

Minutes of the 50th Annual General Meeting
of the
New Zealand Limnological Society Inc.
(Trading as New Zealand Freshwater Sciences Society)
Held at Claudelands Events Centre, Hamilton
Wednesday 22 November 2017

The Annual General Meeting commenced at 5:52 pm and was chaired by Marc Schallenberg, President.

Present: Marc Schallenberg (President), Amy Whitehead (Secretary-Treasurer) and 67 members.

1. Apologies

David Rowe, John & Yvonne Stark, Kevin Collier, Kristy Hogsden, Michele Stevenson, Paul Scholes, Rosemary Miller, Sophie Allen, Ton Snelder, Kate McArthur, Ian Kusabs, Clive Howard-Williams.

2. Minutes of the 49th 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 49th AGM (Kit Rutherford / Roger Young – *carried*)

3. President's report [Marc Schallenberg]

NZFSS has continued to be active in promoting freshwater science and networking within the freshwater science community in 2017.

This 2017 election year made abundantly clear that water issues are amongst the biggest concerns for New Zealanders. It was interesting to see how swimmability, irrigation, water pollution, water pricing and other water issues were among the issues of political discussion, debate and analysis during the election campaign. This attention on freshwater issues highlighted the strong social relevance of our Society's work on freshwaters and hopefully inspired all of our members to continue to get our science out into the public realm to help New Zealand achieve its freshwater goals. We acknowledge the following people among our membership who regularly engage with the mainstream media and promote evidence-based analysis and policy: Mike Joy, John Quinn, Graham McBride, Jenny Webster-Brown, Tim Davie, Scott Larned, Russell Death, Gerry Closs. I know there are others too. Keep up the good work.

Our new government seems poised to change direction on some water-related policies and I think that our Society can play a key role in helping inform central government with the best scientific knowledge available. I predict these will be exciting times for our Society.

Apart from the election, some of the interesting events related to freshwater issues in the past year have included:

- the rejection of the contentious Ruataniwha dam proposal by the Supreme Court,
- the Whanganui River was bestowed the rights, duties, responsibilities and liabilities of a “legal person” under New Zealand law. Whanganui Maori successfully argued that the river is an ancestor and therefore a legal person. This is a world first for a river.
- the publication of the 10-yearly OECD environmental performance review for New Zealand
- the publication of The Prime Minister’s Chief Science Advisor’s (Sir Peter Gluckman’s) report on the state of New Zealand’s freshwaters
- the publication of the Ministry for the Environment’s Clean Water Package which included new goals to be achieved for swimmable rivers and lakes
- the establishment of a coalition of NGOs and industry groups and its development of a Freshwater Rescue Plan for New Zealand
- John Hayes (Cawthron Institute) was awarded the NZFSS Medal for 2016 for his services to advancing freshwater science – Congratulations John!
- Mike Joy (Massey University) won the Inaugural Critic and Conscience of Society Award bestowed by the Gama Foundation. This award includes a \$50,000 prize to facilitate Mike’s work. Congrats Mike!
- Christoph Matthaei (University of Otago) and Jay Piggott (ex-University of Otago) are nominees at the NZ River Awards in the River Story category for their work on multiple stressors in the Kauru River. Congratulations and good luck Christoph and Jay!

The OECD’s environmental performance review was very interesting and informative. Simon Upton (former Minister for the Environment in Jim Bolger’s Government) was the lead author of the OECD report has taken up the Parliamentary Commissioner for the Environment position after Jan Wright’s term at the ended earlier this year.

The above items highlight that it’s been another interesting and exciting year for freshwater issues and science. It’s great to see many of our members promoting these issues to the public via the main stream media and other avenues of dissemination.

[NZFSS activities in the past year](#)

Below is a list of the main activities carried out by the NZFSS this year:

[Submissions*](#):

1. Detailed submission on MfEs Clean Water 2017 package, and we engaged with the media on issues surrounding the swimmability standards and goals
2. Submission on the Department of Conservation’s New Zealand threatened species management strategy
3. Preparing a submission on National Environmental Monitoring Strategies for Water Quality in Groundwaters, Lakes, Rivers and Coastal Waters (due Dec. 6)

[Letters of support for:](#)

1. The proposed Indo-Pacific Fishes Conference 2021 in Auckland
2. The proposed 2020 INTECOL Wetlands conference in Christchurch

Society business:

