

Minutes of the 52nd Annual General Meeting
of the
New Zealand Limnological Society Inc.
(Trading as New Zealand Freshwater Sciences Society)
Held at Waurn Ponds, Geelong Australia
Wednesday 4 December 2019

The Annual General Meeting commenced at 12:45 pm and was chaired by Kate McArthur, President.

Present: Kate McArthur (President) and 15 members.

1. Apologies

Natasha Petrove, Amy Whitehead, Angus McIntosh.

2. Minutes of the 51st AGM circulated

Matters arising from minutes: Dealt with under general business, no matters arising.

Motion: That the minutes be accepted as a true and correct record of the 51st AGM (Kate McArthur/Kati Doehring– *carried*)

3. President's report [Kate McArthur]

Tēnā koutou,

It was a great privilege to take up the leadership of our Society at our 50th birthday in Whakatū Nelson in December last year and a particular honour, as the first woman President in 30 years, to follow in the footsteps of the pioneering women who founded and led the Society throughout its early years. We are a diverse, multi-disciplinary Society of more than 500 members with a critical role in shaping the future of freshwater in Aotearoa New Zealand. The coming national changes to freshwater management will make this no less of a challenge for us all.

Exec news

The Exec Team have been busy developing an annual operating budget so we can resolve our discussion with members on the spending of the Society's surplus funds – who knew spending our cash could be so difficult! Last year's conference also made a profit on top of our existing surplus, and we look forward to making some firm spending decisions early next year and getting funded projects underway. The exec decisions on annual spending included dedicated funding to ensure meaningful indigenous leadership and support for Te Wai Māori rōpū at future conferences, increased funding for student travel, and two post-graduate freshwater scholarships of \$7,500, one Māori and one open to all applicants which will be advertised soon through the Society's networks. We would appreciate members' support in spreading the word on these scholarships to any

prospective students entering honours or master's degree programmes. The scholarships are aimed at supporting more students into post-graduate degrees in freshwater science.

Action for Healthy Waterways

The government's Action for Healthy Waterways package hit the streets in mid-September this year. As expected, the policy package signalled a major change in freshwater management across multiple areas. The breadth and scope of the package covered a completely new national policy statement, broader consideration of Te mana o te Wai, ecosystem health, monitoring, limit setting, wetlands, streams, fish passage and farming, a new national environmental standard for freshwater and new stock exclusion regulations.

To their credit, the Ministry for the Environment engaged directly with the Society and two workshops were run with members in early October. Considerable feedback and advice on the package were provided by members at the workshops and throughout the submission period, and the task of collating our advice was enormous. I thank Hannah Rainforth, Rich Allibone, Marc and all the members who took the time to provide their feedback and expert advice for assisting with coordinating what I think was a very comprehensive submission. I had the opportunity to converse directly with Minister Parker on our submission recently at Invercargill Airport and he asked astute questions in relation to our advice. We will see what influence we have had when the final package is released early in 2020.

NZFSS Awards

With sadness we mourned the passing of Dr John Quinn late last year and we were grateful to Marc for presenting the 2018 NZFSS medal to John and his whanau at his home before he passed.

The Awards Committee had a very tough job of judging this year's medal award as the calibre of all nominees was, without exception, outstanding. We ask that unsuccessful nominations are re-submitted next year, as all the nominees were deserving of the Society's recognition.

Notwithstanding this, the Awards Committee are delighted to award the 2019 NZFSS medal to Dr Susie Wood for her outstanding contribution to freshwater science and management, and her leadership of women in science. Susie is the nation's foremost expert in toxic cyanobacteria, leading the global research community with a stellar research and publication record over her relatively short career thus far – congratulations Susie! We look forward to your award presentation at INTECOL next year.

The executive is also extremely pleased to recognise and acknowledge the mahi of Dr Don Jellyman in nominating him for an Honorary NZFSS membership for his lifetime contribution and commitment to freshwater sciences and the Society. Don's research encompasses a wide range of indigenous and introduced fish, although his passions are tuna (eels) and piharau/kanakana (lamprey). Don is a force in advancing our knowledge, and ensuring the viability, of these taonga. We will vote to confirm Don's nomination further on in the agenda.

