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New Zealand Geographical Society

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2012

Napier, War Memorial Centre

Tuesday, 4 December 2012

5.30-7.30pm

MINUTES

The official part of the meeting opened at 5.30pm with a Presidential Address by John Overton reflecting on the start of the Society and its 68 years history.

Present: John Overton (President), Ann Pomeroy (Vice President), David Hayward (Treasurer), Maria Borovnik (Secretary), Etienne Nel (Managing Editor), Matthew Henry (Media and Information Officer), Lex Chalmers (NZBoGT Liaison Officer), Amanda Thomas (Postgraduate Representative), Marc Tadaki (Postgraduate Representative), Michael Roche, June Logie, Richard Le Heron, Nicholas Lewis, Garth Cant, David Conradson, Robin Kearns, Juliana Mansvelt, Vaughan Wood, Eric Pawson, Marcela Palomino-Schalscha, Richard Bedford, Warwick Murray, Mary Flaws, Mike Shephard, Huia Forbes, Glenn Banks, Bill Howie, Annette Brown, Mike Taylor, Tara Duncan, Cherie Todd, Andrea Farriner, Hamish Rennie, Ian Fuller, Alastair Clement, Simon Vale, Lars Brabyn, Kali Fermantez, Anne-Marie D'Hautesterre, Pip Forer, Aisling Gallagher, Russell Prince, Thomas Etherington, and Vaughan Wood.

Welcome and confirmation of the Agenda, by NZGS President, John Overton.

Apologies: Suzanne Baldwin, Tony Binns, Peter Holland, Sean Fitzsimons, Katrina Richards, Jane Evans, Jane Foster, Phil Bartie, Glenn McGregor, Andy Sturman, Simon Kingham, Linda Singh, Regina Scheyvens, Robyn Longhurst, and Lynda Johnston.

Minutes of the AGM held in Palmerston North, 29 September 2011 have been viewed and confirmed by the Meeting.

Changes to be made for: AOB (p.4) Mike Roche's request was on Peter Perry's regard.

MOTION to affirm that with consideration of the above amendment, these minutes are a true and correct record: Garth Cant/ Matthew Henry. Carried.

No matters arising.

President's Report: (a written report had been circulated within the Annual General Report)

There were no additions being made to this report

Secretary's Report: (a written report was tabled).

Secretary Maria Borovnik explained the changes of the location of headquarter that had been hosted by the Auckland Branch at The University of Auckland, and is now hosted by the Manawatu Branch and located at Massey University in Palmerston North. Maria thanked all involved in the transition processes, and in particular June Logie, Toa Holani, David Hayward and Matthew Henry.

There are three new email lists that have become or will become active within the next couple of weeks. These lists will reflect the Society's endeavour to cater for financial members and also to reach out to a wider geography community.

Treasurer's Report: (this report is part of the Annual Report for 2011 and had been circulated).

Treasurer David Hayward explained the accounts and pointed out that difficulties with a declining membership are reflecting on the finances of the Society and that the Society must find ways of addressing these issues. David Hayward thanked June Logie for her longstanding service to the Society.

MOTION to accept the Treasurer's report and to accept the Auditor's honorarium:
David/Ann. Carried.

Report from the Managing Editor and Chair of the Editorial Board: (a written report was tabled)

Etienne Nel expressed his thanks to Nicholas Lewis and Sean Fitzsimons for accepting the editorial positions in the Journal. Impact factors have grown and it is hoped that this will flow eventually into increasing the Journal's ranking.

Report from the Chair of the New Zealand Board of Geography Teachers: (a written report was tabled)

There were no additions being made to this report.

MOTION to accept the Reports by President, Secretary, Managing Editor and Chair of the NZBoGT: Richard Bedford/Paul Keown. Carried.

Proposal for Changes in the New Zealand Geographical Society

President John Overton asked Vice President Ann Pomeroy to chair the discussion on the document of the proposed changes to the Society.

John Overton explained the important sections of the proposal. The purpose of this proposal to change the NZGS's membership structure is to encourage membership engagement with the Society and to attract more members. New categories involved 1) Fellow, which has been included to give members within the Society increased standing; 2) Member, a change in this category is to lower the subscription rate substantially, and to give members the opportunity to

opt out of the subscription to the journal; 3) Schools, this category will have schools as rate paying members; school then will list their geography teachers to become individual members of the NZGS; 4) Branch Affiliation, that makes it possible to Branches to have members affiliated to the Society through Branch membership. Concessionary rates are offered through option 5) Associate membership.

MOTION: (Proposal 1) To accept the proposed membership changes. John Overton/Robin Kearns.

Discussion: The discussion on these proposed membership changes were concerned with the fellowship category and it was clarified that there will be a reviewing process involved and that once a person is elected as Fellow they will remain in this category as long as subscription fees are being paid.

The Meeting also suggested to have the NZGS compare with other Societies, and to promote the new membership structure as particularly affordable. It was also suggested to look at reciprocal membership fee options combined with AAG or IAG.

