

Minutes of the 51st Annual General Meeting
of the
New Zealand Limnological Society Inc.
(Trading as New Zealand Freshwater Sciences Society)
Held at Rutherford Hotel, Nelson
Wednesday 12 December 2018

The Annual General Meeting commenced at 5:13 pm and was chaired by Marc Schallenberg, President.

Present: Marc Schallenberg (President), Amy Whitehead (Secretary-Treasurer) and 107 members.

1. Apologies

Adrian Meredith, Clive Howard-Williams, Kelly Palmer, Kit Rutherford, Natasha Grainger.

2. Minutes of the 50th 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 50th AGM (Marc Schallenberg / Brian Sorrell– *carried*)

3. President's report [Marc Schallenberg]

One thing that has really struck me this year is how many people seem to be aware of freshwater issues. Perhaps it was last year's election campaign, which had a strong focus on the environment and water quality, that heightened public awareness, but I'm amazed by how many strangers I meet who express a passion and concern about freshwaters and freshwater issues (recent examples are flight attendants and a random person I shared a taxi with). This tells me that heaps of people are interested in the work that we do and in the knowledge that we have to share. Many of us have been in the media this year, sharing their freshwater information and ideas and this helps raise the profile of freshwater science and the NZFSS. So, I thank the members of NZFSS who have spoken on radio, and TV and to newspapers and magazines, and I thank those who make use of the wide array of social media to engage with the public on freshwater issues. You have done a great service.

In many ways, I think the stars have aligned at this time. Public awareness is high, the government is motivated to create real change in the freshwater space, markets are volatile and shifting price signals are changing our starting to change our agricultural sector, there is an increasing focus on urban stormwater issues, citizen science it taking off, etc. Right now! is an incredibly exciting time to be involved in freshwater science. We need to make sure we make the most of it.

NZFSS activities in the past year

So, this year has seen some important changes in the freshwater "landscape". We have a new, coalition government and new Ministers (David Parker – Environment, Eugenie Sage – Conservation,

and Damien O'Connor - Agriculture), who will steer policies related to freshwaters in some different directions. The previous government's collaborative vehicle for generating freshwater policy, The Land and Water Forum, has gone into abeyance after having done much work and proposing many amendments and new policies related to freshwaters. The new government is trying a new approach of appointing expert advisory groups, with the aim of rapidly improving water quality and freshwater ecosystem health. Its main approach will be by way of new regulations on land and water use. The Government's stated goals are to stop further degradation and loss, reverse past damage, and address water allocation issues (this includes contaminant allocation). The freshwater agenda was recently set out in the document: *Essential Freshwater: Healthy Water, Fairly Allocated* (<https://www.mfe.govt.nz/fresh-water/essential-freshwater-agenda>).

The central government's *Essential Freshwater* strategy has signalled that there will be an update to the National Policy Statement for Freshwater Management, a new National Environmental Standard for Freshwater Management will be developed, and amendments to the Resource Management Act will be made, all in the coming year. The Exec will be keen to get your feedback to help craft submissions on these policies as they are sent out for consultation.

At the same time, the government has committed to engage with Māori to develop a new approach to the Crown/Māori relationship for freshwater. The outline for this process can be found in the document: *Shared Interests in Freshwater: A New Approach to the Crown/Māori Relationship for Freshwater* (<https://www.mfe.govt.nz/sites/default/files/media/Fresh%20water/shared-interests.pdf>).

These new initiatives involve different advisory groups, including a Science and Technical Advisory Group of which a few of our members are participants. These initiatives are challenging but exciting opportunities to translate our freshwater technical knowledge into policy to improve the condition of freshwater ecosystems and the well-being of all those who depend on them. Many NZFSS have also been working in other capacities with Central Government Ministries, Regional and District Councils, iwi, industry and community groups to make sure decision makers are well informed about freshwater matters so that they may make good decisions. We need to continue this valuable work.

In contrast to previous years, this year has been a relatively quiet year for NZFSS in terms of submissions on policy. This has allowed the Exec to focus on a major restructure of the NZFSS website and administration system. Along with developing a new website, we have integrated a new membership management system into the website, integrated a discussion forum into the website, allowing efficient consultation with the membership between AGMs. These upgrades to the way the Society functions will increase efficiency and allow us to get more work done on behalf of the Society. Amy will discuss these upgrades and changes shortly.