1. Production of the 2017 NZFSS Newsletter (if people still need a copy, you can go back to Amy's email of last week and find a members link to it, or go to our website for a public version without contact details of members).
2. Migrating our website over to a new platform with a new design (hopefully online by Christmas)

**All NZFSS submissions will be on our new website, which will hopefully be online by Christmas.*

Although we have achieved some important outputs (e.g., constructive comment on Clean Water 2017 and Swimmability), we haven't been able to achieve all of our targets for this year due to the unexpectedly slow process of migrating our website and associated online facilities to a new platform. We decided to take advantage of the Royal Society's offer of assistance with this via a web design company that offered good rates if we adopted a template designed specifically for Royal Society constituent societies. While the new website looks like it will be an excellent platform, we still haven't got a forum facility linked to it. So, we've not been able to initiate debate and consult the membership via these new tools as we had hoped to do. We hope that the forum will be available before Christmas so that we can move forward on things like prioritising projects to support with our cash surplus and potentially revamping the NZFSS awards and constitution – all projects that we had hoped to progress this year with the help of a web forum to facilitate discussion and input by the membership.

The NZFSS cash reserves – and what to do with them

As discussed at the last AGM, the society is accumulating a large reserve of cash and many members have expressed concern that we are not investing some of this reserve to help accomplish the society's goals. We have collected many good ideas as to what could be done with the reserves and, once the new website and forum goes live, we will set about working with the membership to prioritise projects and determine what an appropriate amount of cash reserve should be for the society.

Renewal of Māori members of the executive

Thanks to Tara McAllister and Ian Kusabs for their work as Māori representatives on the Executive. We warmly welcome our new Māori representatives, Yvonne Taura and Brett Cockeram.

General Thank yous

The NZFSS has benefitted greatly from the skills and energy of people on the Executive Team and by many members of our Society who assist with our various functions (for example, writing submissions). This past year in particular, we have been assisted greatly by members at large in putting together our submissions. In particular, we would like to thank NZFSS members Keith Hamill, Chris McBride, John Quinn and Susie Wood for their help. I would like to specifically thank these NZFSS executives and assistants for their help so far this year: Richard Allibone (submissions), Lisa Carlin (website admin), David Hamilton (submissions), Phil Jellyman (submissions), Kate McArthur (submissions), Natasha Petrove (newsletter), Marine Richardson (newsletter) and of course our chief organiser and keeper of accounts, Amy Whitehead (Secretary/Treasurer).

If members have any thoughts or comments for me and/or the Exec, feel free to send those to us.

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

4. Secretary-Treasurer's report [Amy Whitehead]

Finances

The accounts for the 2016-2017 financial year are still with the auditors Crowe Horwath in Blenheim. I'll send out the final financial statements to all members once I receive them (as part of the constitution, the audited financial statements should be presented to members).

Our total assets as at 30 June 2017 were \$159,659, including two Term Deposits (\$107,706).

Income earned for the 2016 financial year came from the 2016 Invercargill conference (\$50,860), subscription income (\$21,980), and interest earned from our term deposit and current account (\$821).

Main expenditure items for the 2016-2017 financial year included the editing and printing of Advances in Freshwater Science (\$14,450). Expenses also included RSNZ membership fees (\$1,957), student awards (\$2,300), the website upgrade (\$688), hardcopy newsletter and postage expenses (\$600), and bank fees (\$957).

The Society made a **net surplus of \$53,624** for the year ended 30 June 2017. This compares to a surplus of \$1,225 for the 2015-2016 financial year.

Reasons for this difference include:

- Conference income for the 2017 financial year was \$50,860 (2015-16: \$14,771). This conference income was unexpected and resulted due to lower costs, higher attendance and greater sponsorship than anticipated.
- No subscription invoices went out to members in 2015-2016. A recommendation from Crowe Horwath was to get subscriptions sent out early in the 2016-2017 financial year (and this is also part of our Constitution), which led to higher than normal membership subscription payments in that financial year.

Of this surplus, we have approval from the membership to spend \$20,000 in the coming year, as approved at the 2016 AGM.

