

Minutes of the 53<sup>rd</sup> Annual General Meeting  
of the  
New Zealand Limnological Society Inc.  
(Trading as New Zealand Freshwater Sciences Society)  
Held at Ascot Park Hotel, Invercargill  
Wednesday 2 December 2020

The Annual General Meeting commenced at 5:06 pm and was chaired by Kate McArthur, President.

Present: Kate McArthur (President) and 146 voting members.

## 1. Apologies

Rob Smith, Jen Price, Natasha Petrove, Carolyn Burns

## 2. Minutes of the 52<sup>nd</sup> 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 52<sup>nd</sup> AGM (Kate McArthur/Juliet Milne– *carried*)

## 3. President's report [Kate McArthur]

Tēnā koutou katoa,

2020 has certainly been an extraordinary year full of change, difficulty, and uncertainty. A year I am finding very difficult to put into words. Although we have more opportunity to connect in person lately, and it is certainly great that we could get together here in Invercargill, many are exhausted by the demands of remote connection, learning and work and it has been particularly difficult for our student membership. I wish you all time to rest and recuperate over the summer break. The coming years look increasingly busy for those of us working in the freshwater science space.

The Executive Team have worked very hard this year and I want to sincerely thank every one of you for your commitment to getting on with the mahi through testing times, and in such a professional manner. We have worked our way through the development of an updated Society constitution which we will vote on today, begun drafting policies to guide our elections process and executive roles (which we are seeking your feedback on) and have rolled with the changes in organising and reorganising numerous conferences. My thanks to those who have provided input to or assisted in those tasks. We are in the process of confirming NZFSS member access to the New Zealand Journal of Marine and Freshwater Research, which we will also vote on today. This year we have awarded our first NZFSS scholarship and we continue to seek applicants for the He Manawā-ā-Whenua Māori freshwater scholarship, although we may have a potential applicant for this now.

The Awards Committee are delighted to award the 2020 NZFSS medal to Kevin Collier for his outstanding contribution to freshwater science and management. Kevin's contribution to our

knowledge of the freshwater ecosystems of Aotearoa New Zealand is exceptional and he has been an exemplary scientist, prolific writer, mentor, supervisor, colleague, and friend to many of us over the years. Congratulations Kevin, very well-deserved!

The Executive Committee are extremely pleased to nominate and acknowledge the mahi of Jon Harding for an Honorary NZFSS membership for his lifetime contribution and commitment to freshwater science and the Society. Jon has signalled his intent to retire from Canterbury University, where he will be greatly missed by students and colleagues alike. We thank Jon for his years of dedication to freshwater science, scientists and the Society and wish him well. Members will have the opportunity to vote to approve Jan as an honorary member today.

With the disruption to meetings this year we regrettably postponed our joint INTECOL meeting planned for Christchurch until October 2021 and have cancelled our joint conference with AFSS and SFS planned for Brisbane in 2021. We are working to reschedule this international joint meeting for 2023. Given the huge changes and disruptions, we were very pleased when the NZ Hydrological Society and Rivers Group invited us to join this meeting in Invercargill. Our gratitude to Jane Kitson and Brett Cockeram for stepping in and committing your time and efforts as our representatives on the organising committee.

On behalf of the Executive Committee and the Society I would like to express our gratitude to executive members leaving at the end of this term: Phil Jellyman, for his years of contribution to the Executive Team and Amanda Valois for two years of excellent newsletter editorship. Melanie Vermeulen and Jen Price volunteered as co-opted Secretary and Awards Coordinator respectively and we have really appreciated their assistance on the executive team this year – many thanks to you both.

I would like to particularly acknowledge the continued mahi of Te Wai Māori rōpū who sustain the Society's network of experts and practitioners in indigenous science and mātauranga and provide critical support on the executive team. Te Wai Māori is an integral part of our Society as a result of the continued effort of its members and leadership from Ian Kusabs and Joanne Clapcott, supported by Yvonne Taura.

It has been a real privilege for me to serve the Society as President over the last two years and to work with many of you on a range of issues and initiatives. Our Society runs on the energy and commitment of its members and also on our continued connection to one another.

Ngā mihi nui kia koutou,

Kate McArthur

NZFSS President

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

### Finances

The accounts for the 2019-2020 financial year have yet to be sent to the auditors Findex (formerly Crowe Howarth). I 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, the following represents the draft financial report for the 2019-2020 financial year as presented on a cash basis (

Table 1).