We are also updating the constitution (last revised in 2002), which will bring us up to date with the use of new electronic tools for communication, which will allow our Society to consult the membership between AGMs and allow the Exec to respond more easily and quickly to the input of the membership, making the society more flexible, responsive and effective.

Congratulations are due to:

- Carolyn Burns (University of Otago) was awarded the Thomson Medal by the Royal Society for her outstanding leadership and service to environmental science and conservation. Well done, Carolyn!

- Russell Death (Massey University) was awarded the NZFSS Medal for his services to advancing freshwater science – Congratulations Russell! We look forward to your plenary talk at the NZFSS conference.
- John Quinn, a remarkable freshwater scientist and a friend to so many people in our society, who passed away recently. We awarded John the NZFSS Medal in a special ceremony just days before he passed away after losing his battle with leukaemia. We would normally announce the NZFSS Medal winner for 2018 today here at our AGM, but given the circumstances we worked quickly to have John's medal engraved and to be able to present it to him just a few weeks ago. Shardell, John's wife, allowed me to visit John, which was a great honour and an experience that I'll never forget. He we sat out on the Quinn's porch on a sunny afternoon, with grandkids running around and his immediate family gathered round and looking after his every need. I read John the letter of award and he and his family were so happy. We chatted for what seemed like an hour, but was timeless for me, in a way. Thanks to all of you who have expressed your gratitude and support for our endeavour to present John with his medal before he passed. Instead of a JQ plenary next year, there is talk of having a special session of talks centred around John, and the projects and collaborators who inspired him and who were inspired by him.

Thanks

A big thanks and congratulating our newsletter team (Natasha Petrov and Marine Richardson) for recently producing another excellent newsletter for our Society.

The NZFSS runs on the energy and talents of its Executive. So, I would like to specifically thank the core Exec team for their work and assistance this year: David Hamilton, Phil Jellyman, Kate McArthur, Natasha Petrove and of course our chief organiser and keeper of accounts, Amy Whitehead. I'd also like to thank Ian Kusabs and Tara McAllister (Te Roopu), and Emma Moffett (student representative), Richard Allibone (helper with submissions), Lisa Carlin (website manager), Sophie Allen (community outreach) and Marine Richardson (assistant newsletter collator and editor).

Exec succession

Finally, this is an election year for the Society's Executive roles. I've decided to step down after four years as the President. This role has been an incredible experience for me. While it has often pushed me outside my comfort zone, it has also taught me a lot and has given me amazing opportunities that I wouldn't otherwise have had. I leave the Presidency at a time when I think the Society is in great shape - the quality of the science, it's membership number and diversity, it's engagement in policy, it's opportunities for holding joint conferences with international societies, etc. etc..

Russell's Death's C+ grade that he gave the Society is noted. But given our mission as a society, as stated in our Constitution, and my constant consideration of the diverse perspectives of the membership of the society, I've tried to maintain us as an evidence-based, honest broker on freshwater issues, when I've been asked to comment on issues in the media and elsewhere. I think Russell made some good points and I think it's a good time to reconsider our statutory aims and to have a serious think about where our society wants to go in this age of intense interest in freshwater issues. The best and proper way to do this is to update our constitution, which is what we will be looking at doing here, shortly.



Marc Schallenberg

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 2017-2018 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 2018 were \$ 153,556, including two Term Deposits (\$111,893).

Income earned for the 2017 financial year came from the 2017 Hamilton conference (\$7,088), subscription income (\$15,347), book sales (\$1944) and interest earned from our term deposits and current account (\$3,773).

Main expenditure items for the 2017-2018 financial year included RSNZ membership fees (\$1,304), student awards (\$2,900), the website upgrade (\$5,813), hardcopy newsletter and postage expenses (\$594), and bank fees (\$1,073).

The Society made a **net surplus of \$4,390** for the year ended 30 June 2018. This compares to a surplus of \$53,624 for the 2016-2017 financial year.

