

Minutes of the 46th Annual General Meeting
of the
New Zealand Limnological Society Inc.
(Trading as New Zealand Freshwater Sciences Society)

[These Minutes were approved and confirmed as true record at the 2014 AGM held in Blenheim on 26 November 2014 (Motion: Neil Deans; Seconded: Kevin Collier)]

The AGM was held at The University of Waikato on Wednesday 21st August, 2013. The meeting opened at 4:05 pm.

Present: David Hamilton, President; Janine Wech, Secretary-Treasurer; and 41 members.

1. **Apologies** Carolyn Burns, Vivienne Cassie Cooper, Jon Harding, Susie Wood.
2. **Minutes of the 45th AGM circulated**
3. **Matters arising from minutes of the 45th AGM**

Two corrections to the minutes were required:

- i. Bob Wilcock's name spelt incorrectly (now corrected);
- ii. Under item '6. SIL 1987 Trust Fund' the following was omitted: "freeze funding of awards from SIL Trust (only exception is SIL student awards), allowing funds to build up for 3 to 4 years" (now inserted).

Matters arising from minutes: Dealt with under general business.

Motion: That the minutes be accepted as a true and correct record of the 45th AGM (*Neil Deans / Janine Wech – carried*)

4. President's Report:

During our 2012 conference in Dunedin, our society put out a collective statement to raise awareness of the imperilled state of freshwaters in New Zealand and the pressures on freshwater from land use change and intensification as well as water abstraction. The Society also highlighted the extraordinary level of management and policy response necessary to address this issue. Our collective statement appeared to have an impact through media, organisations and community groups. It may have in part prompted the continuation of the Ministry for the Environment (MFE) co-ordinating a large amount of work since that time, with over 50 scientists from NZFSS being involved in various capacities over the past year, including committees and panels relating to National Environmental Monitoring and Reporting (NEMAR), National Environmental Standards (NES) and the National Objective Framework (NOF). Members of NZFSS also had involvement to varying degrees in the independent Land and Water forum. Some of that momentum appears to be have stalled and it is essential that it is picked up again in light of the fact that there is work to progress for some time into the foreseeable future, in order that we attain the comprehensive limits-based policies and regulations recommended by the Land and Water forum.

I would like to thank many members who provided their feedback on the Dairy Accord which was adopted last month. As pointed out by members, some aspects of the Accord relating to freshwater protection are at snail's pace, for example a provision that 100% of all dairy farms with waterways will only have to have a riparian management plan by 31 May 2020. The other issue identified by members was that riparian actions would apply only to permanently flowing streams greater than 30 cm depth. This only serves to demonstrate that the Freshwater Reforms based on the recommended limit-setting process must proceed with some urgency and that we need buy in from other sectors of the agricultural community as well as from dwellers in urban settings.

The NZFSS has lobbied its parent body, the Royal Society, to support it by being part of the Parliamentary Speaker's Science Forum which is attended by parliamentarians. After lobbying to have the Society engaged to be part of the series, the Royal Society independently engaged two people to speak on freshwater issues. Fortunately one of these people was one of our own members, Dr Susie Wood, who was belatedly able to promote the activities of our society to politicians. Once again we, however, have had poor representation from our parent body and this repeated occurrence brings into question the commitment to, and value gained from RSNZ.

On a different note, it is a great pleasure to announce the award of the NZFSS medal to Professor Carolyn Burns, for outstanding contributions to freshwater sciences. Carolyn has been a long-serving member of our society and has provided outstanding academic leadership with major contributions to professional societies including a term as president of the International Society for Limnology (SIL), providing original and ground-breaking research into the size-efficiency hypothesis based on *Daphnia*, as well as mentoring and supervising many post-graduate students. The award will be presented at next year's conference.

A number of people have continued to make significant contributions to, or on behalf of, our society over the past year. Whilst Jay Piggott is located offshore, he continues to manage our web site and provide timely electronic updates to our society. Kati Doehring and Natasha Petrove provide us with a highly professional newsletter. I have also nearly completed a small project to get all of our past newsletters into electronic form so that they may be a permanent electronic resource accessible from our web site. And we owe special thanks to Kate McArthur who has done a fantastic job with almost single-handedly coordinating our society's response to MFE in relation to the government reforms relating to both the RMA and Freshwater.

With regard to the present conference, special thanks to Kevin Collier and our other freshwater members, Natasha Grainger, Erina Watene-Rawiri, Brendan Hicks and Nick Ling, as well as the professional conference organisers On Cue. These people have done a wonderful job with sponsorship, plenary speakers and the programme generally.

Lastly, and following on from our tribute to Stephen Moore in this year's conference, I wish to acknowledge throughout his working career his dedication and commitment to advocacy, communication and photography related to stream ecology. NZFSS members pass on their condolences to Stephen's wife Ruby and children Alexis and Bernice.

