

Minutes of the 47th Annual General Meeting
of the
New Zealand Limnological Society Inc.
(Trading as New Zealand Freshwater Sciences Society)
Held at Marlborough Convention Centre, Blenheim
Wednesday 26 November 2014

These Minutes were approved and confirmed as true record at the 2015 AGM held in Wellington on 26 November 2015 (Motion: Avalon Edwards; Seconded: Greg Burrell)

Prior to the AGM being opened, Carolyn Burns was presented with the New Zealand Sciences Society Medal (2013) by David Hamilton. The medal was awarded in absentia to Carolyn at the 2013 AGM in Hamilton.

The Annual General Meeting commenced at 5:20pm and was chaired by David Hamilton, President.

Present: David Hamilton, President; Janine Wech, Secretary-Treasurer, and 57 members.

- 1. Apologies** – Brian Sorrell, Chris Arbuckle, Kate McArthur, Natasha Grainger, Vivienne Cassie-Cooper, Aareka Hopkins, Shannan Crow
- 2. Minutes of the 46th AGM circulated**

Matters arising from minutes: Dealt with under general business.

Motion: That the minutes be accepted as a true and correct record of the 46th AGM (*Neil Deans / Kevin Collier – carried*)

- 3. President's report** [David Hamilton]

It is finally time for me to hand over the reins as President of the NZFSS, after four years. I wish to especially thank the executive committee which has supported me over the past four years. Kevin Collier in particular has consistently offered excellent support and advice, and has been an excellent point of reference for me. Also, Kate McArthur has put in a huge amount of work supporting the Society through media submissions. The NZFSS put in a 60-page submission to MfE on the NPS. I would like to think that this submission at least brought some degree of change and improvement to the final NPS that was adopted. It is notable that every attempt was made to ensure that the NZFSS response was circulated through all members and that they were given adequate time to respond and help to formulate the response. This is not always the case and we are increasingly challenged by the media to respond to topical areas of the freshwater domain within extremely short time frames. In some cases there is no option but to provide an 'executive' statement because of the importance and relevance of the material that is put in front of us.

It is time to reflect on the NPS and in particular the NOF. This has been a long process – and one that is ongoing – and it has fairly much followed me through the tenure of my presidency. One aspect that is important as we move to the next phase is to be able to develop a consistent understanding of what is meant by the ‘Freshwater Management Units’. Another is to be able to clearly delineate the way in which members of NZFSS have provided scientific input into the development of attributes and the way in which economists and policy makers have then influenced the final NPS outcome. The decision making process needs to be communicated to the public.

The NZFSS continues to be one of the Constituent Organisations in the Royal Society of New Zealand. As many will be aware we have had some disappointments over the years with regard to the level of engagement that we have had with RSNZ, but there have been some hints of change and greater inclusivity of the Constituent Organisations. We need to think of ways in which we better promote our respective organisational roles and responsibilities, but particularly with regard to how RSNZ can assist our organisation to communicate the value of science for addressing the decline of freshwater resources in New Zealand.

I would like to encourage members to become involved with the International Society of Limnology (SIL). The SIL offers student memberships for \$5 and it has its own journal, *Inland Waters*. Involvement of NZ members in SIL is important as it gives us a level of connectivity with international colleagues working in freshwater, especially through conferences, which are soon to be scheduled at biannual frequency. Our members have reaped benefits from SIL as a result of the 1987 conference which was held in Hamilton. The profits of that conference have enabled us to fund travel for NZ students to overseas conferences, and prominent international scientists to visit NZ.

Jon Harding and I attended the Presidents’ meeting at the Joint Aquatic Sciences Meeting 2014, held in Portland in May this year. The Presidents’ meeting represented an opportunity to look at our respective national issues, but most importantly, to provide a collective voice for common water issues globally. Stuart Bunn (Director of the Australian Rivers Institute) was prominent in these discussions. He prompted the collective to respond to the United Nations Environment Program by putting out a combined statement to highlight the commonalities and precarious state of freshwaters internationally. This message was also designed to ask how we can best persuade policy makers and politicians to engage with scientists as we address the challenges of climate change and land use change and intensification. At the Joint Aquatic Sciences Meeting (with nearly 5,000 people at the conference), Professor Colin Townsend received the Award of Excellence of the Society for Freshwater Science.

