

Minutes of the 45<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting  
of the  
New Zealand Limnological Society Inc.  
(Trading as New Zealand Freshwater Sciences Society)

*[Final Copy: Minutes approved and confirmed as true record at the 2013 AGM held in Hamilton]*

The AGM was held at the University of Otago on Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> December, 2012. The meeting opened at 5:20 pm.

**Present:** David Hamilton, President; Janine Wech, Assistant Secretary-Treasurer; and 95 members.

1. **Apologies** Brian Sorrell, Vivienne Cassie Cooper, Philippe Gerbeaux.
2. **NZFSS Medal** – presented to Bob Wilcock for his services to understanding and managing freshwaters by David Hamilton.

Bob has maintained and promoted excellence in science over many years – from solution chemistry to catchment studies. He has been a great mentor to many and is widely trusted in the agricultural community. Bob gained his BSc (Hons) in chemistry and his PhD in physical chemistry from the University of Canterbury (NZ) before working as a postdoctoral research associate at Wright State University, Ohio, where studies included gas solubility in liquids and related thermodynamic properties. He joined the water section of the Chemistry Division, DSIR, in 1975 and then moved to the Ministry of Works Water and Soil Science Centre in Hamilton, in 1980. The Centre (renamed the Hamilton Science Centre) became one of the principal components of NIWA. Bob's early work focused on dissolved oxygen and reaeration in rivers, colour and optical properties of waters, pesticide threats to aquatic ecosystems, effects of macrophytes on water chemistry, and catchment science. Since the mid-1990s his research has mainly concerned land-water interactions, with special emphasis on dairy farming and the development of mitigation methods. A major project was the Best Practice Catchments for Sustainable Dairying (2001-2011) that has been very influential in informing key groups about dairy impacts, possible mitigation measures and their likely effectiveness. Recently, Bob has been studying gas transfer across the air-water interface again, but this time focusing on nitrous oxide emissions and the importance of denitrification in lowering nitrate concentrations. At NIWA, Bob is Programme Leader – Causes and Effects of Water Quality Degradation in the Freshwater & Estuaries National Science Centre. His career has been characterised by a range of fundamental through to more applied activities in more recent times. He has co-supervised postgraduate students, has written around 100 peer-reviewed papers, most of which are first-authored, and has written around 90 technical reports. Notable papers which he first-authored range from the fundamental (and notorious): "Solubility of oxygen-nitrogen mixture in water" which was published in Nature in 1974; to more recent applied papers such as "Inputs of nutrients and fecal bacteria to freshwaters from irrigated agriculture: Case studies in Australia and New Zealand" published in Environmental Management in 2011.

### **3. Minutes of the 44<sup>th</sup> AGM:**

*Matters arising from minutes:* Dealt with under general business.

*Motion:* That the minutes be accepted as a true and correct record of the 44<sup>th</sup> AGM (*Janine Wech / Neil Deans – carried*)

### **4. President's Report:**

Perhaps we should mark down 2012 as something of a landmark year for water. A year when the Land and Water Forum released its third and final report, when one of our members, Mike Joy, has raised the profile of the state and trends in water quality in NZ widely within NZ and indeed to the rest of the world, and when we are now fully aware of just how passionate New Zealanders are about their environment.

The New Zealand Freshwater Sciences Society (NZFSS) has made a number of submissions, most of which follow on from its original feedback on the National Policy Statement in Freshwater Management. Many of these statements, including media releases and letters to Ministers, are available on our web site. I hope members take the time to go to the web site where they can also learn more about the Society in general. NZFSS has commented on previous reports of the Land and Water Forum and urged government to act with urgency to make the necessary regulatory and policy reforms that are consistent with the recommendations of the Land and Water Forum. The Society will again write to the Minister for the Environment to urge her to take up the recommendations of the third and final Land and Water Forum report. Our meeting today will no doubt discuss the methods, extent of involvement and effectiveness of the Society in raising awareness of the value of science for the management of water in New Zealand. Any society is only as strong as its members, however, and what we do must be coordinated and driven by a large volume of activity from within the Society including between meetings.

In November I attended the Presidents' meeting for constituent organisations of the Royal Society of New Zealand. My message was why the Royal Society is not consistently the first 'port of call' for ministers and politicians to derive sound scientific information. The second point was around the extent to which the Royal Society itself is politically active. This theme seems somewhat pervasive: how can we make New Zealanders better informed scientifically using the extensive knowledge and expertise that is resident within our societies.

Last year's conference was held in Brisbane and was attended by a relatively small group from New Zealand. NZFSS and the Australian Society for Limnology hold a combined conference every four years; in other words every eight years there is a conference in Australia. Travelling costs for the conference in Australia were modest compared with registration and accommodation costs. Costs for attending the conference in Australia will likely continue to be an issue for our NZ members. Without the support of the SIL Trust and the Society, we would have had very few students at the Brisbane meeting; John Harding has more to follow on this issue.

With regard to this year's annual meeting, I would especially like to thank Gerry Closs and his organising committee for their efforts in making this meeting a great success. From careful selection of keynote speakers to good food, a well organised scientific programme and some excellent workshops, I think we would all agree that this has been an excellent conference.