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

5. Secretary-Treasurer's Report:

Membership

Total membership at 1 August was 502. Membership figures for the last five years are shown in Tables 1 and 2. Total membership continues to increase, with increases in both waged (ordinary) and student / unwaged member categories over the last year. Of note are the number of members in arrears by 2 years. This has also increased and this represents members that either are no longer interesting in retaining membership to the Society or who have yet to pay their subscriptions. The membership database is reviewed every three to four years, and those members who have not been financial for more than 3 years are removed. This was last carried out in 2010.

Table 1: Financial status of membership

	2013	2012	2011	2010	2009
Members – Current:					
Paid	248	221	268	148	172
Unpaid	97	120	140	240	163
Members - in arrears:					
1 year	45	103	-	-	36
2 year	83	-	-	-	39
Other:					
Honorary	10	10	11	11	11
Life	4	4	4	4	3
Legal*	1	1	1	1	1
Societies	5	5	5	5	5
Libraries	9	9	9	9	9
TOTAL	502	473	438	418	439

* Not a member; a legal requirement

Table 2: Type of membership

	2013	2012	2011	2010	2009
Ordinary	345	329	304	288	294
Corporate	13	13	15	15	28
Honorary	10	10	11	11	11
Life	4	4	4	4	3
Unwaged/Student	125	112	99	95	98
Other (Societies)	5	5	5	5	5

Finances:

The following report is unaudited.

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 "Guide to freshwater Crustacea of NZ") at 30 June 2013 were \$72,642. This is an increase from \$67,600 in 2011/12.

We have one term deposit, the combined Jolly Fund, with \$50,303 at 30 June 2013. The Current Account was at \$12,604 at 30 June 2013.

INCOME: A small profit was made in 2012/13 with our net income \$1,823. Subscriptions was our greatest single income item in 2012/13 with this category broken down into Subscriptions Current: \$8,451; Subscriptions in Arrears: \$1,070; and Subscriptions in Advance: \$243. Revenue earned from sales of "Guide to freshwater Crustacea of NZ" in 2011/12 was paid in 2012/13 and this was our second largest income stream with \$2,652 earned from 101 copies sold. Interest on our bank accounts (both current account and our term deposit) was \$1,682.

Income from the 2012 conference paid during 2012/13 was \$600. Additional income from this conference was received in July 2013 (gross income: \$7,190) and this will be reported at the 2014 AGM.

EXPENSES: The main expenditure item in 2012/13 was conference expenses (\$5,113), followed by fees to the Royal Society of New Zealand (\$1,200). RSNZ fees are calculated at \$4 per waged member, so our subscription to RSNZ is likely to increase this year.

These financial accounts are unaudited (due to Brown Webb Richardson Ltd. advising they are no longer able to perform this function for us). I propose that a new auditor (Angela Wood – Chartered Accountant) be engaged to audit our accounts for 2012-13. The fee is estimated to be between \$1,300 and \$1,700 to conduct the audit, with an additional fee of \$500 to prepare our financial statements.

An option for future financial review of the Society's books is a Review Engagement, with a full audit every 3 years. The estimated cost for this is about two thirds the cost of an audit. But this would require a constitutional change by postal ballot, and it may risk our tax-free status with IRD. Further information on this option will be made available to members later in the year.

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

Motion: That Angela Wood – Chartered Accountant be appointed as auditor for FY2013 (*Janine Wech/ Neil Deans*)

Motion: That the Society accounts for 2012/13 be accepted. (*Janine Wech / Brian Sorrell - carried*).

6. SIL 1987 Trust Fund:

Kit Rutherford (Treasurer) presented the (unaudited) SIL 1987 Trust Interim Annual Accounts for 2012-2013.

17/09/2012	NZ Bond Trust	ND (Information about the NZ Bond Trust not available)
17/09/2012	BNZ Ready Money account	\$153.60
17/09/2012	Int. Equity Trust	\$12,563.28

Awards:	No awards were made	
Income:	Estate of the late Vida Stout	\$30,000
Expenditure:	Charities Commission	\$51.11
31/03/2013	NZ Bond Trust	\$17,462.33 (Information about the NZ Bond Trust added)
17/07/2013	BNZ Ready Money account	\$30,088.60
17/07/2013	Int. Equity Trust	\$15, 128.36
TOTAL ASSETS		\$62,679
Dividends/Interest		c. \$2,599
Amount available for awards in 2013-2014		
5% of assets		c. \$3,000
Plus dividends/interest		c. \$2,500

The generous bequest from Vida Stout has boosted SIL Trust funds. This was the second time that Vida gave generously to the Trust (a donation received previously from her was recorded as an anonymous donor).

Theoretically, there would be about \$5,500 in awards available next year.

Motion: That the SIL Trust Fund report be accepted. (David Hamilton / Richard Allibone - carried).