Future conferences

We have committed to two more joint conferences in the coming years: INTERCOL in Christchurch in 2020 with the National Wetland Trust and a joint meeting in mid-2021 in Brisbane with AFSS and SFS (formerly the North American Benthological Society). Philippe will be updating us on INTECOL later in the agenda. Joanne and I met with Andy Leidolf, the Executive Director of SFS and the AFSS committee on Monday to beginning scoping the 2021 conference. We are looking for an additional

NZFSS member to make up the programme committee for Brisbane, please contact me with details if you are or know anyone who might be interested in taking on that role. We also need a student representative/s who will still be a student in mid-2021 to liaise with the student reps for AFSS and SFS to ensure the programme of activities for students meets the needs of all Societies.

We recognise that multiple joint conferences, with international travel are difficult for many members to attend (and don't do much for our carbon footprints). Following feedback from members and to maintain our networks and cohesion as a society, the exec is supporting specific NZFSS sessions at INTERCOL in 2020 an additional NZFSS symposium at home in late 2021. We are looking for volunteers to organise and host that meeting in the North Island in 2021.

Closing message

On behalf of the Executive Committee I would like to express our gratitude to Marc Schallenberg and acknowledge his mahi on behalf of the Society over his four-year term as President. Joining the Committee this year is Jenny Webster-Brown, with Marc staying on as immediate past-president and Phil Jellyman and Amy Whitehead (without whom I would be completely lost) continuing to provide their skills and knowledge to the Exec Team. We thank David Hamilton for his exec work, Natasha Petrove for her superb editorship of previous newsletters and Amanda Valois for taking on the role and doing a great job of pulling together this year's newsletter. Joanne Clapcott has joined Ian Kusabs and Yvonne Taura to lead Te Wai Māori rōpū. We also welcome Issie Barrett as our student rep and thank Emma Moffat and Tom Moore for their representation of student members.

I'd also like to particularly acknowledge the mahi of Te Wai Māori rōpū who have built and sustain the Society's network of experts and practitioners in indigenous science and mātauranga. The vision of Te Wai Māori rōpū is the successful participation of Māori in freshwater sciences, management and research where Māori principles, values and interests are identified and valued within the Society. Te Wai Māori is now an integral part of our Society as a result of the continued effort of its members. The celebration and sharing of indigenous knowledges of Australian first nations and tangata whenua o Aotearoa has been a vital aspect of this year's conference in Geelong which I hope we will build on in the upcoming INTECOL and Brisbane conferences in the coming years. We thank the home nations of the Australian continent for their welcome and wonderful hospitality during our time here. I would like to particularly thank Brett Cockram for taking on the role of cultural liaison between NZFSS and AFSS for this conference.

As always, the Society runs on the energy and commitment of its members. I'm excited to see what we have all been up to over the last year in our newsletter, which will be released in the coming days, and I look forward to what the next year will bring for our Society.

Ngā mihi nui kia koutou,



Kate McArthur

I move from the Chair that this report be accepted. (Kate McArthur/Juliette Milne– *carried*)

4. Secretary-Treasurer's report [from Amy Whitehead, presented by Kate McArthur]

Finances

The accounts for the 2018-2019 financial year are still with the auditors Crowe Horwath in Blenheim. Amy will send out the final financial statements to all members once they are finalised (as part of the constitution, the audited financial statements should be presented to members). Therefore, this represents the draft financial report for the 2018-2019 financial year.

Our total assets as at 30 June 2019 were \$150,388, including two Term Deposits (\$115,925). As of 30 November 2019, we have \$215,847 in assets due to the payment of the Nelson conference profit this financial year.

Revenue earned for the 2019 financial year came primarily from the 2018 Nelson conference (\$51,694), subscription income (\$18,505), repayment of a loan to the SIL Trust (\$9,290) and interest earned from our term deposits and current account (\$3218).

Main expenditure items for the 2018-2019 financial year included conference seed funding for INTECOL Wetlands (\$20,000), website upgrade (\$3,907), student awards (\$2,600), accounting and audit fees (\$2,444), RSNZ membership fees (\$1,304), hardcopy newsletter and postage expenses (\$644), and admin fees (\$878).