Table 1. Income and expenses for the 2016 – 2017 financial year

Profit & Loss	
New Zealand Limnological Society Incorporated	
1 July 2016 to 30 June 2017	
Income	
Conference Income	\$50,859.99
Interest Income	\$820.80
Sales - Book - Crustacea Identification Guide	\$136.98
Subscriptions - Current	\$12,183.36
Subscriptions - In Advance	\$521.75
Subscriptions - In Arrears	\$9,274.49
Total Income	\$73,797.37
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Gross Profit	\$73,797.37
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Plus Other Income	
Donations - for SIL Trust	\$32.00
Donations - Student Prizes	\$800.00
Total Other Income	\$832.00
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Less Operating Expenses	
Audit Fee	-\$326.40
Awards - Best Student Paper	\$500.00
Awards - Jolly Student Travel	\$1,000.00
Awards - SIL Trust Conference Prizes	\$800.00
Awards - Society Medal	\$48.80
Bank Fees	\$956.88
Book Formatting & Editing - ANZS	\$5,650.00
General Expenses	\$332.17
Membership fees - RSNZ	\$1,956.52
Postage	\$152.43
Printing - Book - Advances in Freshwater Science	\$8,800.00
Printing - Newsletter	\$447.80
Website	\$687.50
Total Operating Expenses	\$21,005.70
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Net Profit	\$53,623.67

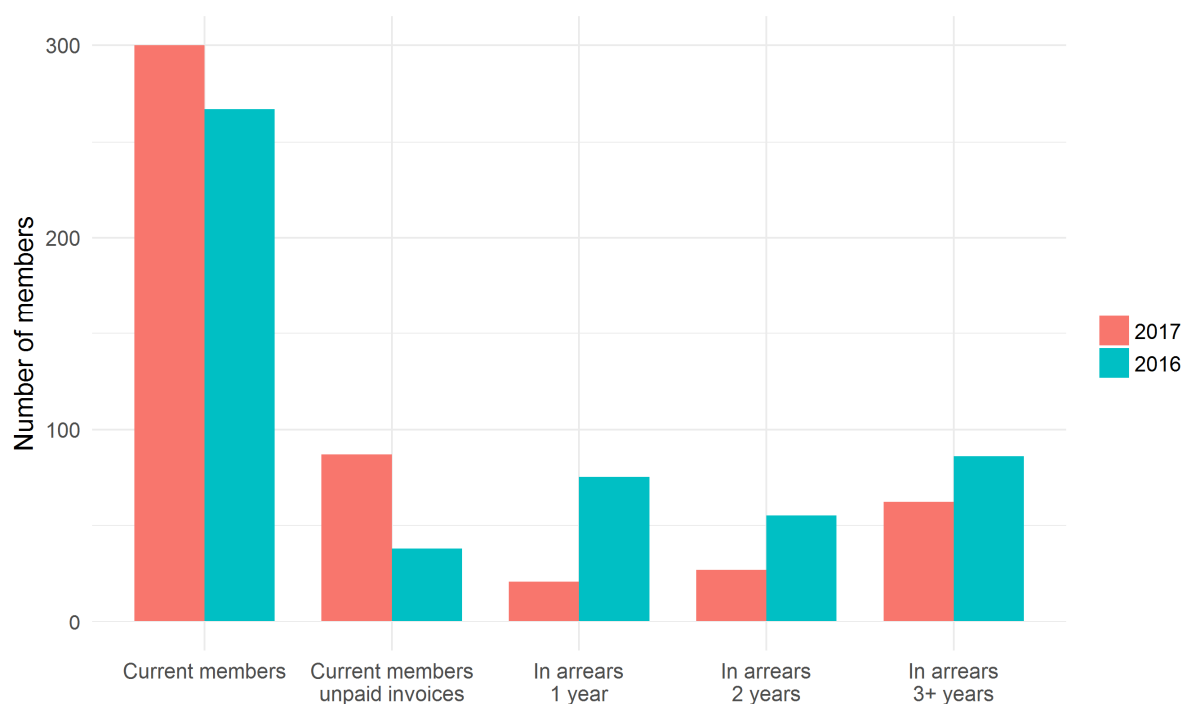
Membership

Membership by member type shows the breakdown of our membership regardless of financial status (**Error! Not a valid bookmark self-reference.**). This shows that waged and student member numbers are relatively stable over the last five years. The database is due a clean-up which is why the numbers are a little higher this year.

Table 2. Membership numbers by type over the past five years. 2016 and 2017 include members who are more than six years in arrears that need to be removed from the database.