The NZFSS medal for 2013 has been awarded to Carolyn Burns, but as one of my last acts as president I also get the opportunity to announce the winner of the NZFSS medal for 2014. This award goes to Professor Colin Townsend. An official

presentation of the award will be made at the next year's conference in one year's time. It is not for me to present the details of Colin's immense contribution to freshwater sciences but briefly, this year he received an international award for his contributions to stream ecology (see above), he has been a long-term editor of *Freshwater Biology*, he has made major contributions to stream ecology and restoration in New Zealand, and of course he has contributed to the education of many practitioners in freshwater ecology through supervision and publication.

Last, next year's conference, which will be held in Wellington in the last week of November. Graeme Servicke-Jones has kindly agreed to undertake the organisation of this conference. This is a joint conference with the Australian Society of Limnology (ASL).

I move from the Chair that this report be accepted. (*Gerry Closs – carried*)

4. Secretary-Treasurer's report [Janine Wech]

Membership

Total membership as at November 2014 is 465, compared with 502 in 2013. Membership figures for the last five years are shown in Tables 1 and 2. Payment of membership subscriptions are a little behind for 2014 compared to 2013 but we hope members will catch up with the next subscription mail-out.

The number of members in arrears by 2 years has reduced this year due to a review of the membership database. Every 3 to 4 years, members who have not been financial for more than 3 years are removed from the database. This was last carried out in 2010.

Table 1: Financial status of membership

	2014	2013	2012	2011	2010
Members – Current:					
Paid	224	248	221	268	148
Unpaid	132	97	120	140	240
Members - in arrears:					
1 year	58	45	103	-	-
2 year	23	83	-	-	-
Other:					
Honorary	9	10	10	11	11
Life	4	4	4	4	4
Legal*	1	1	1	1	1
Societies	5	5	5	5	5
Libraries	9	9	9	9	9
TOTAL	465	502	473	438	418

(* Not a member; a legal requirement)

Membership by type shows the breakdown of our membership regardless of financial status.

Table 2: Type of membership

	2014	2013	2012	2011	2010
Ordinary	326	345	329	304	288
Corporate	108	13	13	15	15
Honorary	9	10	10	11	11
Life	4	4	4	4	4
Unwaged/Student	5	125	112	99	95
Other (Societies)	9	5	5	5	5

Finances:

The accounts were audited by Angela Wood Accountant, Blenheim.

Our total assets as at 30 June 2014 was \$88,828 and includes equity in unsold stock of “The Guide to the Freshwater Crustacea of New Zealand” (\$8,805) and our Jolly Term Deposit (\$51,729).

Income earned for the 2014 financial year came from our 2013 conference in Hamilton (\$9,419), subscription income (\$6,505) and interest earned from our term deposit and current account (\$1,799).

Main expenditure items for the 2014 financial year included our audit fee (\$2,100), RSNZ fees (\$1,200), hardcopy newsletter and postage (\$607), and bank charges (\$533). Awards to students (Jolly Student Travel Awards and NZFSS Best Student Paper Award) were \$1,300. Conference prizes in 2013 paid to students on behalf of the S.I.L Trust were \$800 (and these will be reimbursed by the Trust).

A net surplus of \$11,253 was made for the Society for the year ended 30 June 2014. This compares with a net surplus of \$10,411 in the 2013 financial year.

I request that the Secretary-Treasurer’s report be accepted

Motion: That the Society accounts for 2013-2014 be accepted (*Janine Wech / Carolyn Burns – carried*)

Angela Wood Accountant has carried out the audit of the Society for the last two financial years, however the firm is being taken over by Crowe Horwath NZ Ltd. The staff that conduct our audit are being retained. Therefore I move that the auditor appointed to conduct the Society audit for the 2015 financial year be Crowe Horwath NZ Ltd.

Motion: That the Auditor for the next financial year be Crowe Horwath NZ Ltd., Blenheim. (*Janine Wech / Marc Schallenberg – carried*)

5. SIL 1987 Trust Fund report [Kit Rutherford]

Kit Rutherford tabled the Trust’s financial statement (ending September 2014).

