



Minutes of the 56th NZFSS Annual General Meeting
of the
New Zealand Freshwater Sciences Society Incorporated
Wednesday 6th December 2023

The Annual General Meeting commenced at 6pm and was chaired by Jenny Webster-Brown, President.

Present: Jenny Webster-Brown (President) and 43 voting members.

1. *Karakia timatanga, Welcome & Apologies*

The meeting began with a karakia from Siobhan Nuri.

Noted apologies: Brett Stansfield, Helen Warburton, Travis Ingram, Mafalda Baptista, Christina McCabe, Phillipe Gerbeaux

2. *Minutes of the 55th AGM circulated*

Motion from the Chair: That the minutes be accepted as a true and correct record of the 55th AGM.

Proposed: Joanne Clapcott

Seconded: Angus McIntosh

Result: carried

3. *Matters Arising*

No matters arising.

4. President's Report (Jenny Webster-Brown)

Tēnā koutou katoa,

It has been a very busy year for the NZFSS, and your Executive Committee has been very active on your behalf with bimonthly meetings, regular news emails, the joint NZFSS-AFSS-SFS conference in Brisbane in June, website updates and the annual newsletter "Fresh". However, we do appreciate that for our members who were unable to travel to Brisbane things may have seemed a bit quiet without our usual end-of-year conference to look forward to. We are happy to report the planning for next year's NZFSS conference in Rotorua is well advanced, and the 2025 conference, jointly with AFSS, will also be held in Aotearoa, in Ōtautahi Christchurch.

Your Executive Committee in 2023 & 2024:

| Position | Currently held by: |
|---|---|
| <i>Elected:</i> | |
| President | Jenny Webster-Brown |
| Past President | Kate McArthur |
| Vice President | Joanne Clapcott |
| Treasurer | Justine Quinn |
| Secretary | Issie Barrett |
| Newsletter Editor | Christina McCabe |
| <i>Co-opted:</i> | |
| Te Wai Rōpū Māori | Ian Kusabs, Siobhan Nuri, Kathryn Gale |
| Assistant Newsletter Editor | Ignacio (Nacho) Reyes-Sainz |
| Student Representative/s | Holly Harris, Maran Muthiah |
| Website Manager | Raymond Chang |
| Community Outreach | Brett Stansfield |
| Advocacy/Submissions | Rich Allibone |
| Awards coordinator | Katie Collins |
| SIL Trust Awards NZFSS reps | Katie Collins, Eleanor Gee |
| Surplus Funds Allocation (SFA) Subcommittee: | Marc Schallenberg, Donna Sutherland, Justine Quinn, Keren Bennett |

I have been a member of NZFSS since 1986, and over the last 37 years I have seen the society steadily evolve towards the more inclusive, multi-disciplinary freshwater research cohort it is today. I have been on the Exec Committee since 2018, as Vice President since 2020 and as President since December 2022. Kate McArthur is our immediate past President, who was very glad to step back after ably steering the society through 4 very difficult years - brought on by the COVID pandemic and the many disruptions that caused. Our Vice President Joanne Clapcott is an experienced Executive Committee and Te Rōpū Māori member. However, the rest of the elected Executive Committee and many of the co-opted members were new to their posts in 2022. It has been invigorating to have fresh eyes and ideas guiding NZFSS through 2023. I would like to take this opportunity to thank all on the Executive Committee sincerely for their sterling efforts this year. We know it is difficult to fit a voluntary commitment around work and family in these busy times. Thank you for being willing to try!

Awards

NZFSS Medal

The Awards Committee are pleased to announce Professor Angus McIntosh as the recipient of the 2023 NZFSS Medal, for his sustained and substantial contributions to advancing freshwater science in Aotearoa and internationally. His prowess as a researcher, his contributions to our understanding of factors impacting freshwater native fish and food webs, his teaching and mentoring of current and future freshwater ecologists and his leadership of major conservation initiatives such as the CAREX project, have all been recognised and cited in his nomination. Congratulations Angus – this is very well deserved! We look forward to your plenary in Rotorua in 2024.

