopefully address New Zealand's recent poor record in this area relative to other OECD countries. The OECD has already identified New Zealand as one of a small number of countries where there is declining water quality – this was one of a large number of talks given at an International Water Association conference on Diffuse Pollution and Eutrophication (also combined with the IWA Health-Related Water Microbiology Specialist Group), which was held in Rotorua – and successfully organised by several members of NZFSS. Collectively, these issues highlight that a science-based approach to freshwater management must be strengthened to support the current demands on water quantity and to address the issue of declining water quality, particularly with a targeted freshwater restoration fund. It is also clear that there is a need to directly address the issue of diffuse pollution, including both nutrient and microbial contaminants.

It has been interesting to observe the way that lack of funding has cut into attendances of members at two important conferences. The first is our annual conference, which in 2011 is a combined one with the Australian Society for Limnology. The poor exchange rate of the NZ dollar and the exorbitant cost of registration and accommodation hit our attendance badly, despite the goodwill of our Australian colleagues in providing concessions with registration. Once again we have to thank the vision of our SIL Trustees with their investment arising from the 1987 conference, which has allowed for support of 10 students at the annual conference in Brisbane. Another conference, independent of NZFSS, was the second Freshwater Management Forum, held in Wellington earlier in 2011. At the request of the organisers Clive Howard-Williams presented an excellent paper on scientific support for freshwater management and used the opportunity to endorse NZFSS. The very substantial registration costs for this conference appeared to have deterred NZFSS members despite relatively good attendances by many water stakeholders.

I note the passing of two members of NZFSS over the past year. Dr David Le Cren died on 8th September 2011. He spent his working life in the UK where he became Chief Scientist of the Freshwater Biological Association, before retiring to New Zealand. He attended a number of NZFSS and SIL congresses, even in recent years, and the prestigious Le Cren medal in the UK was recently won by a New Zealander for the first time, when it was awarded posthumously to Bob McDowall earlier this year. Unfortunately Bob too, passed away in February this year. Bob's name is synonymous with native fishes of New Zealand and Australia. At the Brisbane conference Don Jellyman gave a wonderful documentation of Bob's life and left us in awe of his prolific scientific output. The intention is to put up a copy of Don Jellyman's presentation on the NZFSS web site.

On a positive note, I would like to thank several people who have contributed to NZFSS in the past year. Jay Piggott made a seamless transition as web site coordinator and has kept members well informed through email. Kati Doehring has eased some of the substantial burden on Hannah Rainforth relating to the preparation of our newsletter – well done to both for their efforts. A quick glimpse at the upcoming newsletter indicates that it is 128 pages in length. I would also like to thank Kevin Collier for his timely and reliable advice to me and Jon Harding for his representation on the Royal Society Biological Sciences Advisory Panel. Amongst our executive I wish to acknowledge our Māori representative, Jane Kitson, in a role that will surely become increasingly prominent with recent and upcoming co-management and settlement agreements.

Thanks to Brian Sorrell who continues to do an excellent job as Treasurer despite (or maybe because of) the tyrannies of distance and to Janine Wech for her timely and valuable contributions as Secretary. I also acknowledge the auditor for NZFSS, Stephen Dine, of Brown Web Richardson of Hastings.

One area in which we have not made a lot of progress on is the Code of Conduct for NZFSS. When we joined the Royal Society as a constituent Society we appear to be bound by its Code of Ethics. As a society we may need to formally adopt the Royal Society's code. I will follow this aspect through in the following year and confer with other people who may be more knowledgeable than me in this regard.

We will soon see the much-awaited publication of the Crustacea book. Mike Winterbourn in particular has done a great job in tying together with text and at the present time it is my understanding that only some figures require sorting before it does to publication.

Next year's conference is in Dunedin from 3rd to 7th December, followed by Hamilton in winter 2013, in a combined conference with NZ Marine Sciences Society and the Australasian Society for Phycology and Aquatic Botany.

I move from the chair that this report be accepted (*Chris Arbuckle – carried*).

4. Secretary-Treasurer's Report:

Total membership at 1 September 2011 was 438, with an increase in waged members in 2011 and stable student numbers (Tables 1 and 2).

Due to the early AGM this year (September rather than November), audited financial accounts are unavailable so preliminary unaudited figures are presented here. The audited Secretary/Treasurer report will be posted out for formal approval with subscription renewal notices for 2012.

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 1 September 2011 were \$78,968. We have one term deposit, the combined Jolly Fund, with \$64,941 at 1 September 2011. The Current Account at 1 September 2011 was at \$14,027.

Table 1: Financial status of membership.