**Our total assets** as at 30 June 2020 were \$192,371, including two Term Deposits (\$119,375). As of 30 November 2020, we have \$208,861 in assets.

**Total Income** earned for the 2019-2020 financial year was **\$63,921** and came primarily from the 2018 Nelson conference (\$44,951), subscription income (\$12,896) and interest earned from our term deposits and current account (\$3,514).

**Total operating expenses** for the 2019-2020 financial year were **\$29,327**, including accounting and audit fees (\$6,590), student awards (\$4,800), donation to the SIL Trust (\$4,585), website maintenance (\$2,120) and RSNZ membership fees (\$1,304).

The Society made an **operating surplus of \$41,686** for the year ended 30 June 2020. This compares to an operating deficit of \$2,213 for the 2018-2019 financial year.

The main reason for this difference was that the profit from the 2018 Nelson conference was not paid to the Society until August 2019.

Table 1. Cash summary for the 2019 – 2020 financial year (excludes GST), with 2018-2019 for comparison.

<b>Income</b>	<b>Jun 2020</b>	<b>Jun 2019</b>
Conference Income	\$44,951.34	\$7,887.63
Donations - Student Prizes	\$800.00	\$800.00
Interest Income	\$3,513.81	\$3,217.54
Sales - Book - Advances in NZ Freshwater Science	\$508.69	\$0.00
Sales - Book - Crustacea Identification Guide	\$114.15	\$114.15
Subscriptions - Current	\$12,407.40	\$16,368.00
Subscriptions - In Advance	\$1,158.01	\$2,139.26
Accounts Receivable - Other	\$0.00	\$315.00
GST Receivable	\$467.63	\$0.00
Loan to SIL	\$0.00	\$9,290.00
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$63,921.03</b>	<b>\$40,131.58</b>
<b>Less Operating Expenses</b>		
Audit Fee	\$3,100.00	\$1,904.00
Awards - Best Student Paper	\$500.00	\$0.00
Awards - ECR Award	\$0.00	\$571.60
Awards - Jolly Student Travel	\$3,500.00	\$800.00
Awards - SIL Trust Conference Prizes	\$800.00	\$800.00
Awards - Society Medal	\$0.00	\$35.50
Bank Fees	\$85.00	\$130.00
Conference Expenses	\$869.57	\$5,000.00
Conference Seed Fund	\$0.00	\$20,000.00
Consulting & Accounting	\$3,490.00	\$540.00
Donation - Gift to SIL Trust	\$4,585.00	-\$5,109.00
Membership fees - RSNZ	\$1,304.35	\$1,304.35
Postage	\$0.00	\$123.84
Printing - Newsletter	\$0.00	\$520.34
Stripe Fees	\$248.42	\$307.18
Website	\$2,120.21	\$3,906.52
Xero Fees	\$495.00	\$440.69
Interest Accrued	\$0.00	-\$852.40
Prepayments	\$0.00	-\$5,000.00
Accrued Expense	\$0.00	\$5,000.00
Donation Owed to SIL Trust	\$0.00	\$10,218.00
GST Payable	\$8,272.08	\$1,522.00
Income Tax	-\$42.35	\$0.00
Rounding	\$0.00	-\$0.02
Subscriptions in Advance	\$0.00	\$182.61
<b>Total Operating Expenses</b>	<b>\$29,327.28</b>	<b>\$42,345.21</b>
<b>Operating Surplus (Deficit)</b>	<b>\$34,593.75</b>	<b>-\$2,213.63</b>
<b>GST Movements</b>		
GST Inputs	-\$1,431.10	-\$3,764.41
GST Outputs	\$8,819.34	\$2,796.42
<b>Net GST Movements</b>	<b>\$7,388.24</b>	<b>-\$967.99</b>
<b>Net Cash Movement</b>	<b>\$41,981.99</b>	<b>-\$3,181.62</b>
<b>Summary</b>		
Opening Balance	\$150,388.79	\$153,570.41
Plus Net Cash Movement	\$41,981.99	-\$3,181.62
Closing Balance	\$192,370.78	\$150,388.79

## Membership

We currently have 593 members, with a slight increase since last year (Figure 1, **Error! Not a valid bookmark self-reference.**). 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](mailto:info@freshwater.science.org.nz)) if you are interested in setting this up for your organisation.