Reasons for this difference include:

- Conference income for the 2017 financial year was \$50,860 (2017-18: \$7,088). 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 2017 AGM.

Table 1. Income and expenses for the 2017 – 2018 financial year

Profit and Loss
New Zealand Limnological Society Incorporated
1 July 2017 to 30 June 2018

30 Jun 18

| | |
|--|---------------------|
| Income | |
| Conference Income | \$215,587.35 |
| Interest Income | \$3,773.08 |
| Sales - Book - Advances in NZ Freshwater Science | \$1,761.74 |
| Sales - Book - Crustacea Identification Guide | \$182.64 |
| Subscriptions - Current | \$15,347.22 |
| Total Income | \$236,652.03 |
| Less Cost of Sales | |
| Cost of Goods Sold - Advances in Fresh Water Science | \$1,445.00 |
| Total Cost of Sales | \$1,445.00 |
| Gross Profit | \$235,207.03 |
| Plus Other Income | |
| Donations - for SIL Trust | \$4.00 |
| Donations - Student Prizes | \$1,600.00 |
| Total Other Income | \$1,604.00 |
| Less Operating Expenses | |
| Audit Fee | \$4,982.78 |
| Awards - Jolly Student Travel | \$1,100.00 |
| Awards - SIL Trust Conference Prizes | \$800.00 |
| Bank Fees | \$266.15 |
| Conference Expenses | \$209,485.81 |
| Consulting & Accounting | \$2,160.00 |
| Donation - Gift to SIL Trust | \$5,109.00 |
| Membership fees - RSNZ | \$1,304.00 |
| Postage | \$125.22 |
| Printing - Newsletter | \$468.93 |
| Stripe Fees | \$290.36 |
| Website | \$5,812.50 |
| Xero Fees | \$517.16 |
| Total Operating Expenses | \$232,421.91 |
| Net Profit | \$4,389.12 |

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 | 2018 | 2017 | 2016 | 2015 | 2014 |
|-----------------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|
| Ordinary waged | 361 | 371 | 384 | 337 | 326 |
| Unwaged / Student | 105 | 124 | 122 | 113 | 108 |
| 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 | 12 |
| TOTAL | 495 | 526 | 535 | 479 | 464 |

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.