ECR Award 2023

Dr Simon Stewart is the 2023 recipient of the Early Career Researcher (ECR) award. Simon has been a member of NZFSS since his student days (13 years ago) and has emerged as a leader of inclusive, interdisciplinary freshwater science applying his stable isotope expertise to good effect. He is currently at the Cawthron Institute, where he is bringing together a diverse group of international researchers to look at the cause of filamentous algae blooms in low nutrient lakes around the world. Congratulations Simon! You have come remarkably far in a remarkably short period of time!

Honorary Membership

At the AGM the NZFSS membership voted unanimously to accept the Executive Committee's nomination of Russell Death as an honorary NZFSS member, in recognition of his services to freshwater conservation and management. Russell was awarded the NZFSS Medal in 2017 for his contribution to the understanding, conservation and management of freshwaters in NZ, and to his commitment to teaching as well as informing public debate around freshwater issues. As he retires from Massey University, we are glad to be able to recognise his ongoing efforts to protect our freshwater systems with this honorary membership.

Postgraduate Research Scholarships and Best Student Paper Award

In this, the fourth year of offering postgraduate scholarships (\$7,500), there seems to have been less demand for the scholarships than usual and we have had to extend the deadlines for applicants. In fact, for the He Manawā-ā-Whenua scholarship, applications are still open and remain so until the 31st December 2023. If you know of a student who is eligible for this award, please do bring it to their attention! The recipients of the NZFSS Freshwater Research Scholarship in 2023 will be announced before Christmas.

There had been no submissions for the Best Student Paper 2023 at the time of our AGM, so this deadline has also been extended until 31 December 2023. All students who have had a paper published in 2023 should think about submitting their publication for this award. Conditions and eligibility are described in detail on the NZFSS website.

Conferences: Past, present & future plans

Freshwater Science 2023 – Brisbane.

This year's conference was Brisbane, and was a massive event involving NZFSS, the Australian Freshwater Science Society (AFSS) and the USA-founded Society for Freshwater Science (SFS). It was held on 3-7 June after being postponed from 2022 due to COVID. There were over 750 registrants from over 30 countries, and this included over 70 NZFSS members. The huge success of the conference is a credit to the various organising committees and to the host organisation, AFSS, and due in no small part to NZFSS's immediate past president, Kate McArthur, and current vice president, Joanne Clapcott, working hard to ensure that NZFSS had a strong and genuinely bicultural presence at this large international event. As I noted in the *Fresh* newsletter, the new 2023 Executive Committee and SFA and Awards Committees pulled out all stops early this year, to organise financial support for students and members to attend the conference. We had a very short timeframe to develop processes, assess applications and distribute funds for this purpose. It was entirely worth the effort. Our students all presented very well, despite the intimidatingly large audiences and presence of international experts! The awards made at the conference are detailed in the *Fresh* newsletter and on our website.

Rotorua 2024

Deniz Ozkundakci has brought together a conference organising committee for the 2024 NZFSS conference, which will be held in the Rotorua Energy Events Centre, 18-21st November. The venue has been booked and OnCue have been engaged to organise the conference. We are looking forward to having our own conference again after so many joint conferences in recent years. If you would like to be involved in the organising of this conference, please get in touch with Deniz asap.

Christchurch 2025

A joint NZFSS-AFSS (Australian Freshwater Science Society) conference at the new conventions centre in Christchurch is planned for 2025. The timing will likely be early December, as this is a time that suits both NZFSS and AFSS.

Te Wai Māori Rōpū

Te Wai Māori Rōpū has grown to 70 members and continues to connect NZFSS's network of Indigenous science and mātauranga Māori researchers. We welcome two new representatives; Siobhan Nuri and Kathryn Gale into the fold. Te Wai Māori Rōpū provided strong leadership and representation of the bicultural nature of NZFSS at the Brisbane conference, with Ian Kusabs as a keynote speaker, Joanne Clapcott involved in the organisation of Instar scholarships and Indigenous science sessions and Tredegar Hall (Tūwharetoa/Te Arawa) as Kaiarahi for NZFSS at the conference.

NZFSS Mentoring Programme

In 2022 the NZFSS initiated a mentoring scheme, where mentors and mentees were matched and then encouraged to have sessions to work through the mentee's goals. In 2023, 18 pairs of mentors & mentees were matched up, and feedback has been positive from both mentors and mentees.