	2011	2010	2009	2008	2007
Members – Current:					
Paid	268	148	172	89 [†]	252
Unpaid	140	240	163	202	44
Members - in arrears:					
1 year	-	-	36	37	37
2 year	-	-	39	36	2
3 year	-	-	-	2	-
Other:					
Honorary	11	11	11	11	11
Life	4	4	3	3	3
Legal*	1	1	1	1	1
Societies	5	5	5	5	5
Libraries	9	9	9	9	9
TOTAL	438	418	439	395	364

* Not a member; a legal requirement

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

Table 2: Type of membership

	2011	2010	2009	2008	2007
Ordinary	304	288	294	263	235
Corporate	15	15	28	31	32
Honorary	11	11	11	11	11
Life	4	4	3	3	3
Unwaged/Student	99	95	98	82	78
Other (Societies)	5	5	5	5	5

Total income (provisional) for 2011 was \$19,353.82. Our subscriptions income was \$8,733.31, which was our greatest single income item this year. Other sources of income were book sales (Freshwaters of NZ and the Entomological Bulletin: \$1,060.58) and interest from our term deposit (\$4,068.25).

Expenses include S.I.L Trust student prizes (\$1,500) and Jolly Student Travel awards (\$800). A donation of \$10,000 was also made to the S.I.L Trust (as voted by members at the 2010 AGM).

Income was exceeded by expenditure by \$3,872.51 in 2010/11.

Formal request for approval of the Secretary/Treasurer's report will be posted out with subscriptions renewal notices later this year.

Motion: That the Auditor for the next financial year be Brown Webb Richardson Ltd., Hastings. (*Janine Wech / David Hamilton – carried*).

5. SIL 1987 Trust Fund:

Neil Deans presented the (unaudited) 2010/11 financial statement for the S.I.L Trust, prepared by Kit Rutherford. Notes from this are:

- The value of investments remained largely unchanged
- Three travel awards were made by the Trust during the reporting period
- There was no expenditure apart from bank fees
- The accounts were unaudited
- NZFSS transferred \$10,000 to the S.I.L Trust Fund

Motion: That the S.I.L Trust Fund report be accepted. (*Roger Young/Janine Wech - carried*).

6. Publications / Communications:

- Don Jellyman's plenary tribute to Bob McDowall – Don was thanked for his in-depth tribute to Bob "Bob McDowall – the man and his influence on Australasian fisheries science". The presentation will hopefully be accessible on the NZFSS website in the near future for members to view.
- Students who are recipients of the SIL Trust Awards: an extended abstract (two pages, including figures) will be uploaded onto the NZFSS website within the next month.
- Posters: no information was forthcoming regarding posters.
- Crustacean book: Mike Winterbourne is in the final stages of sorting figures prior to printing.

7. Future conferences:

- **2012** – Chris Arbuckle presented a brief overview for the 2012 conference, which will be held from the 3rd to 7th December in Dunedin. The venue will be the University of Otago, and the theme (taken from the Land and Water Forum) will be 'Limits'. The Chair of the organising committee is Gerry Closs.
- **2013** – The 2013 conference will be held in Hamilton, and combined with the Marine Sciences Society. No dates have been set yet, but it will likely be held sometime between June/August.

8. Awards:

- Best Student Paper Award – entries for this close on 30 September 2011.

- NZFSS medal – nominations should be forwarded to the Executive Committee for consideration.

9. Professional Code of Ethics:

- The Royal Society of New Zealand issued a Code of Professional Standards and Ethics on 25 November 2010 that all members of the RSNZ must comply with. As NZFSS is a constituent organisation of the Royal Society, David Hamilton will check to see if we need to formally adopt this code and if member's signatures are required.

10. General Business:

- Don Jellyman reported that along with the Le Cren medal, Bob McDowall received a sum of £1,000. Bob's wife, Ainsley, would like this to be donated into a memorial fund in Bob McDowall's name. Possible recipients for the award include student/early scientist/post-doc members.
 - This will be raised at the next Executive meeting, along with the possibility of adding/matching funds from NZFSS to provide a more substantial funding base.
- Phil Jellyman raised the possibility of incorporating a student voting system at future conferences, similar to the ASL student initiative ("apple award").
 - To be discussed and initiated within the student membership at future conferences.
- Golden Gumboot Award: due to the Australia-based conference, the 'trophy' remains in New Zealand (given the wooden base may not meet with customs approval). Neil Deans will collate entries for this year's presentation (minus trophy).
- Deniz Özkundakci put forward a recommendation that NZFSS adopt ASL practice of having a student mixer where there is opportunity to meet senior society members in a relaxed setting.
 - Deniz will liaise with Chris Arbuckle for the 2012 conference.

The meeting closed at 5:20 p.m.