The Society made a **net surplus of \$42,347** for the year ended 30 June 2019. This compares to a surplus of \$4,390 for the 2017-2018 financial year.

The main reason for this difference was that conference income for the 2018-2019 financial year was significantly higher than 2017-2018 (\$51,694 vs \$7,088). This conference income was unexpected and resulted due to lower costs, higher attendance and greater sponsorship than anticipated.

Table 1. Income and expenses for the 2018 – 2019 financial year

Profit and Loss	
New Zealand Limnological Society Incorporated	
1 July 2018 to 30 June 2019	
30 Jun 19	
Income	
Conference Income	\$327,853.50
Donations - Student Prizes	\$800.00
Interest Income	\$3,217.54
Sales - Book - Advances in NZ Freshwater Science	\$196.00
Sales - Book - Crustacea Identification Guide	\$114.15
Subscriptions - Current	\$16,368.00
Subscriptions - In Advance	\$2,137.30
Loan to SIL	\$9,290.00
Total Income	\$40,129.62
Total Income	\$359,976.49
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Gross Profit	\$359,976.49
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Less Operating Expenses	
Awards - Best Student Paper	\$500.00
Awards - Jolly Student Travel	\$800.00
Awards – NZFSS ECR Award	\$500.00
Awards - SIL Trust Conference Prizes	\$800.00
Donations - Gift to SIL Trust	\$4,585.00
Audit fees	\$1,904.00
Awards - Society Medal	\$35.50
Stripe Fees	\$307.18
Bank Fees	\$130.00
Xero Fees	\$440.69
Consulting & Accounting	\$540.00
General Expenses	\$71.60
Membership fees - RSNZ	\$1,304.00
Postage	\$123.84
Printing - Newsletter	\$520.34
Website	\$3,906.52
Venue Hire, Food, Accommodation and other expenses	\$234,331.46
Conference Management fees	\$46,828.00
Conference Seed Fund	\$20,000.00
Total Operating Expenses	\$317,628.13
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Net Profit	\$42,348.36
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Membership

We currently have 523 members, with a slight increase since last year (Figure 1, **Error! Not a valid bookmark self-reference.**). This is despite a clean-up of the membership database when we transitioned to the new online membership system. We have included a new membership category – *Corporate Member* – in the online database that allows organisations to request a single invoice for all members at the waged rate of \$55 per person. Please contact Amy Whitehead (info@freshwater.science.org.nz) if you are interested in setting this up for your organisation.

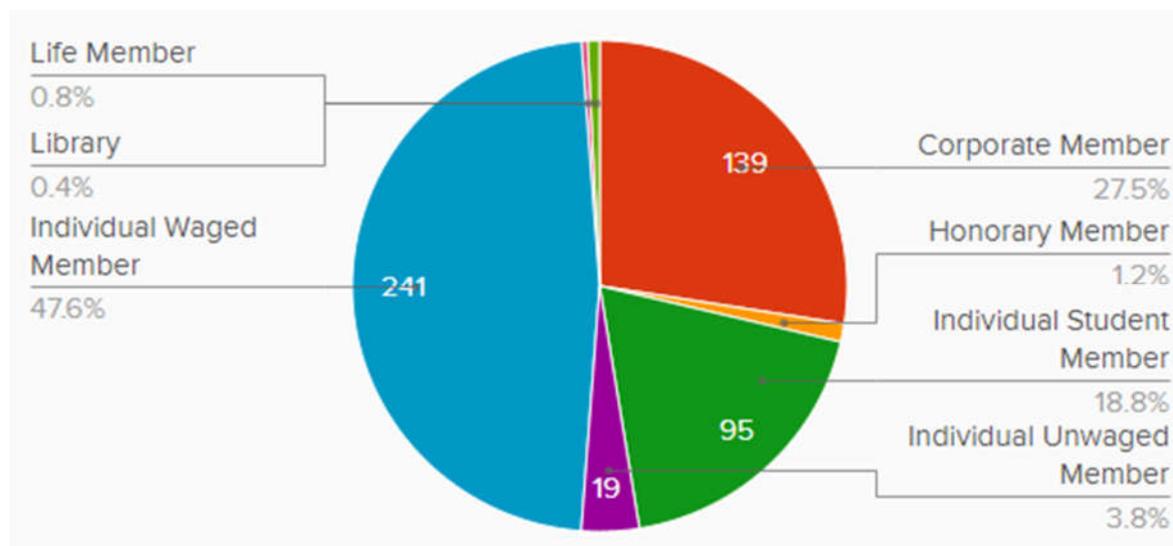


Figure 1. Breakdown of NZFSS members by membership type as of 30 November 2019.