I would especially like to thank a few people who have assisted me and the Society over the past year.

- Kevin Collier, the immediate Past President and current Vice-President, continues to be a wealth of knowledge for me and an excellent confidante.
- Brian Sorrell (from afar in Denmark) and Janine Wech have been the administrative engine of the society and I thank them for taking on this administrative burden.
- I would also like to mention Jay Piggott who, even though he is now in Singapore, has been fantastic in conveying information to members through email and the web site.

Looking ahead to next year's conference, we are fortunate to have Kevin Collier already working hard to make sure that our 2013 conference in Hamilton will be a success. Our 2013 conference will take place from 19<sup>th</sup> to 23<sup>rd</sup> August 2013 and will be a joint conference with the New Zealand Marine Sciences Society and the Australian Society for Fish Biology. I look forward to seeing you there.

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

## 5. Secretary-Treasurer's Report:

### *Membership*

Total membership at 30 November 2012 was 473. Membership figures for the last four years are shown in Table 1 & 2. Total membership continues to increase, reflecting a healthy number of new members joining over the past 12 months.

**Table 1: Financial status of membership**

	2012	2011	2010	2009	2008
<b>Members – Current:</b>					
Paid	221	268	148	172	89 <sup>†</sup>
Unpaid	120	140	240	163	202
<b>Members - in arrears:</b>					
1 year	103	-	-	36	37
2 year	-	-	-	39	36
3 year	-	-	-	-	2
<b>Other:</b>					
Honorary	10	11	11	11	11
Life	4	4	4	3	3
Legal*	1	1	1	1	1
Societies	5	5	5	5	5
Libraries	9	9	9	9	9
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>473</b>	<b>438</b>	<b>418</b>	<b>439</b>	<b>395</b>

\* Not a member; a legal requirement

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

**Table 2: Type of membership**

	2012	2011	2010	2009	2008
Ordinary	329	304	288	294	263
Corporate	13	15	15	28	31
Honorary	10	11	11	11	11
Life	4	4	4	3	3
Unwaged/Student	112	99	95	98	82
Other (Societies)	5	5	5	5	5

There have been 41 new members joining since 1 December 2011 (20 student/unwaged and 21 ordinary members).

**Finances:**

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

Our total assets (including equity in stock of unsold books) at 30 June 2011 were \$67,600, down from \$81,101 at 30 June 2011. Income was exceeded by expenditure by \$13502 in 2011/12.

Income: Our subscriptions income was \$5209, which was our greatest single income item this year. Interest was \$2395.

Unusually, conference income and expenditure was a small contributor to our expenses in 2011/12, due to the Brisbane conference with which the Society was not financially involved.

The large excess of expenditure over income was due to two big items: student support for travel to the Brisbane conference (\$11,550), and the publishing of the Crustacean book (\$11,249). RSNZ fees were \$1200; note that RSNZ is basing its fees on numbers of waged members, at \$4 per member (their fee last year was based on a membership of 300). As our number of members increases, their fee increases. In other words, \$4 of each of the \$34.78 subs fee paid by a waged member goes to RSNZ.

We have one term deposit, the combined Jolly Fund, with \$52,827 at 30 June 2012. The Current Account at 30 June 2012 was at \$5,459.

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

*Motion:* That the Society accounts for 2011/12 be accepted. (*Janine Wech / David Hamilton - carried*).

**6. SIL 1987 Trust Fund:**

Jon Harding presented the (unaudited) 2011/12 financial summary for the S.I.L Trust. Funds of \$10,225 have been awarded over the last year; with income from interest (\$1,021) earned. The SIL accounts balance has reduced over the last year from:

- Ready money account: \$1,527 (Oct 2011) to \$153 (Sept 2012)
- Unit Trust: \$20,443.90 (Oct 2011) to \$12,563.28 (Sept 2012)

Two options available for building the Trust up again:

- Request further funds from NZFSS (last request was approved in 2010 for \$10,000)
- Increase subs by \$5 to \$15 for students/unwaged members; and by \$15 to \$55 for waged members (the larger increase for waged members incorporates increased expenses in NZFSS, such as RSNZ membership); also freeze funding awards over next 3 to 4 years (except SIL student prizes at conferences which will still be funded).

*Motion:* That the Society increases membership fees by \$15 for waged members and \$5 for unwaged/student members. *(Unanimous Ayes from members at meeting; no dissenters – carried).*

*Motion:* That the S.I.L Trust Fund report be accepted. *(Jon Harding / Neil Deans - carried).*

## **7. Publications:**

- Website: Jay Piggot would like to retire from his co-opted member role as Website Manager, so if any other member is happy to take this on, please let the Exec know.
- Newsletter: Hannah Rainforth proposes that the society publishes its newsletter in two issues per year. The content would be split between member updates on one, and articles of interest in the other, and therefore make each newsletter smaller.
  - Majority of members present expressed favour in this recommendation
- Freshwaters of New Zealand: Jon Harding advises that plans for the replacement book to this (working title: “Advances on Freshwater Science”) are underway.
  - FoNZ will be converted to pdf and made freely available on the internet.
  - The new book will focus on freshwater issues since 2004.
  - It is a joint HydroSoc / NZFSS project with two editors from each society.
  - The aim is to publish at the end of 2014.
  - Currently, 37 chapters have been identified for inclusion (~750 pages)
  - The budget at present is for 1000 books costing approx. \$51,600 (\$44,000 + gst). If each is sold for \$87 (incl. gst), then 607 copies is the break even target (membership is ~ 800 for both societies combined).
  - Further discussion is required on book content, title, target audience etc. This could be held on the NZFSS forum.

