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New Zealand Geographical Society

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2011

3rd Floor Geography Building,
University of Canterbury

Thursday, 29 September 2011
1 – 4pm

MINUTES

The official part of the meeting opened at 1.30pm

Present: Tony Binns (President), John Overton (Vice President), Maria Borovnik (Meeting Secretary), June Logie (Administrator), Richard Le Heron, Michael Roche, Nicholas Lewis, Wendy Lawson, Garth Cant, Ross Barnett, Roger Baldwin, Suzanne Baldwin, Janet Baldwin, Murray Fastier, John Macaulay, Chris Kissling, Simon Kingham, David Conradson, Gregory Breetzke, Vaughan Wood, Catherine Tisch, Woodrow Pattinson, Ian Owens, Paul Bealing, Nicole Gombay, Eric Pawson.

Welcome and confirmation of the Agenda, by NZGS President, Tony Binns.

Apologies: David Hayward, Peter Holland, Etienne Nel, Lex Chalmers, Matt Henry, Marcela Palomino-Schalscha, Iain Hay, Ed Challies, Tim Appelhans, Blair Fitzharris, Joycelyn Papprell, Richard Bedford, Robin Kearns, Katrina Richards, Jocelyn Papprell, William Howie, Jane Foster, Harvey Perkins, Suzanne Smith. **For first part of meeting:** Eric Pawson

Minutes of the AGM held in Palmerston North, 29 September 2010 have been viewed and confirmed by the Meeting.

MOTION to affirm that these minutes are a true and correct record: Richard Le Heron / Mike Roche. Carried.

No Matters arising.

President's Report: (a written report had been circulated)

Tony Binns thanked the Canterbury Branch for hosting the AGM in 2011. He thanked June Logie for her continuing support and work at Headquarters in Auckland. He then identified some of the Society's highlights in 2010 and 2011:

1. The NZGS international biennial conference, organised by the Canterbury Branch (5-8 July 2010) was a great success. Sincere thanks to the Canterbury Branch for creating such a successful event.
2. A significant achievement has been the postgraduate network that was initiated by Marcela Palomino-Schalscha at the NZGS conference in 2010. The network is growing, impressively and has held workshops and webinars.
3. The meeting with University Heads of Departments at the Christchurch conference was very successful, and was followed up on 9 August 2011, with a similar meeting on the Access Grid.
4. We must give our thanks to Melanie Milicich for helping with setting up the Access Grid, which has proved to be an excellent medium for Executive Committee and the New Zealand Board of Geography Teachers (NZBoGT) meetings.
5. Thanks especially to Eric Pawson in his role as Managing Editor of the *New Zealand Geographer* and for the smooth transition to a new Managing Editor Etienne Nel. More recently, two further editors have been appointed: Nicholas Lewis (Human Geography) and Sean Fitzsimons (Physical Geography).
6. Sincere thanks also to Matthew Henry, the Media and Information Officer, for his work during a significant period of transition in responsibilities.
7. The Society is also indebted to the recently retired Chair of the NZBoGT, Annette Lanigan for her excellent work. The new Chair of NZBoGT, Suzanne Baldwin, has been welcomed on board the Executive Committee.
8. NZGS Branches could do with some strengthening and Tony Binns offered the Executive Board's assistance with this process.
9. The Society needs to work hard to find better strategies for attracting members join the Society.
10. The Society has had a number of other activities in 2011, most notably the "Geography of Aid" Symposium, organised by John Overton at Victoria University on 20 April.
11. Special thanks must go to Richard Le Heron, who was NZGS Secretary for eleven years. He stepped down in February 2011, handing over to our new Secretary, Maria Borovnik. Thanks to Maria for her excellent work since taking up this important role in the Society.

MOTION to accept the President's report: John Overton / Simon Kingham. Carried.

Secretary's Report: (a written report had been circulated).

Richard Le Heron wrote the report for 2010. There were no further questions.

MOTION to accept the Secretary's report: John Overton / June Logie. Carried.

Treasurer's Report: (this report is part of the Annual Report for 2010 and had been circulated).

The accounts for 2010 were recently audited.

Membership has gone down significantly and has cut into the budget. Some budgeting cuts have been caused because of funding related changes and the withdrawal of sponsorship from EXITO for the Maatangi Whenua competition. Some cost savings have been achieved through a transition from hard copies to electronic copies of the NZBoGT Network Newsletters. Current membership is at 330. More individual membership is needed with a target of 400 members. Postgraduate membership is strongly encouraged.