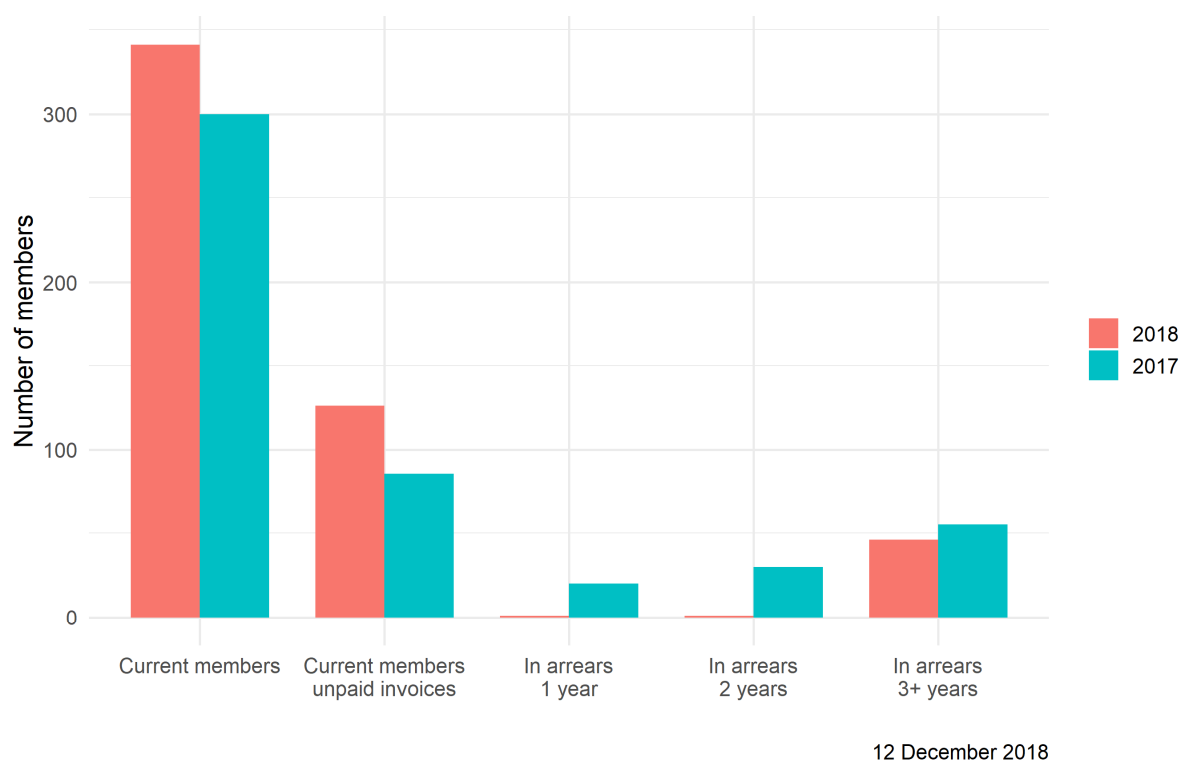


Figure 1. Financial status of members on 12 December 2018, compared to 2017.

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

- 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)

6. Election of Society Officers

The following officers were nominated and duly elected:

- President: Nominations – Kate McArthur (Amy Whitehead / Marc Schallenberg)
- Secretary-Treasurer: Nominations – Amy Whitehead (Carolyn Burns / Sophie Allen)
- Newsletter editor: nominations – Amanda Valois (Amanda Valois / Natasha Petrove)
- Elected Executive Members: Nominations
 - Jenny Webster-Brown (Marc Schallenberg / Kate McArthur)
 - Phillip Jellyman (Kate McArthur / Marc Schallenberg)

Co-opted Members

The following members have kindly offered their time to assist as co-opted members:

- Lisa Carlin – Website Manager
- Kati Doehring – Website Editor
- Issie Barrett – Student Representative
- Ian Kusabs – Te Rōpū Māori Representative
- Joanne Clapcott – Te Rōpū Māori Representative
- Yvonne Taura – Te Rōpū Māori Representative
- Marine Richardson – Assistant Newsletter Editor
- Rich Allibone – Advocacy / Submissions Manager
- Sophie Allen – Community Outreach

7. Te Rōpū Māori

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

Whakatauki: Mō wai, mōu māori mā – Water for all

- Development of a terms of reference
- Produced regular newsletters and numerous emails to rōpū members
- Increased membership to > 50 members
- Assisted conference organising committee
- Social media profile via Twitter (> 500 followers) 183 tweets
- Establishing networks with indigenous researchers overseas
- Funding for kaitiaki, student & others to attend conferences

8. Website update

Amy Whitehead presented a summary of the new website upgrade (www.freshwater.science.org.nz)

- New modern design

- Digital membership system that allows members to join online and update their own profile
- Member directory currently under development
- New member forum to allow communication between members

9. General Business

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

A. Proposed changes to the Constitution

Changes to the Society's Name

Neil Deans: We did not formally change the name of the Society from the *New Zealand Limnological Society* to the *New Zealand Freshwater Sciences Society* during the previous constitutional update in 2002 because of the cost and administrative implications

Kate McArthur: Looked at the Societies Act and doesn't think that it would be as difficult as previously expected.

Carolyn Burns: Suggested that the membership should be asked before removing *Limnological* from the society's name. Also indicated that this word may have greater meaning overseas.

Kate McArthur: Noted that any name change would require a vote to members

Membership Fees

- Sophie Allen: Questioned whether the *unwaged* category could be extended to include members that work/volunteer for charitable trusts.
- Kate McArthur: Investigated the *unwaged* category and acknowledged that it was very complicated but currently only applied to members that did not earn a wage.