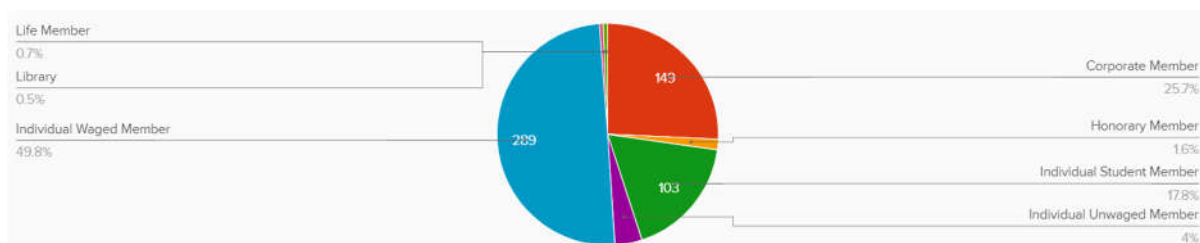


Figure 1. Breakdown of NZFSS members by membership type as of 22 November 2020.

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	438	380	361	371*	384*
Unwaged / Student	126	114	105	124*	122*
Honorary	9	9	9	9	9
Life	4	4	4	4	4
Libraries & Societies	16	16	16	16	16
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>593</b>	<b>523</b>	<b>495</b>	<b>526</b>	<b>535</b>

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. There is also a subset of members for whom NZFSS emails are going to spam and, therefore, are not receiving their invoices. 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. Please also check your spam folder for NZFSS emails and ensure the [info@freshwater.science.org.nz](mailto:info@freshwater.science.org.nz) is added to your Safe Sender list.

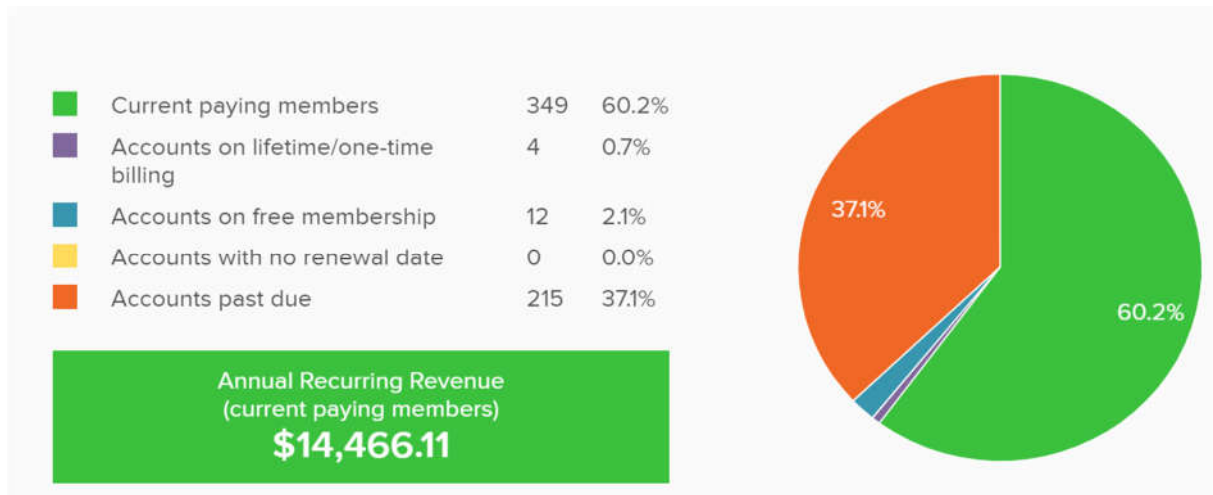



Figure 2. Financial status of members on 22 November 2020.

*Motion from the Chair:* That the Society accounts for 2019-2020 be accepted (Kate McArthur / Neil Deans carried)

*Motion from the Chair:* That the Auditor for the next financial year be Findex Ltd. (Kate McArthur / Kelly Palmer – carried)