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	2019	2018	2017	2016	2015
Waged	380	361	371*	384*	337
Unwaged / Student	114	105	124*	122*	113
Honorary	9	9	9	9	9
Life	4	4	4	4	4
Other (Societies)	5	5	5	5	5
Corporate (Libraries)	11	11	11	11	11
TOTAL	523	495	526	535	479

The transition to the new online membership system appears to have gone relatively smoothly, with invoices and payment reminders now generated automatically. Many thanks to those who are up-to-date with their membership payments. However, there are currently 149 members who are in arrears for this financial year (Figure 2). This number includes 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. Members who are still in arrears at 30 June 2020 will be considered non-financial and removed from the membership database as per Section 6.a of the Constitution. If you are unsure of your membership status, please login to the NZFSS website and make sure to update your contact details while you are there.

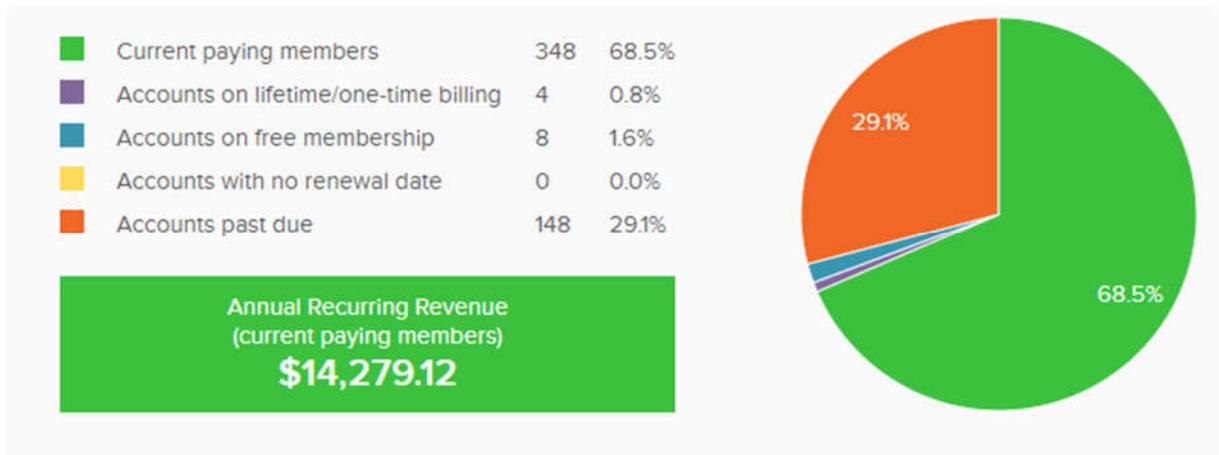


Figure 2. Financial status of members on 30 November 2019.

Motion from the Chair: That the Society accounts for 2018-2019 be accepted (Kate McArthur / Roger Young *carried*)

Motion from the Chair: That the Auditor for the next financial year be Crowe Horwath NZ Ltd., Blenheim. (Kate McArthur / Sophie Allen – *carried*)

6. Te Wai Māori Rōpū

Ian Kusabs presented a summary of Te Wai Māori – Ngā mahi o te Rōpū Māori

- Busy year
- Working with executive on kaitiaki attending conferences, scholarships
- Prof Tom Roa, University of Waikato, kaumātua for the rōpū
- Scholarship name - He Manawa o Whenua – recognising unseen potential of Māori student
- Thanks to Yvonne Taura for her administration support for the rōpū
- Updated terms of reference
- Joanne now on the rōpū exec team
- Thanks to Brett Cockeram for his role on the organising committee for this year's conference
- Twitter account 630 followers – very active
- Sky Halford attending the conference – funded by conference costs transferred from Joanne to Sky
- Donation to students who created cultural design for this year's conference logo
- Future conferences – need substantial lead in time for cultural logos etc.
- 70 members in the rōpū.