Member type	2017	2016	2015	2014	2013
Ordinary waged	371	384	337	326	345
Unwaged / Student	124	122	113	108	125
Honorary	9	9	9	9	10
Life	4	4	4	4	4
Other (Societies)	5	5	5	5	5
Corporate (Libraries)	11	11	11	12	13
TOTAL	526	535	479	464	502

Invoices for the 2017-2018 financial year were sent out late this year, which is why there are more unpaid current members than last year. Invoice reminders will be sent out shortly to those in arrears. However, many thanks to those who have recently paid their invoices, particularly those who were in arrears.



21 November 2017

Figure 1. Financial status of members on 21 November 2017, compared to 2016.

The number of members in arrears by 3 years is creeping up again, and reflects members who we have lost contact with, or who may have moved away from freshwater science and have not resigned from the Society, or who are active in the Society but keep forgetting to pay their subs. This

will be tidied up during the next year as we transition from the very manual current system of membership management to the new online membership system associated with the new website.

Website Upgrade


The RSNZ hosts the websites of member societies, including the NZFSS website. In 2017, they initiated a subsidised website upgrade for interested societies. NZFSS have been working with the website design team at Prefer Limited to update and upgrade our website. New features include an online membership management system with facility for online credit card payments, an improved email system for communicating with members and a modern, mobile-friendly design. The cost of the upgrade to date is \$5156.25. We are currently working with Prefer to develop an online forum to facilitate discussion amongst members and hope to launch the new website in the new year.

- Jenny Webster-Brown: Questioned high bank fees.
- Amy Whitehead: Partly due to the implementation of the new online credit card payment service, which meant that we are currently paying for two payment services. The old manual service will be cancelled soon.

Motion: That the Society accounts for 2016-2017 be accepted (Amy Whitehead / Doug Booker carried)

Motion: That the Auditor for the next financial year be Crowe Horwath NZ Ltd., Blenheim. (Amy Whitehead / Natasha Grainger – carried)

5. SIL 1987 Trust Fund report [Kit Rutherford]

SIL 1987 Trust		Financial Statement 8th November 2017						
		Account number	Maturity	Interest	Amount		change	
30/09/2016	AMP (AIT)	NZ Fixed Interest Trust	5335382		\$20,756			
30/09/2016	AMP Int. Equity Trust	1633996			\$18,961			
30/09/2016	BNZ Ready Money	02 0343 0048 153 000			\$11,504			
30/09/2016	BNZ Term deposit #1	9348153-01006	12/09/2016	4.25%	\$10,000			
30/09/2016	BNZ Term deposit #2	9348153-01007	12/09/2017	4.40%	\$10,000			
TOTAL ASSETS at FY ending 30th September 2016					\$71,221			
30/09/2017	AMP (AIT)	NZ Fixed Interest Trust	5335382		\$20,815		\$59	Note 1
30/09/2017	AMP Int. Equity Trust	1633996			\$22,154		\$3,193	
9/10/2017	BNZ Ready Money	02 0343 0048 153 000			\$206			
30/09/2016	BNZ Term deposit #1	9348153-01006	12/09/2018	4.25%	\$10,000			Note 2
30/09/2016	BNZ Term deposit #2	9348153-01007	12/09/2019	4.40%	\$10,000			Note 2
6/10/2017	BNZ Term deposit #3	9348153-01008	6/10/2019	3.85%	\$7,000			Note 3
6/10/2017	BNZ Term deposit #4	9348153-01009	3/10/2018	3.60%	\$5,000			Note 3
TOTAL ASSETS at 8th November 2017					\$75,176		\$3,253	
Net increase in investments					\$3,253			Note 4
Net income					\$10,689			Note 5
5% of assets					\$3,759			
Available for awards in 2018					\$17,700			
Income/expenditure								
19/10/2016	Award	Stewart				prizes	income	
14/10/2016	Award	student prizes				-\$1,600		
15/08/2016	NZFSS	Donations 2016			\$1,852	-\$800		
15/08/2016	NZFSS	Donations 2015			\$2,537		\$2,537	
monthly	BNZ	bank fees			-\$60			
12/09/2016	BNZ	interest TD #1			\$380		\$380	
10/05/2017	Award	Goeller				-\$2,000		
11/09/2017	BNZ	interest TD #1			\$325		\$325	
11/09/2017	BNZ	interest TD #2			\$780		\$780	
6/10/2017	NZFSS	Donations			\$4,875		\$4,875	
6/10/2017	Award	student prizes				-\$800		
NETT					\$10,689		-\$5,200	\$10,749
Notes								
Note 1	performing poorly - may reinvest		Note 4	AIT and IET only				
Note 2	reinvested		Note 5	income less fees				
Note 3	new investments							
								