Interest for participants in this scheme for next year will be advertised early in 2024; please contact Rosemary Miller (rmiller@doc.govt.nz) if you are interested. Mentors are always in short supply and acting as a mentor can be a really great way to support freshwater science and conservation, helping early career researchers through their challenges and giving them a sounding board. Many thanks to Rosemary for setting up the programme and overseeing its operation and progress in 2023.

"Fresh" – the 2023 NZFSS newsletter

Our newly branded newsletter, "Fresh", went out to members in early November. It is an excellent read, with inspiring articles by researchers as well as updates from over 15 different freshwater research and consultancy institution and agencies. The NZFSS Newsletter Editor Christina McCabe deserved a medal, for not only producing the newsletter but for also submitting her Masters thesis in the same timeframe!

As noted previously, we intend to put the newsletter out mid-year from now on. This will be an opportunity to communicate with NZFSS members midway between annual end-of-year conferences.

NZFSS Financial Strategy

A 5-year Financial Strategy for NZFSS has been created by the Executive Committee, with input from the co-opted Surplus Funds Allocation (SFA) committee. This was circulated with the briefing documents for the AGM and briefly discussed with the membership at the AGM. The key points from the Strategy are:

- The total annual budget for ongoing commitments (e.g., scholarships, society awards) and normal NZFSS operations is usually in the order of \$65,000.
- It is proposed that \$100,000 be the minimum bank balance retained to support these ongoing commitments and operations.
- The funds held by NZFSS that are surplus to this requirement stood at \$135,000, as of June 2023. The Strategy proposed that these funds are made available to support various society activities and submissions, in response to membership and Executive Committee directions, for as long as they exist.
- Surplus fund allocation will occur via a process of membership direction to the Executive Committee in the AGM (or at other times), the recommendations of the Surplus Funds Allocation (SFA) subcommittee for spending funds in any one year and finally, the decisions made by the Executive Committee based on these recommendations.
- Contestable funding rounds is one mechanism for soliciting ideas and proposals for such activities (originally proposed in the 2021 AGM). This first such round is planned for early 2024.

With the support of the membership at the AGM, this Strategy will now be used to guide NZFSS surplus funds management for the next five years (i.e. until 2028).

Finally - Refreshing the face of NZFSS

It was gratifying to have membership support at the AGM for our new ingoa Māori for the Society: *Ngā Kohinga Wai o Aotearoa*. This will now appear alongside our traditional name on all Society communications and references. Our thanks to Tredegar Hall and Te Wai Rōpū Māori for gifting this ingoa.

A new logo for the Society has been commissioned and is currently being designed by Ariki Creative, based on the ideas previously submitted by members. Once some design ideas are available, they will be circulated to our membership to vote on, along with the existing logo. This is anticipated to happen in early 2024.

Thank you for supporting your Society in 2023. I wish you all a well-deserved, restful holiday this summer.

Ngā mihi nui ki a koutou,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Jenny Webster-Brown". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a small flourish at the end.

Jenny Webster-Brown

NZFSS President

5. Treasurer's Report 2022-23 FY

New Zealand Freshwater Sciences Society Incorporated As at 30 June 2023

| | NOTES | 30 JUN 2023 | 30 JUN 2022 |
|---|-------|----------------|----------------|
| Assets | | | |
| Current Assets | | | |
| Bank accounts and cash | | 58,466 | 88,732 |
| Debtors | | 2,085 | 911 |
| Investments | | 126,326 | 122,717 |
| Total Assets | | 186,877 | 212,360 |
| Liabilities | | | |
| Current Liabilities | | | |
| Creditors and accrued expenses | | 4,474 | 6,114 |
| Other current liabilities | | - | - |
| Total Current Liabilities | | 4,474 | 6,115 |
| Total Liabilities | | 4,474 | 6,115 |
| Total Assets less Total Liabilities (Net Assets) | | 182,403 | 206,245 |
| Accumulated Funds | | | |
| Accumulated surpluses or (deficits) | | 182,403 | 206,245 |
| Total Accumulated Funds | | 182,403 | 206,245 |

Our total assets on 30 June 2023 were \$186,877, including two Term Deposits (\$126,326). As of 30 November 2023, we have \$224,926.98 in assets.