7. General Business

Kate McArthur circulated briefing notes to members prior to the AGM for members to consider prior to the meeting. The notes were then discussed.

A. NZFSS medal winner and honorary membership vote

Kate McArthur announced the NZFSS medal award for Dr Susie Wood (as discussed in the President's report) for her outstanding contribution to freshwater science and leadership of women in science.

Kate raised the nomination by the executive of Dr Don Jellyman as an honorary member of the Society and called for a vote from members to confirm an honorary membership for Don.

Motion from the Chair: That Dr Don Jellyman be confirmed as an honorary member of the Society.

All in favour: All

Against: none

Motion carried: Kate to notify Don on behalf of the Society of his honorary membership.

B. Constitutional changes and Code of Professional Standards and Ethics - update

Kate referred to the briefing notes provided to members with the agenda. Discussion of constitutional changes to streamline the way the Society does business and the adoption of the Royal Society of New Zealand code of professional standards and ethics for members has been ongoing for some time. Legal ramifications of adopting the code of professional standards and ethics and any issues associated with disciplinary actions has been explored. Voting will occur in

2020 as discussed in the briefing notes. Kate noted a strong preference for including the code in the Society's constitution as it provides protection of and professional guidelines for members.

C. Discussion on splitting Secretary/Treasurer and membership roles into two or more distinct positions (constitutional change)

Kate noted that further changes are required to the constitution in order to ensure the Society's executive can function effectively and that the workload is sustainable. We are seeking feedback on the separation of the Treasurer/Secretary role into two roles on the Executive as the combined task (along with managing memberships) has become too onerous for one person to undertake.

The executive will explore some options for this, including having a paid, part-time position to fulfil one of the roles, as many other Societies do (including Hydrological Society) and will bring some options to the membership for final voting on the constitutional changes in early 2020.

Discussed membership being paid as part of conference attendance. Noted that next two years are joint conferences so limited ability to deal with this in the short term.

Motion from the Chair: That the Secretary /Treasurer position is split into two roles and the executive will explore options for external assistance in providing these functions for the Society for voting in constitutional change in 2020 (moved *Kate McArthur / Joanne Clapcott, carried*).

D. Annual operating budget, executive spending and plan for spending surplus funds - update

Kate noted, as discussed in the President's report and briefing notes, the executive decisions on spending over the last year. She also noted that the scholarships were in fact \$7,500 each, a correction from the briefing notes. The annual operating budget is outlined on page 6 of the briefing notes.

Useful options for discussion include: 1) having a contestable annual fund, within set criteria consistent with the types of projects discussed and supported to date (with a fund management committee) for application by project leads; and/or 2) to make the scholarships this year enduring while there are surplus Society funds available. A further option was discussed to release surplus funds to ensure good participation of members at the Brisbane 2021 joint conference, which presents a major international opportunity for members.

E. Future conferences 2020 INTECOL Wetlands Christchurch and 2021 joint NZFSS/AFSS/SFS Brisbane

Philippe – INTECOL update

- Conference organiser contracted.

- Support from Tourism NZ – advertising material prepared plus sending people to various events to promote the conference
- Amy Whitehead representing the Society on the committee.
- The rōpū has been contacted to provide support and input for the conference – two local people can help Channell Thoms and Levi Collier-Robinson.
- Scientific committee established – Tim Davie chairing, Chris Tanner involved
- Call for Symposia – great response – 30 ideas put forward.
- Theme – traditional knowledge and wetland science.
- Venue – still being built but ahead of schedule.

NZFSS/AFSS/SFS Brisbane 2021 update:

Kate noted as discussed in the President’s report that an initial scoping meeting occurred on Monday with AFSS and SFS representatives on the joint conference in Brisbane in May 2021. There are NZFSS representatives on the local organising committee (Joanne Clapcott) and on the programmes committee (Angus McIntosh and Kevin Simon). We are seeking one further NZFSS rep on the programmes committee and a student rep/liaison.

8. Any other business?

None.

The meeting closed at 1:40 pm.