Total assets as at September 2014 were \$64,712.46, which was a net increase in assets of \$2,173.41 since September 2013. The SIL Trust has funds available to re-establish Awards in 2015. Items to appear on the SIL 1987 Trust financial statement for the next financial year

include income from donations received from NZFSS members from 2009 to 2014 (\$677), and the donation levied from NZFSS membership subscription fees once this has been confirmed by members at this AGM. Outgoings for the next financial year include reimbursing NZFSS for SIL conference student prizes from 2009 to 2014 (\$4,250) and Charities Commission fees (\$51).

Motion: That the SIL 1987 Trust Fund report be accepted (*David Hamilton / Carolyn Burns – carried*)

6. Elections of Society officers – two vacancies

The following officers were nominated and duly elected:

- *President:* Nominations – Marc Schallenberg (*Kevin Collier / Gerry Gloss*).
Motion: Nominations close (*ayes / no dissenters*)

Marc Schallenberg elected President unopposed.

- *Committee Officer:* Nominations – Kate McArthur (*Phil Jellyman / Hannah Rainforth*).
Motion: Nominations close (*ayes / no dissenters*)

Kate McArthur elected as Committee Officer unopposed.

The following members have also kindly agreed to be co-opted to the executive in the following roles:

- Student Representative – Simon Stewart
- Advocacy / Submissions Manager – Ngaire Phillips
- Community Outreach – Sophie Allen

7. Publications

Guide to the Crustacea of New Zealand [Janine Wech] – Sales have slowed with 8 books sold in 2014 (though Nationwide Book Distributors). There are 581 books currently in stock. Carolyn Burns suggested promoting the book at conferences, etc.

8. Future conferences

2015 – Joint conference with the Australian Limnological Society in Wellington. Graham Sevicke-Jones from Greater Wellington Regional Council is chairing the organising committee. He made an audio-visual presentation to introduce the event.

9. SIL Trust donations from membership subscriptions – clarification from 2012 AGM

Clarification on making donations to the SIL 1987 Trust Fund from membership donations was sought (following discussion at the 2012 AGM). Janine Wech presented the two options: Option A - \$5 from all financial members be donated to the SIL 1987 Trust

Option B - \$5 from student members and \$10 from waged members be donated to the SIL 1987 Trust Fund.

Phil Jellyman moved that Option B be followed; Seconded - Sophie Allen

Motion: that the Society donates \$5 from each student membership subscription and \$10 from each waged membership subscription to the SIL 1987 Trust Fund. Votes on this motion opened to the floor: Ayes unanimous ; no dissenters – carried)

10. General Business

- **S.I.L Trust Awards** – Angus McIntosh asked when the Travel Awards would be re-instated. Members were advised that the S.I.L Trustees had recently agreed there were sufficient funds to re-instate the S.I.L Trust Fund Travel Awards for 2015. There were insufficient funds to re-instate the S.I.L Trust Fund Guest Lecturer Award for 2015.
- **Conservation of freshwater mussels – kakahi** - Sue Clearwater invited members to add to knowledge on species and distribution of kakahi and is setting up an email list.
- **NOF framework and public statements on freshwater issues** - Neil Deans raised the issue of how to keep members in the communication loop and able to respond to different statements on freshwater issues, including engaging with NOF, sometimes at short notice. Currently the Executive responds on behalf of the Society, but possibly a process for members to contribute could be developed (perhaps having a sub-committee off the executive to work out responses.
- **Cass field station – 100 year commemorations** - Angus McIntosh advised that commemorations would be starting soon to celebrate 100 years of teaching and research at the University of Canterbury field site at Cass.
- **Making a donation to Oxfam from membership subscriptions** - Richard Storey asked if the Society wished to donate to Oxfam (by donating a portion of membership subscriptions). This followed a suggestion made earlier during the conference that the Society may wish to follow the practice of the NZ Hydrological Society and donate to charity. After a brief discussion, it was agreed that further information was needed before any decision to donate was made.

Jon Harding invited members to thank David Hamilton for his work as President of the Society.

The meeting closed at 6:30 p.m.