Total income earned for the 2022-23 financial year was **\$22,920** (Table 1) and came primarily from subscription income (\$17,195) and interest earned from our term deposits and current accounts (\$4,540). Not included in the above is income of \$23,772.12 from two conferences held, being the joint NZFSS and NZ Marine Science Society Auckland Conference November 2022 (\$14,996.70) and Freshwater Sciences Brisbane Conference June 2023 (\$8775.42).

Total operating expenses for the 2022-23 financial year were **\$46,762**, including awards and scholarships (\$27,673), donation to SIL Trust (\$3,090) website hosting fees (\$1,430), accounting fees (\$1,340) and RSNZ membership fees (\$1,304).

The Society made an operating **deficit** of **\$23,843** for the year ended 20 June 2023. Note this does not include the conference income of \$23,772.12 (*which would take us back to within ~\$70*)

Membership

As of 30 November 2023, we have 596 members, an increase of 58 since last year (Table 1, Figure 1).

We currently have 9 *Student (First Year Free)* members (at a cost of \$135 to the Society in lost membership fees) and *Executive members* do not pay subscriptions as a thank you for their service (11 members at a cost of no more than \$605 to the Society in lost membership fees)

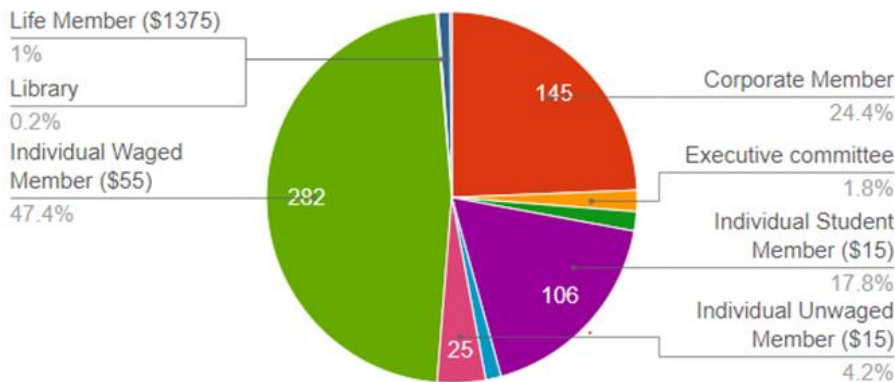


Figure 1: Breakdown of NZFSS members by membership type as of 30 November 2023

Table 1: Membership numbers by type over the past five years

| Membership type | 2023 | 2022 | 2021 | 2020 | 2019 |
|-----------------------|------|------|------|------|------|
| Waged | 428 | 397 | 429 | 438 | 380 |
| Unwaged & students | 151 | 126 | 127 | 126 | 114 |
| Honorary | 10 | 9 | 9 | 9 | 9 |
| Life | 6 | 5 | 4 | 4 | 4 |
| Libraries & societies | 1 | 1 | 1 | 16 | 16 |
| Total | 596 | 538 | 570 | 593 | 523 |

There are currently 319 accounts past due (Figure 2). This 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. In addition, there are a number of Corporate Members whose institutions have yet to pay their invoices. There is also a subset of members for whom NZFSS emails are going to spam and, therefore, are not receiving their invoices. Issie and Justine have been working to reconcile these expired or overdue memberships to 'tidy up' the membership. Members who are in arrears will be considered non-financial and removed from the membership database as per Section 9.a of the Constitution.

The reason for taking this line is that our membership databases has a maximum capacity of 600 members. To increase this capacity comes at a reasonable cost to the Society, so while we will increase capacity if there is good reason to, the preference is that we keep our membership tidy and fair to all.

- Query from the floor regarding member retention and maintenance of the freshwater community: is it an option to keep a database of previous members and contact them every so often?

- Historically we have kept records of people who have resigned, but they do not receive any updates or receive membership rates at conferences.