## **8. Election of society officers**

The following officers were nominated and duly elected:

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

David Hamilton elected President unopposed.

- *Secretary/Treasurer: Nominations – Janine Wech (David Hamilton / JoAnna Lessard).  
Motion: Nominations close (Jon Harding / Phil Jellyman – carried)*

Janine Wech elected Secretary / Treasurer unopposed

- *Committee Officers: Nominations – Susie Wood (David Hamilton / Carolyn Burns);  
Phil Jellyman (Helen Warburton / Jon Harding)  
Motion: Nominations close (David Hamilton / Jon Harding – carried)*

Susie Wood and Phil Jellyman elected Committee Officers unopposed.

- *Newsletter editor: Nominations – Kati Doehring (David Hamilton / Hannah Rainforth)*

*Motion: Nominations close (David Hamilton / Jon Harding – carried)*

Kati Doehring elected Newsletter editor unopposed

- *S.I.L. Trust Fund Awards Committee: Nominations – Mary de Winton (Clive Howard-Williams / Neil Deans); Natasha Grainger (Kevin Collier / Carolyn Burns)*

*Motion: Nominations close (Kevin Collier / Janine Wech – carried)*

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

The following members have kindly offered their time to assist as co-opted executive members for specific tasks:

- Assistant Newsletter Editor - Natasha Petrove
- Web-site Manager - Jay Piggott
- Māori Representative - Jane Kitson
- Māori Representative - Mahuru Robb
- Student Representative - Helen Warburton
- Media Monitor - Mike Patrick
- Community Outreach - Justine Coop
- Advocacy / Submissions Manager - Kate McArthur

David Hamilton thanked out-going newsletter editor, Hannah Rainforth, for her work over the last four years in preparing the NZFSS newsletter, and thanked out-going Committee Officer Deniz Özkundakci for his work on the executive since 2010.

## **9. Future conferences**

- 2013 – Hamilton. Kevin Collier to present at Conference Close
- 2014 – South Island venue; possibly Blenheim with HydroSoc.

## **10. Royal Society of NZ Biological and Life Sciences Advisory panel**

Jon Harding is a member of the Biological and Life Sciences Advisory Panel, which provides advice to the RSNZ on matters of concern. Jon proposed that this position could be made better use of by writing a position paper presenting the facts relating to land intensification and water quality, as a reference for politicians. Further discussion followed. There was agreement that a media statement could be released in the short-term, following the close of the conference, with contributions by members; with support by all members; that the statement expresses concern about declining water quality and biodiversity; that the statement include urgency for the government to act and recommendations to act upon (e.g. endorse the Land & Water Forum recommendations). David Hamilton proposed that he draft a statement after the AGM to this effect and circulate by email to all members for their contributions.

## **11. Proposals for web hosting: land-use practices photos; biomanipulation case studies**

Marc Schallenberg proposed that a project be initiated whereby photos of examples of good and bad land use, taken by members, could be hosted on the website. The photos would be geo-referenced with captions to include date, impact of land-use practice, aspect, etc. A brief discussion followed with members for and against: for example, a similar site already exists in Wellington; Facebook is another host option. A second proposal for documentation on biomanipulation case studies in lakes to be hosted on the website. A brief discussion also followed with no resolution. A recommendation was made that further discussion on both proposals be continued after the conference.

## **12. Proposal for a nationwide approach to planning management for large rivers**

Dave West proposed that NZFSS (possibly in association with HydroSoc and the IPENZ River Group) initiate a nationwide approach to planning whole-of-river river use/plan, particularly for large rivers. The aim is to request the government to initiate a formal process so that a holistic approach and schedule to manage development of our rivers is followed. There was limited time for discussion on this topic. A recommendation was made that further discussion be continued after the conference.

## **13. Professional code of ethics**

Russell Death raised the issue that he has noticed poor science is increasingly being used in resource consents and AEE's, and whether a professional code of ethics is required. Discussion followed including the review process of the consents and the environment court, and the use of NZFSS membership as a way to give higher station. Russell will draft a memo and circulate to members to determine if further discussion and action is warranted.

## **14. Honorary membership**

Jon Harding nominated Brian Sorrell for the award of Honorary Membership of the NZFSS. Brian has served on the executive for more than 10 years. As he is now living in Denmark, the Society felt that a NZ-based member would be better to continue in the Secretary /Treasurer role. However, this award would appropriately acknowledge Brian's contribution to the Society.

*Motion: that an Honorary Membership be awarded to Brian Sorrell (Jon Harding / Neil Deans – carried)*

The meeting closed at 7:20 p.m.