Code of Ethics

- Kate McArthur: Presented Royal Society Te Apārangi's (RSNZ) Code of Ethics and suggested that NZFSS could adopt these as part of our constitution. She will follow up with other societies to see how they have done it.
- Neil Deans: Noted that there would be an expectation that NZFSS members would abide by the rules of the RSNZ Code of Ethics.
- Marc Schallenberg: NZFSS will consult with members prior to adopting the RSNZ Code of Ethics
- Unidentified member: What happens if RSNZ changes their Code of Ethics? What implications would this have for the NZFSS constitution.
- Erron Henderson: What happens if an NZFSS member transgresses? Does the RSNZ already have procedures in place or would we need to develop our own?
- Kate McArthur: We can seek advice from RSNZ but would need to manage the situation ourselves.
- Neil Deans: How do we make constitutional changes?
- Kate McArthur: The current constitution requires a two-thirds majority at an AGM or via postal ballot.

There was widespread agreement amongst members that we should add the option of online voting to the constitution.

- Carolyn Burns: There should be a range of voting options to ensure that we don't exclude anyone.

NZFSS objectives

- Marc Schallenberg: Questioned whether the current objectives in the Constitution are still appropriate.
- Natasha Petrove: Suggested that we should include advocacy as an objective as we are already doing this through our submissions.
- Scott Larned: Noted that our submissions should be based on facts and are not necessarily advocacy.
- Thomas Wilding: Noted that members often have to provide evidence for Environment Court. WE can help the community by providing knowledge but not necessarily advocacy.
- Kate McArthur: Noted that some of these issues are already covered in the RSNZ Code of Ethics.
- Amanda Valois: Suggested that promoting science and fostering knowledge sharing should be one of our objectives
- Marc Schallenberg: We should use the new online forum to formulate and discuss potential objectives.
- Sophie Allen: The current objectives are appropriate but we should look at adding one about fostering knowledge.
- Shannan Crow: Is there any appetite for NZFSS supporting sustainable management as an objective?
- Kate McArthur: This is already included in the RSNZ Code of Ethics.

B. NZFSS Expenditure Plan

Suggested options

- Lecture tour
 - Support for members to attend conferences
 - Outreach initiatives
 - Society publications
 - Stipends for the Executive
 - Financial assistance for people to write white papers
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- Joanne Clapcott: Agreed this was a good list that reflected NZFSS objectives. Noted that there should be support for kaitiaki not included in general members.
 - Kate McArthur: Agreed with Joanne's suggestion.
 - Carolyn Burns: We should review the value of the student awards (particularly VH Jolly Travel Awards) which haven't been increased in many years
 - Neil Deans: Noted that the AGM was not the right forum to populate the table of ideas. He is supportive of the process but felt that the Executive should perhaps make suggestions and then members could vote on them.
 - Phil Jellyman: Suggested we vote at the 2019 AGM in Australia
 - Angus McIntosh: Noted that we have been at an impasse for some years with this matter. Suggested that we allocate some money to broad categories and then let the Exec use discretion to spend. He wondered if there was a constitutional issue that had prevented us from spending money previously.

- Thomas Wilding: Can we give the Executive powers of delegation up to a certain amount?
- Richard Allibone: Suggested allocating money to broad categories and then asking for proposals.
- Brian Sorrell: Noted that the Executive do not need permission from members to spend money.

C. Other General Business

- Kati Doehring: Will there be a public statement released about the 2018 NZFSS conference?
- Kate McArthur: Volunteered to produce one but asked for help from interested members.

10. Future Conferences

Proposals to join future conferences

2020 INTECOL Wetlands (Christchurch)

- Phillipe Gerbeaux: Presented information about the proposed INTECOL Wetlands conference bid that, if successful, would be held in Christchurch in 2020.
- There was general support from members for joining this conference

2021 Society for Freshwater Sciences (Brisbane)

- Joanne Clapcott: Presented proposal to join SFS (formerly NABS) conference in Brisbane in 2021.
- Roger Young: What are the financial risks if we choose to underwrite an international joint conference?
- Duncan Gray: Have international conferences previously been good for NZFSS finances?
- Neil Deans: Noted that we will also need to commit a person to these international conference committees.
- Joanne Clapcott: The Queensland State Government are underwriting the SFS conference, so the financial risks are probably very low.
- Kate McArthur: Raised a motion to change to an electronic voting process via the new forum prior to changes to the constitution to allow discussion with members about future conferences.

The meeting closed at 6:47 pm.