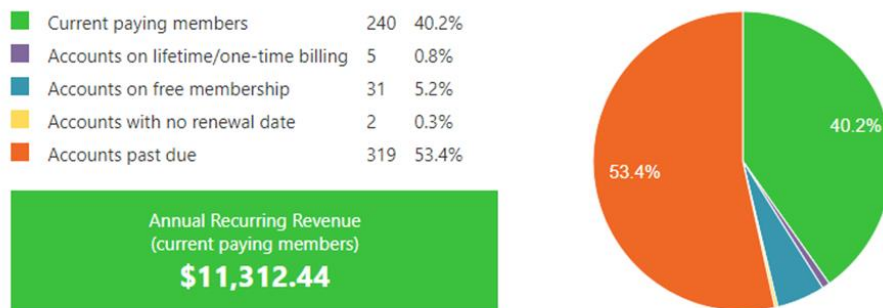


Figure 2: Financial status of members at 30 November 2023.

A reminder that we also have a Corporate Member category that allows organisations to request a single invoice for all members at the waged rate of \$55 per person. Please contact info@freshwater.science.org.nz if you are interested in setting this up for your organisation. We will be looking to encourage this more strongly in the next financial year.

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 is added to your Safe Sender list. If you know of members who have changed roles and may have lost touch, please pass on this message.

Motion: To accept the accounts as presented by the Treasurer.

Proposed: Justine Quinn

Seconded: Ray Chang

Result: carried

Auditing:

At the AGM last year it was moved that we would audit the accounts this year (2022/23). Our auditor has recently advised that they no longer want to have us as a client (for a variety of reasons outside of our control and not related to us as an organisation).

- Cost base for audit firms has continued to increase due to tight labour market, government border settings, increasingly complex accounting standards and complexity in auditing judgements.
- A revised audit standard ISA 315 (Revised) – Identifying and Assessing the Risk of Material Misstatement is effective for balance dates on or after 31 December 2022. This standard is significantly impacting on the volume of work we must undertake and document.

There is no constitutional requirement for the Society to have accounts audited however this has been the practice previously.

Our accounts are prepared by an independent chartered accountant (Tax & Trusts). It was our intention to move that we formally require auditing every 5 years (or similar) to ensure that we are checked however we are able to rely on our chartered accountant to support us.

For discussion: On the basis that our accounts are prepared by an independent chartered accountant is there need for an auditor to be engaged annually? Propose relying solely on the independent accountant for annual accounts and if auditing necessary, moving to a 5-yearly audit.

Discussion regarding whether there is an option for a 'review' rather than an audit – perhaps something without the complexity and legislative requirements of an audit, but something that provides us with that independent verification.

Agreement that there is a need to protect the Executive Committee (and particularly the Treasurer) from the repercussions of any potential issues with the accounts, particularly considering committee terms are 2 years (thus a 5-yearly audit could potentially cover multiple different committees).

Motion from the Chair: On the basis that our accounts are prepared by an independent chartered accountant, we rescind the motion from the 2022 AGM to have the 2022/23 accounts audited, and we will look into an alternative framework to validate our accounts.

| | | |
|---------|-------|------------|
| Yes: 40 | No: 0 | Abstain: 0 |
|---------|-------|------------|