5. SIL 1987 Trust Fund report

SIL 1987 Trust		Financial Statement 1st November 2020							
IRD number	83-600-519 (tax exempt)								
		Account number	Maturity	Interest	Amount				
<b>TOTAL ASSETS at FY ending 30th September 2020</b>					<b>\$72,612.61</b>				
6/12/2019	AMP (AIT)	NZ Fixed Interest Trust	S335382		\$24,274.16				
30/09/2020	BNZ Ready Money	02 0343 0048 153 000			\$7,917.04				
13/10/2020	BNZ TD #00014	0009316362-00014	11/05/2021	1.05%	\$20,257.33				
14/08/2020	BNZ TD #00015	0009316362-00015	10/02/2010	1.45%	\$5,050.02				
14/08/2020	BNZ TD #00016	0009316362-00016	10/02/2010	1.45%	\$7,575.06				
30/09/2018	BNZ TD #01008	0009348153-01008	6/10/2021	2.60%	\$7,539.00				
<b>TOTAL ASSETS at FY ending 30th September 2019</b>					<b>\$67,217.39</b>				
30/09/2019	AMP (AIT)	NZ Fixed Interest Trust	S335382		\$23,287.19			ongoing	
30/09/2019	AMP Int. Equity Trust	1633996			\$26,817.20			reinvested	
17/10/2019	BNZ Ready Money	02 0343 0048 153 000			\$574.00				
30/09/2019	BNZ Term deposit #3	9348153-01008	6/10/2021	2.60%	\$7,539.00			ongoing	
30/09/2016	BNZ Term deposit #5	0009316362-00010	15/04/2020	2.80%	\$5,000.00			reinvested	
30/09/2019	BNZ Term deposit #6	0009316362-00011	16/03/2020	2.75%	\$4,000.00			reinvested	
<b>Net increase in assets</b>					<b>\$5,395.22</b>				
Donations	9/12/2019				\$4,585.00				from NZFWSS
Increase in assets					\$5,395.22				
Interest etc					\$90.32				BNZ Term Deposits
5% of assets						\$3,631			
<b>Available for 2021</b>					<b>\$13,701.17</b>				Donations+increase in assets+interest-fees+5%assets
<b>Income/expenditure</b>									
					deposits	withdrawals	income	awards	fees
30/09/2010	opening balance	\$574.00							
30/09/2020	closing balance	\$7,922.04							
17/03/2020		new TD #20016				-\$7,500.00			
17/03/2020		new TD #20015				-\$5,000.00			
17/03/2020		new TD #20014				-\$20,000.00			
15/04/2020		maturing #20010			\$5,000.00		\$53.97	see Notes	
16/03/2020		maturing #20011			\$4,000.00		\$36.35	see Notes	
25/12/2019		Student prizes				-\$800.00		-\$800	
9/12/2019		NZFWSS	levy & donations		\$4,585.00				
28/03/2018		Charities Commission				\$0.00			\$0
monthly		Overdraft fee				-\$60.00			-\$60
	AMP closed account 1633996	\$1,633,996			\$27,032.72				
<b>NETT</b>					<b>\$40,617.72</b>	<b>-\$33,360.00</b>	<b>\$90.32</b>	<b>-\$800.00</b>	<b>-\$60.00</b>
		9/11/2020							

Motion from the Chair: That the SIL 1987 Trust Fund report for 2019-2020 be accepted (Neil Deans / Amy Whitehead – carried)



Simon Stewart: Are the SIL Trust student award winners announced?

Jonathan Puddick: Printed in the newsletter

## 6. Te Wai Māori Rōpū [Joanne Clapcott]

### **Whakakitenga/Vision**

Successful participation of Māori in freshwater sciences, management and research where Māori principles, values and interests are identified and valued within the New Zealand Freshwater Sciences Society (NZFSS).

**Whāinga/Purpose 1:** To provide a support network for Māori freshwater scientists, researchers, and students, including mentoring and identifying research scholarship opportunities for emerging Māori scientists, researchers, and students. Terms of reference are available on NZFSS website (<https://freshwater.science.org.nz/te-wai-maori-nzfss-ropu-maori/>)

### **Tukunga/Methods**

- Increased membership to > 70 members
- Produced regular newsletters and numerous emails to rōpū members
- Funding for kaitiaki, students & others to attend conferences
- Organised the Manawā a whenua scholarship
- Developing a database of Māori freshwater students

**Whāinga/Purpose 2:** To support and advise the NZFSS executive committee on Te Ao Māori worldview and appropriate kawa and tikanga

### **Tukunga/Methods**

- Contributed to review of Society terms of reference
- Assisted conference organising

**Whāinga/Purpose 3:** To develop and foster partnerships with indigenous freshwater organisations, scientists, researchers, and students internationally=

### **Tukunga/Methods**

- Social media profile via Twitter (> 700 followers)
- Continue to develop networks with indigenous researchers overseas

**Whāinga/Purpose 4:** Be a point of contact for iwi, hapū and the wider community interested in freshwater sciences, management and research from a Māori perspective

### **Tukunga/Methods**

- Supporting all rōpū members to be points of public contact and remain informed of Society updates

## 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 award and honorary membership for voting**

The Awards Committee are delighted to announce Kevin Collier will receive the 2021 NZFSS Medal for his outstanding contributions to freshwater science and the Society. Congratulations Kevin, we look forward to your plenary in 2021.