The option to delink membership fee from the New Zealand Geographer Journal was discussed and it was hoped that the relationship with the Wiley Balckwell Publisher could be maintained, if not even be changed in time towards a system based more strongly on electronic distribution.

Overseas membership is possible with slightly increased fees.

Motion Carried.

MOTION: (Proposal 2) To allow the NZ Geographical Society to establish specialist research groups. John Overton/Hamish Rennie.

Discussion: Research groups should be a multi institutionalised activity. Teachers pointed out that there are problems with the usage of the Access Grid and that it would be difficult for teachers to participate in Access Grid facilitated research groups. Alternative ways of networking must be considered and implemented. Alternative options are already being explored by the Executive. A teachers' conference every second year that focuses on Geography would be desired and it would be good for the Society to look at this option.

Motion Carried.

MOTION: (Proposal 3) To recognise possibilities for Branches to organise conferences by themselves, and to have the NZGS Executive council conferences: Ann Pomeroy/Warwick Murray. Carried.

MOTION: (Proposals 4) To establish a portfolio for one of the Executive member to oversee a strategic approach to symposia and virtual meetings: John Overton/Eric Pawson. Carried.

MOTION: (Proposals 5) To recognise the contributions of postgraduates to the Society and the Postgraduate Network: John Overton/Eric Pawson. Carried.

MOTION: (Proposals 6) To consider instituting a Branch programme of activities: John Overton/Eric Pawson.

Discussion: The Society must acknowledge, when proposing a strategic plan, that Branches have different capacities and levels of activities. Proposal 6 might need to have some more details included to facilitate Branches to re-engage with the Society. The Meeting requested that Council work on a guide for Branches to develop a strategic plan.

MOTION: Amendment to Proposal 6: Council to provide a guide for Branches to support the development of their strategic plans. Matthew Henry/Vaughan Wood. Carried.

Motion of Proposal 6 Carried with consideration to the proposed amendment.

MOTION: (Proposals 7) To develop a strategy to promote the *New Zealand Geographer* as a journal of international standing: John Overton/Eric Pawson. Carried.

MOTION: (Proposal 8) Proposed changes to administration to subscriptions; a) that membership will roll over to the date joined; and b) can be payable by automatic renewal bank transfer. John Overton/Eric Pawson.

Discussion: The proposed administrative subscription changes could be trialled first. The proposal will have to be clarified with the Auditor to make sure that there are no issues in using that process. The Meeting agreed that the Executive should review the process in 2013/14.

Subscription forms reflecting on the proposed membership changes have been drafted and will be made available after the meeting.

Motion Carried.

Changes to the Constitution: (two written documents, a clean document, and one that indicates changes to be made were both circulated in advance).

Proposed changes to the constitution address: new location of headquarter, membership and subscription administration changes; inclusion of IGU officer in the Executive and Council; and making the AGM meeting more flexible.

MOTION: To amend item 3.2 and remove the word 'unanimous'. Eric Pawson/Richard Le Heron. Carried.

MOTION: To accept the changes made to the Constitution as amended at the meeting: Ann Pomeroy/Eric Pawson. Carried.

Confirming Officers' Positions:

CONFIRMATION of David Hayward for the Treasurer position for an additional three years: John Overton/Garth Cant. Accepted.

NOMINATION of Mike Roche as IGU officer. John Overton/Ann Pomeroy. Carried.

NOMINATION of Mike Roche for Trustee of the Society for three years. John Overton/Garth Cant. Carried.

MOTION to affirm the continuation of all other officers: Nick Lewis/Paul Keown. Carried.

Other Business

1) Representation of Physical Geography (Ian Fuller) Ian urged the Council to address bringing physical geographers back into the Society. It would be desirable to schedule conferences at times that suit physical geographers and if the programme could proactively consider participation of physical geographers. Research groups will help to address this concern. Ian's concerns have been noted.

2) Recognition of Keith Buchanan (Garth Cant) Garth asked if Keith Buchanan could be recognised. President John Overton encouraged members present at the AGM from Victoria University and Wellington Branch to follow this up.

Concluding remarks

The President thanked everybody for their participation in this meeting.

Presentation of Awards followed at 7.45pm.

Nicholas Lewis presented an Auckland Branch award to Joe Kerrigan from Rangitoto College.

LIST OF NZGS AWARDEES

Distinguished New Zealand Geographer

Professor James Anthony (Tony) Binns (Otago University)

Distinguished Service Award

Dr Paul Ashley Keown (University of Waikato)

Jane Evans (New Zealand Board of Geography)

Honorary Life Membership Award

June Logie (University of Auckland)

President's Award for Best Doctoral Thesis

Dr Alastair J.H. Clement (Massey University)

Dr Phil Bartie (University of Canterbury)

President's Award for Best Masters Thesis

Anne-Marie Elizabeth Snider (Victoria University of Wellington)

Citations for these awards will appear on the NZGS website <http://www.nzgs.co.nz> and in the *New Zealand Geographer*.

The meeting closed at 8.15pm.

Maria Borovnik, National Secretary, NZGS, 11 December 2012