6. SIL 1987 Trust Fund Report & Reopening of SIL Trust Travel Fund for 2024

| SIL 1987 Trust | | Financial Statement 13th November 2023 | | | | |
|--|-----------------|---|----------------------|-------------------|--------------------|-----------------|
| IRD number | 83-600-519 | | | | | |
| | | Account number | Maturity | Interest | Amount | Change |
| TOTAL ASSETS at FY ending 30th September 2022 | | | | | \$76,737 | |
| 16/09/2022 | BNZ Ready Money | 02 0343 0048 153 000 | | | \$2,214 | |
| 30/09/2021 | AMP | 5335382 | Fixed Interest (AIT) | | \$22,685 | |
| 16/09/2022 | BNZ TD #01008 | 9348153-01008 | 6/10/2023 | | \$7,932 | |
| 16/09/2022 | BNZ TD #00014 | 0009316362-00014 | 11/05/2023 | 2.70% | \$20,783 | |
| 16/09/2022 | BNZ TD #00015 | 0009316362-00015 | 5/02/2023 | 2.35% | \$5,191 | closed |
| 16/09/2022 | BNZ TD #00016 | 0009316362-00016 | 5/02/2023 | 2.35% | \$7,786 | closed |
| 16/09/2022 | BNZ TD #00024 | 0009316362-00024 | 16/09/2023 | 4.00% | \$10,146 | |
| TOTAL ASSETS at FY ending 30th September 2023 | | | | | \$72,431 | -\$4,306 |
| 15/09/2023 | BNZ Ready Money | 02 0343 0048 153 000 | | | \$1,550 | |
| 13/11/2023 | AMP | 5335382 | Fixed Interest (AIT) | | \$20,457 | -\$2,228 |
| 15/09/2023 | BNZ TD #01008 | 9348153-01008 | 6/10/2025 | 5.70% | \$8,185 | \$254 |
| 15/09/2023 | BNZ TD #00014 | 0009316362-00014 | 11/05/2024 | 5.75% | \$21,571 | \$788 |
| 15/09/2023 | BNZ TD #01010 | 9348153-01010 | 24/05/2024 | 5.70% | \$10,144 | |
| 15/09/2023 | BNZ TD #00024 | 0009316362-00024 | 16/09/2024 | 6.00% | \$10,524 | \$378 |
| 5% of assets | | | | | \$3,622 | |
| Increase in assets | | | | | -\$4,306 | |
| Available for 2023 awards | | | | | -\$684 | |
| Income/expenditure | | | | deposits | withdrawals | |
| 7/11/2022 | | student prizes | | | -\$800 | |
| 7/11/2022 | | NZFSS levies | | \$3,090.00 | | |
| 7/11/2022 | | travel awards | | | -\$6,000 | |
| monthly | | bank fees | | | -\$60 | |
| NETT | | | | \$3,090.00 | -\$6,860 | |
| <i>John McArthur</i> | | 13/11/2023 | | | | |

Last year the SIL Trust made travel award donations of \$6,000. However, contribution from NZFSS levies has not matched the decrease in value of some of the SIL investments. Therefore, there will not be an ability to fund any travel awards for 2024.

SIL Travel Awards for 2024 will hopefully be funded by NZFSS surplus funds.

Motion: that the SIL Trust Fund accounts be accepted

Proposed: Angus McIntosh

Seconded: Kate McArthur

Result: carried

7. Te Wai Māori - NZFSS Rōpū Māori Report

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).

Updates:

- New reps – Siobhan Nuri & Kathryn Gale
- 70 members
- Representatives attended all NZFSS executive hui
- Produced regular newsletters and numerous emails to rōpū members
- Awarded Te Manawā a whenua scholarship in 2022 - Alyssa Thomas
- Assisted conference organising
- Kaiārahi Tredegar Hall (Tūwharetoa/Te Arawa) has been a great help throughout the year (particularly in Brisbane) and we look forward to his continued involvement with the Society
- New ingoa for the Society – Ngā Kohinga Wai o Aotearoa
- Obtained funding for students & others to attend conferences - SFS Instars
- Social media profile via X (formerly Twitter > 800 followers)
- Continue to develop networks with indigenous researchers overseas - SFS conference was a great hub for this
- Currently developing a database of Māori freshwater students
- Yvonne has stepped down from the Rōpū. Suggestion that NZFSS might consider donating a koha for Yvonne. This will be discussed at the next executive meeting.

8. General Business (see briefing notes and attachments)

a) Logos and Māori name for the Society

Māori name for the Society:

At the 2022 AGM, the membership noted a desire to seek an appropriate te reo Māori title for the NZFSS. The inclusion of mātauranga Māori is a strength of the Society and this needs to be represented in its public-facing profile.

The Executive Committee sought the advice of Te Wai Māori rūpū who, after consultation with their Kaiārahi, Tredegar Hall, have recommended:

“Ngā Kohinga Wai o Aotearoa”

In the broadest sense, this “Collection of waters of New Zealand” refers to how people identify themselves via their pepeha in Te Ao Māori. The collection of waters is the collection of people looking after the waters.

Motion for vote on a te reo Māori title for NZFSS: That the membership approve the use of “Ngā Kohinga Wai o Aotearoa” alongside NZFSS on all official communications.

| | | |
|---------|-------|------------|
| Yes: 40 | No: 1 | Abstain: 0 |
|---------|-------|------------|

Suggestion from the floor to add the translation and explanation of this Māori name added to the website.