The Executive have also approved the nomination of Jon Harding as an honorary NZFSS member. Members will vote on whether to approve Jon's nomination at the AGM, including by electronic means for those who cannot attend in person.

*Motion to support the nomination of Jon Harding as an Honorary Member of NZFSS was approved (Votes: Yes – 142, No – 0, Abstain - 4).*

## **B – Proposed NZFSS constitution for voting**

Over several years the Executive have worked with members to review the Society's constitution, updating the operative 2002 document. Earlier this year the executive sent out a draft constitution for members' consultation and feedback, alongside the operative 2002 constitution. Many thanks to Erron Henderson of EOS for providing a legal review of the draft. The proposed constitution was also reviewed by Te Apārangi – The Royal Society Executive to ensure our charitable status, taxation and financial requirements as an incorporated Society are met in the proposed constitution. All feedback has been incorporated into the final version below (Attachment A).

In brief, the major changes to the constitution provide:

1. Official change in name to New Zealand Freshwater Sciences Society
2. Acknowledgment of Māori heritage and culture and the Treaty of Waitangi
3. Commitment to inclusivity, equity, and diversity in the Society's operations
4. Expanded description of Society activities (means to attain objectives) to better reflect the Society's operations over recent years and to ensure any future spending of Society funds is aligned with the Society's objectives
5. Inclusion of the Royal Society Code of Professional Standards and Ethics
6. A more structured and expanded Executive to provide additional capacity to undertake work on behalf of the Society (supported by a draft policy on Executive roles)
7. A more transparent voting and elections process (supported by policy drafted from members' feedback)
8. Provision for Society business (including voting) to be conducted electronically.

Members voted on the proposed constitution at the AGM, including by electronic means for those who cannot attend in person. A two-thirds majority was needed to pass the changes. Following this, the new constitution will come into effect when officially lodged.

*Motion to support the adoption of the proposed draft NZFSS constitution was approved (Votes: Yes – 138, No – 1, Abstain – 8).*

## **C – Journal access for members**

A number of NZFSS members have contacted the Executive about the difficulties faced in accessing scientific journal articles for those not covered by institutional subscriptions (e.g.,

through Universities, CRIs or research organisations). For those working in the private sector, iwi/hapū organisations or within councils, access to journals is often prohibitively expensive. Mike Freeman has undertaken an informal survey of some members and organisations to look at their approach to open access publishing. Further work is needed at a national level (and across multiple disciplines) to ensure open access publishing of science for the public good (e.g, freshwater research and resource management articles) and free access for all scientists in freshwater. The Executive Team acknowledge this will be an ongoing issue to work on improving.

We have had the opportunity, through Executive membership on the NZJMFR editorial board, to work on building closer relationships with the journal and Te Apārangi - The Royal Society. We thank Joanne Clapcott for initiating this.

As a result of building a closer relationship, RNZ have facilitated our request to Taylor Francis (the publisher of NZJMFR) to prepare a quote for a NZFSS member subscription to NZJMFR for an extended period (e.g., five to ten years). Initial estimates suggest this will cost approximately \$700 NZD per annum. We have not yet received the final quote but we asked members to vote on whether you support spending an equivalent sum for a set period of years, to allow all members access at least to the primary journal for New Zealand freshwater research. The Executive Team will continue to work on further improving access to published research for members. Any member interested in supporting this effort should contact the Secretary. The President will develop a Memorandum of Understanding with Taylor-Francis which will be approved on a year-to-year basis.

*Motion to support NZFSS providing members free access to the New Zealand Journal of Marine and Freshwater Science Access to NZJMFR was approved (Votes: Yes – 143, No – 0, Abstain – 3).*

#### **D – NZFSS and He Manawā-ā-Whenua scholarships**

This year we have provided two post-graduate scholarships of \$7,500: The NZFSS freshwater research scholarship and He Manawā-ā-Whenua Māori freshwater scholarship. The NZFSS scholarship has been awarded for 2020 to Charlotte Minnis. We have had two rounds of opening applications for the He Manawā-ā-Whenua scholarship. However, we have struggled to find applicants who meet the acceptance criteria developed by the rōpū and a scholarship sub-committee. Te Wai Māori Rōpū are working on a strategic approach to improve accessibility for Māori students in freshwater research and the Executive will continue to work with and support the rōpū in meeting this need into the future.