Treasurer								
8th November 2017								

Motion: That the SIL 1987 Trust Fund report for 2016-2017 be accepted (Kit Rutherford / David Hamilton – carried)

6. General Business

A. What to do with the NZFSS cash reserves? [Marc Schallenberg]

Reserves have grown substantially this year due to a large profit generated by our 2016 Invercargill conference

Progress on determining a plan of action to spend some of our reserves was hindered by the migration of our website and web forum facilities and concomitant problems with our web forum software. This migration to a new platform began in June and has not yet been completed. **When our new web forum is available, the Society will begin an open discussion on the forum about the various suggestions provided by members, which will be followed by a vote by the members and inclusion of the activities in the 2017/18 annual plan.**

Here is a summary of ideas put forth by NZFSS members at the 2016 AGM:

1. Lecture tour:

Host an international guest to go out to smaller centres (e.g. Nelson, Gisborne) and give talks, speak to communities (would involve airfares, etc.). Include one of our own members on the tour.

2. General support of members

Use for succession planning and getting the home community to attend conferences. Use growing reserves to strengthen the society, better support students to go to conferences and overseas study, support middle layer of scientists and scientists in the community.

3. Sponsor society outreach initiatives

Invite participation from developing countries; interact and invite a member from similar organisations to attend NZFSS conference. Fund a restoration project and have a public focus day, inviting members of the public. Also encourage networking with other societies / affiliation with other societies. Support freshwater education/research/development projects in developing countries.

4. Society publications

Writing and publishing Society books. Members could be funded to write and publish forward-looking policy/think pieces.

5. Executive stipends

Consider paying Executive members a stipend to fund time spent on Society work.

6. Financial assistance for the production of NZFSS White Papers (think pieces)

Production of forward-looking policy think pieces (e.g. white papers) on freshwater issues relevant to New Zealand. For example, is it time for NZ to consider a moratorium on freshwater conversion, and if so, do we have the expertise to put a credible case forward in the form of a white paper?

Marc requested that any further ideas be emailed to him by end of November 2017.

- Richard Storey: Noted that the constitution limits spending to only benefiting NZFSS members.
- Phil Jellyman: The Executive did not nominate executive stipends – this suggestion came from another member.

B. Revamping of NZFSS conference awards [Marc Schallenberg]

From discussions at the 2016 AGM, it was apparent that there were divergent views on conference award numbers, sponsorship, etc. and a motion was tabled to put together a sub-committee to consider these issues.

Since then, then there has also been some discussion among the Executive about creating an award for early career scientists.

It is probably time to rationalise not just the conference awards, but also consider putting up an NZFSS award for early career scientists to go along with the NZFSS Medal. A review should also include the establishment of clear criteria for awards to assist judges.

If any members would like to be involved in a subcommittee to undertake this work this year and provide recommendations at the next AGM, please contact Phil Jellyman (phillip.jellyman@niwa.co.nz)

- Natasha Grainger: Will the awards subcommittee be separate from the current awards committee?
- Marc Schallenberg: Yes, this will be a separate committee.
- Scott Larned: Suggested an Early Career Researcher award.

C. Updating the NZFSS constitution (last updated 14 years ago) [Marc Schallenberg]

The NZFSS constitution was last updated 15 years ago (Appendix A). Some discussion about updating the constitution was had at last year's AGM, but we ran out of time to fully discuss/decide or agree on actions. Various members have suggested that some updates would be good so that the constitution better reflects the diverse roles of our evolving Society.

Some suggestions for changes have included:

1. Should we have a Te Reo Māori Society name in addition to our English name? 2.. Adoption of a public outreach objective
2. Updating our communication protocols
3. Allowing for voting other than by postal ballot
4. Reflect the ability to co-opt members onto the Executive

If any member would like to join a sub-committee to look at updating our constitution, please contact David Hamilton (david.p.hamilton@griffith.edu).