Logo:

At the 2022 AGM, the need for the Society’s logo to be updated was raised. NZFSS has evolved significantly since its early days, now encompassing many different aspects of freshwater science and research. The logo did not change when the name of the Society changed from NZ Limnological Society to the NZ Freshwater Sciences Society. The current logo is based on a Secchi disc, a black and white circular disc used to measure clarity in lakes. Not all modern freshwater scientists have used or even recognise the significance of this disc or how it relates to the Society.

Ariki Creative (a graphic design company) were asked to prepare a brief and a quote for the design of three new logo concepts. Our communications with them have been guided by the Society members discussion at a hui held during the Brisbane conference, where the need to have the bicultural and multidisciplinary nature of the Society recognised in the design was emphasised.

The Executive has accepted a quote for \$4,000 which will include 3 potential logo options and advice on use. Designs will be available in early 2024 and will be presented to the membership then.

Note that the new logo will need to be suitable for the NZFSS medal.

b) The 5yr NZFSS financial strategy

The key aspects of the inaugural 5-year financial strategy for NZFSS will be summarised in the AGM presentation, but the full document is available [here](#). This document provides guidance on the amount of funding that need to be kept in reserve for operational spending and to provide flexibility

in lean years, as well as how the Surplus Funds Allocation Subcommittee (SFA) should operate and intersect with the Executive Committee.

Total annual budget for financial commitments and scholarships is ~\$65k. Propose that we hold at least \$100k in the bank to cope with any unexpected expenses (e.g. associated with conferences). The SFA have put forward a plan to allocate surplus funds. The strategy also lays out the responsibilities of Executive Committee and SFA subcommittee members. The possibility of a contestable fund has been discussed in the past, but this has proved too much of a logistical burden to organise in the past. However, we hope to be able to offer this in 2024.

Motion for vote: *That the membership agrees in principle to the use of this strategy to guide the Executive and SFA in their decisions around the allocation of surplus funds held by NZFSS.*

| | | |
|---------|-------|------------|
| Yes: 32 | No: 0 | Abstain: 0 |
|---------|-------|------------|

c) Any changes to Executive Committee co-opted members

No new elected committee members are required at this time, as all current elected members are happy to complete their 2-year term, ending in 2024. Rōpū representatives will be elected at the Te Wai Māori Rōpū annual meeting.

d) Nominations for Honorary NZFSS membership 2023

It is recommended that any nominations for honorary membership could be received by the Executive Committee from members at least two months prior to any General Meeting of the Society, to provide time for the Committee to consider these and make a recommendation to the General Meeting with adequate notice as required in the Society Rules.

One nomination has been received this year.

Motion for vote: *That the membership approve a single nominated member (Russell Death) as an honorary member of the NZFSS.*

| | | |
|---------|-------|------------|
| Yes: 41 | No: 0 | Abstain: 0 |
|---------|-------|------------|

e) Priority activity ideas for 2024 (particularly those requiring funding from NZFSS surplus funds), and process for implementing

A general discussion to seek input from the membership on the priority actions for 2023/24, to guide the SFA in their recommendations to the Executive Committee. Members input on their preferred process for allocating fund to such an activity (e.g., contestable fund, first in first served) is also welcome at this time.

- Discussions around building capacity in developing nations including for example the Pacific Islands freshwater community
 - Aim to hold a conference in the Pacific, e.g. Fiji (thereby helping to bring funds into the Pacific) OR look into funding travel for Pacific Islanders to our conferences in NZ
 - Could we join with AFSS to do this?

- Advice and advocacy to government:
 - This is likely to be a large task in the coming months. We may need to be proactive on this front rather than waiting for calls for submission
 - May be worth talking to the Planning Institute or Resource Management Law Association – joint society submissions may have more power
 - Potential to put together a strongly worded briefing for the incoming ministers
 - It was noted that the Society should remain apolitical and stick to information backed by strong evidence. There was general agreement amongst members at the AGM that we should come out with some strong statements to support the ongoing use and development of the NPS-FM to protect our freshwater systems

9. Karakia mutunga and Meeting close (at 8pm if not before)

Meeting closed at 7.45pm with a karakia from Kathryn Gale.