The Executive have received positive feedback from members on spending NZFSS surplus funds on scholarships to support more students into freshwater post-graduate research. Given the increased RMA requirements for science-supported freshwater plans over the coming decade, this is an area in which we need to continue to build capacity and provide support. Additionally, it has been raised with the President that we are (like much of the world) facing a critical shortage of freshwater taxonomists. This is an area the Society could look at targeting through future research scholarships.

The Executive put a motion to members during the AGM (for voting) to continue spending surplus funds on scholarships over the coming years. Information on our position with respect to surplus funds will be presented in the financial AGM report.

Neil Deans: Would more lower value scholarships provide a wider benefit to more students?

Kelly Palmer: Advocating for supporting Māori students

Kati: More interdisciplinary work, therefore could we recruit from other disciplines

Phil Jellyman: The current recruitments are very broad. Financial hardship is also included as a criteria and many applicants would not have been able to complete their studies.

Neil Deans: What quantum of funds are available and how should they be distributed?

Kate McArthur: Put forward motion to continue for another year as currently set up and the Executive to think about a top value to bring back to the next AGM.

*Motion to support continuing the NZFSS Freshwater Research and He Manawā ā Whenua Māori Research Scholarships was approved (Votes: Yes – 135, No – 0, Abstain – 11).*

## **E – Māori student membership**

In line with the development of a strategy to build Māori freshwater science capacity, to better support Māori students into their freshwater careers and to support the proposed constitution objectives, Te Wai Māori Rōpū have recommended the Society provide free NZFSS membership for Māori freshwater students. An application process would be developed and overseen by the rōpū and the Executive. The Executive will put a motion to members during the AGM (for voting) to support this initiative.

Phil Jellyman: Can we offer free memberships to all students to ensure equitable?

Troy Baisden: Previous experience – can make it difficult to keep membership database tidy

Amy Whitehead: Technically should be possible if the membership supports this initiative

Sjaan Bowie: Make sure that people transition to waged memberships as appropriate

Helen Rainforth: Add in option to membership form to capture iwi affiliations and to seek approval to provide contact details of Māori students to Te Wai Māori rōpū.

Motion to support providing free membership to students in their first year was approved (Votes: Yes – 138, No – 0, Abstain – 8).

## **F – Future conferences**

The 2020 INTECOL joint wetlands conference in Christchurch has been postponed until October 2021 due to COVID-19. The joint 2021 AFSS/SFS conference in Brisbane has also been cancelled and a provisional new date of 2023 has been proposed.

If the proposed new dates are not further disrupted by the global pandemic, we will need a North Island location for our 2022 annual meeting and conference. Anyone who is interested in hosting or assisting with organisation should contact the Secretary. We could also explore whether we would like a joint conference (with NZMSS) or whether we would like this to be an NZFSS only meeting.

Kelly Palmer has volunteered to help organise the 2022 NZFSS conference, as has Raymond Chang.

### **G – Draft elections and executive role policies for feedback**

The Executive have begun drafting some policies to support the proposed new constitution. These policies provide some transparent guidance on how elections will be held (Attachment B) and what the roles of the new executive structure will entail (Attachment C). We are seeking feedback from members on these policies and how (including how often) they should be reviewed to meet the changing needs of the Society in future. This year we have trialled the draft elections policy and the Executive will be reviewing the draft policy in the new year to determine what has worked and what has not. Any feedback on these draft policies should be provided to the Secretary.

## 8. Election Outcome

President	Kate McArthur
Executive members	Eleanor Gee and Jonathan Tonkin
Treasurer	Amy Whitehead
Rōpū representatives	Ian Kusabs and Joanne Clapcott
Newsletter editor	Shirley Hayward
SIL Committee member	Ian Boothroyd
Secretary (co-opted)	Melanie Vermeulen
Vice-President (co-opted)	Jenny Webster-Brown

## 9. Other General business

Andrew Fenemor: There will be a special issue on improving water planning. There is a call for contributors which is open now with a deadline at the end of January 2021. Please get in touch with Andrew at Landcare Research if interested.

Mike Hickford: Supportive of the 20-minute talk format at the Invercargill conference. Can we please look at continue this at future conferences?

The meeting closed at 6.16 pm.