D. International Society of Limnology [David Hamilton]

Many members may not be aware of the overarching global organisation of SIL, the International Society of Limnology, which has been going for nearly 100 years. SIL now has biannual congresses and these are important events for those around the globe who are working on freshwater. The next conference is in Nanjing, China, in 2018. SIL also publishes the journal *Inland Waters* and just recently has made available an enormous archive from previous proceedings:

- SIL Communications, 1953-1996: Internationale Vereinigung für Theoretische und Angewandte Limnologie: Mitteilungen
- SIL Proceedings, 1922-2010: Internationale Vereinigung für Theoretische und Angewandte Limnologie: Verhandlungen

All of these publications are available on line to members. In addition, members of SIL benefit from a substantial reduction in registration fees to the SIL Congress

New Zealand has just a handful of members of SIL and the international committee is questioning specifically why NZ is so poorly represented. It should also be noted that NZFSS has benefited from the 1987 SIL Congress in NZ by having an ongoing award as a result of profit from that Congress. Jay Piggott also won the overall best student paper from SIL last year (amongst representatives from > 70-80 countries). SIL membership is US\$93 p.a. for full member or US\$30 for three years as a student member.

- Carolyn Burns: Noted the benefits of attending SIL conferences as they tend to be more welcoming than some North American conferences.
- David Hamilton: Echoed Carolyn's comments and said that it is easy to sign up to SIL online.

E. NZFSS Newsletter and abstract archive [David Hamilton]

David Hamilton has scanned all of the available past conference abstracts and these will be made available on the new website. He is still missing 5 -6 conferences and will send out a request to members to see if anyone has copies that could be scanned.

F. Should NZFSS make an approach to the new Government offering freshwater and estuarine expertise towards developing national policy frameworks, expert peer-reviews, etc.?

Political awareness raising?

- Scott Larned: What would the process for approaching the government be?
- Marc Schallenberg: Write a letter to relevant Ministers.
- Kati Doehring: Supports the initiative and sees it as a good opportunity for science communication.
- Scott Larned: We need a targeted list with options – need to make sure we don't promise something that we can't deliver on.
- John Quinn: RSNZ has regular dinners at parliament that we could present at. Could write to Andrew Clennan(?) and make the offer to present.
- Scott Larned: We need a subcommittee and a deliberate process
- Carolyn Burns: Could we use the process that was used to write Sir Peter Gluckman's paper on freshwater? Is the Labour Government using the same process to get its advice and direction?
- Joanne Clapcott: Suggested that we get consensus to see if this is a good idea and then form a committee
- Jenny Webster-Brown: Could suggest in letter that NZFSS acts as the first point of contact for access to member experts
- Marc Schallenberg: Suggests writing letters to David Parker, Eugenie Sage and the CEOs of relevant ministries.
- Scott Larned: to head subcommittee and get feedback from Neil Deans
- Carolyn Burns: Should also send the same information to Simon Upton.

G. Post-conference press release [Marc Schallenberg]

In the past, NZFSS has often produced post-conference press releases. These have often been ignored by the media. Let Marc know before the end of the conference if you think of a pithy, punchy, media-friendly statement summarising an important key theme from the conference. We will ask Dacia Herbulock from the Science Media Centre to help with crafting the press release.

H. Announcement of the NZFSS Medal for 2018 winner [Marc Schallenberg]

The award committee considered a strong nomination this year and is excited to award the 2018 NZFSS Medal which recognises outstanding contributions our understanding and management of freshwaters to Russell Death. Congratulations Russell! At our 50th conference next year, Russell will officially receive his medal and hopefully give us a plenary.

I. Annual and 5-year plans [Marc Schallenberg]

Annual Plan (2018)

- Establish a constitutional reform subcommittee to organise amendments / changes to our constitution. Members will be able to have input on proposed amendments and a proposal for updates will be provided for members to vote on at the next AGM.
- Revisit our conference awards.
- With the help of members, prioritise projects to be supported by our financial surplus and spend \$20k of the surplus, as agreed at the last AGM.

Five-Year Plan (2018-2023)

- Update the constitution to reflect NZFSS evolution
- Develop and run an international workshop
- Produce a series of forward-looking policy/think pieces
- Engage creatively with SIL and ASLO conferences if possible.

7. Future Conferences

INTECOL Wetlands conference

- Natasha Grainger: No update yet whether the proposal to host 2020 conference in Christchurch has been successful but there was lots of support. We are competing with Brisbane.

ASL joint conference 2019

- Marc Schallenberg: Nothing known about when or where at this stage

Nelson was announced as the location for the 50th NZFSS conference. Dates are still to be decided. Send any celebration suggestions to Joanne Clapcott.

The meeting closed at 7:05 pm.