7. One day workshop – National Objectives Framework

A workshop (in conjunction with HydroSoc) has been proposed to inform members on the process of limit setting and NOF, with members unable to physically attend the workshop being able to participate via an electronic link. The process for holding the workshop up to now has been delayed, but during the public consultation phase of the process would be a good opportunity to hold the workshop. Discussions from members at the AGM raised the following: what value would there be in having a workshop; who are the key people that would attend; is there value in connecting the workshop via electronic medium; timing in holding the workshop would be critical, with tight consultation and reporting phases; all members are encouraged to share the workload; the NOF is the most significant legislation since the RMA legislation, and so it is critical that freshwater input is heard; need to allow members to voice concerns and remain anonymous; also need to ensure that information is disseminated early to allow adequate representation; need to ensure that enough time is allowed for workshop discussion; work pressures mean that many members have little extra free time; a senior Ministry for the Environment representative should also be at the workshop; parallel sessions versus one session was raised with the consensus being that one session was more desirable; possibly linking with other societies.

From the above discussion, the following was decided:

- The workshop should be no longer than one day,
- An MfE representative would assist, give details and background documents to participants in advance,
- Timing: ensure enough notice of workshop is given to allow maximum participation
- Assistance to set up the workshop is needed; but first wait for MfE to give go-ahead.

8. Morgan Foundation River Awards – 28 November 2013

The Morgan Foundation (Gareth Morgan) is sponsoring the first annual NZ River Awards in November 2013. This is similar to the International River Foundation and is designed to award for the most improved river in each region, and a Supreme Award for the most improved river in New Zealand. This year's Awards will use E. coli data to determine the most improved river as an indicator of river health.

- ACTION: David Hamilton to write to Gareth Morgan to offer the Society's support.

9. Succession planning for Māori Representative

Jane Kitson is stepping down as Māori Representative. Taking her place is Hannah Rainforth. Mahuru Robb continues in the role of Assistant Māori Representative. This is a co-opted member role, so no elections to the position are required. David thanked Jane for her work in the role and welcomed Hannah.

10. Publications

- **Guide to the freshwater Crustacea of New Zealand:** Manaaki Whenua Press are winding up operations so new distributor needs to be found. At present, MWP are in discussions with Lincoln University and Nationwide Distributors (who deal with University of Canterbury) regarding who will continue to distribute all publications by MWP. Our contract with MWP expires in December 2014, so a decision on how to distribute the remaining stock after this will be required.
 - ACTION: Janine Wech to inquire what electronic resources (i.e. files that went to the printers) MWP hold that are NZFSS publications, and retrieve for the Society to hold.
- **Freshwaters of New Zealand (second edition):**
 - Progress around getting FONZ (2nd Ed.) ready for publication has slowed while waiting for follow-up from HydroSoc.
 - PDF's of FONZ (1st Ed.) have been found, so no need to get organise this to be done. The next stage is making these available on the web.

11. Data repository for information such as expert evidence – RSNZ site

RSNZ hosts our website and could potentially also be used to store large amounts of electronic information, such as expert evidence (an idea brought up in the past by Rasmus Gabrielsson). Members discussed the issues in following this up, including: expert evidence is opinion-based; expert evidence is also currently available through the Freedom of Information ACT and regional council websites (although this is not a permanent storage option); maintenance of files would be required (i.e. it is resource-hungry); it could be an inefficient way to keep this information. The discussion concluded that there was no clear path forward, so no action required.

12. Future conferences

2014 conference will be held jointly with HydroSoc in Blenheim from 24 to 28 November. Pete Hamill (from Marlborough District Council) is the organising chair. On Cue have been booked as the conference organisers.

2015 conference: ASL are due to visit NZ, and a venue in the North Island needs to be found. Any volunteers to contact the Executive.

13. General Business

- **Kate McArthur:** call for volunteers to help with making submissions with reviews coming up (e.g. RMA), specifically with drafting responses, getting opinions of members and collating for submission. Dean Olsen and Jane Kitson indicated they would be available to help.
 - **Clive Howard-Williams:** Catchments Technologies Conference will be held in Hamilton in November 2014. The conference is to disseminate information on technologies to mitigate agriculture and diffuse sources of nutrients. The conference was last held in Italy in 2011.
 - **Kati Doehring:** Suggested having a closing media statement to inform the public on what we think about the state of the environment, possibly a joint statement with the Marine Society.
 - ACTION: David Hamilton to draft media statement with Marine Society and circulate to members.
- Further discussion was as follows: suggestions that the interface (estuaries) needs work; that media statements are good only for the day of release to the press, so should it be sent to politicians?; however, last year's media statement has lasted well, and it remains on our website; the timing of the release is critical, when it is received and acted upon; the independent view is important – that it is a statement by scientists rather than an organisation; we could champion an urban streams accord and promote this to regional councils (similar to the dairy accord), setting a series of targets for regional councils.

The meeting closed at 5:30 p.m.