The Meeting discussed how to address membership issues with the following suggestions:

- Perhaps emphasising research activities, which could become an incentive to join, in particular for early career academics.

- Subscriptions to journal are not anymore incentives enough. A changing cost structure could be considered.
- Including younger academics in officer roles could be considered. Membership costs should be kept as low as possible to make joining attractive, particularly for younger geographers.

MOTION to accept the Treasurer's report: Richard Le Heron / John Overton. Carried.

MOTION to agree to accept the Auditor's honorarium: June Logie / Simon Kingham. Carried.

Managing Editor's Report: (a written report had been circulated).

Efforts have been put in place to involve more teachers and postgraduates in publishing their work in *New Zealand Geographer*. Currently, three issues per year are being published. The Editorial Board is investigating a four yearly structure. The Meeting was interested in the strategies applied for such a structure.

Action Point: Nicholas Lewis to contact Editorial Manager about a four yearly structure and then report back to Secretary.

MOTION to accept the Editorial Manager's report: Suzanne Baldwin / Murray Fastier. Carried.

Report from the Chair of the New Zealand Board of Geography Teachers: (a written report has been circulated)

This report was written by outgoing NZBoGT Chair, Annette Lanigan. The new Chair, Suzanne Baldwin, highlighted the following:

1. NZBoGT has established a closer relationship with the Ministry of Education to push forward curriculum changes and changes to NZQA.
2. The website has been excellent for NZBoGT.
3. Collaboration with the Managing Editor for contributions to the NZ Geographer have been much appreciated by teachers.

MOTION to accept the Chair of the New Zealand Board of Geography Teachers' Report: Gregory Breetzke / John McCaully. Carried.

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

Changes to the Constitutions have been pointed out in detail. It has been noted in particular that the Geography Resource Centre is in a process of winding down and the website is now becoming more active.

MOTION to accept the changes made to the Constitution: Simon Kingham / John Overton. Carried.

Election of Vice President and Confirmation of Officer Positions:

At the end of 2011, the President's position will move from Tony Binns to John Overton. A Vice President nomination has been received, for Dr Ann Pomeroy, whose research involves rural policy in New Zealand. The Meeting was asked to confirm this nomination. Dr Ann

Pomeroy is highly recommended for this position because her work has been distinguished by a strong involvement in policy. The NZGS has had a tradition of having Executive members from both within and outside academia, which has been very successful. The Vice President's position will be for two years.

NOMINATION of Dr Ann Pomeroy for the Vice President's position: John Overton / Garth Cant. Accepted.

MOTION to affirm the continuation of all other officers: Tony Binns / Maria Borovnik. Carried.

AOB:

Mike Roche requested that the Executive organise a NZGS submission to the Constitutional Review when these are called for (that could be possibly 2012 or 2013).

Action Point: Mike Roche to provide some material to the Secretary.

Concluding remarks

The President thanked everybody for their participation in this meeting. He particularly thanked the Canterbury Branch for organising the meeting.

Presentation of Awards followed at 2.30pm.

NZGS Awards, 2011:

Presentation of the Distinguished New Zealand Geographer Award:
Professor Iain Hay (Flinders University)

Presentations of the Distinguished Service Award:
Dr Garth Cant (University of Canterbury)
Roger Baldwin (New Zealand Board of Geography)
Murray Fastier (New Zealand Board of Geography)

Presentations of the President's Award for Best Doctoral Thesis:
Dr Tim Appelhans (University of Canterbury)
Dr Edward Challies (University of Victoria)

Presentations of the President's Award for Best Masterate Thesis:
Woodrow Pattinson (University of Canterbury)

Presentations of the President's Award for Emerging Researcher in Geography:
Dr Gregory Breetzke (University of Canterbury)

Presentations of the President's Award for Graduate Research Supervision:
Associate Professor Simon Kingham (University of Canterbury)

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

A public seminar followed at 3.15pm: Professor Mark Billingham, HIT (Human Interface Technology Lab) presented a seminar on *Computer visualisation of post-earthquake Christchurch*

The meeting closed at 4pm.

Maria Borovnik, National Secretary, NZGS, 27 October 2011