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## New Zealand Geographical Society

### ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2014

The University of Auckland

Thursday, 19 September 2014  
4 – 6 pm

### MINUTES

**Present:** Ann Pomeroy (Vice President), David Hayward (Treasurer), Maria Borovnik (Secretary), Michael Roche (IGU Officer), Francis Collins, Tom Etherington, Blair Fitzharris, Stephen Fitzherbert, Mary Flaws, Ward Friesen, Ian Fuller, Alan Gamlen, Richard Heerdegen, Robin Kearns, Richard Le Heron, Nick Lewis, June Logie, Juliana Mansvelt, Colin McLeay.

**Welcome and confirmation of the Agenda, by NZGS President, Ann Pomeroy.**

**Apologies:** John Overton (Past President), Nick Page (Chair NZBoGT), Jane Foster (Secretary NZBoGT), Etienne Nel (Managing Editor), Matthew Henry (Information Officer), Karen Fisher (Chair Auckland Branch), Richard Bedford, Tara Duncan, Annie Bartos, Bill Howie, Amanda Thomas, Cherie Todd, Gail Adams Hutcheson, Gradon Diprose, Simon Vale.

**Minutes** of the AGM held in Wellington, 20 September 2013 were viewed and confirmed by the Meeting.

**MOTION:** To confirm that minutes are correct (Ann Pomeroy/Juliana Mansvelt).  
Carried.

**No Matters arising.**

**President's Report:** (A written report had been circulated within the Annual General Report). President, Ann Pomeroy talked to the presidential report and expressed her gratitude for all activities in the Society. She thanked the Auckland branch for providing the AGM's venue and for organising the meeting. She thanked National Secretary, Maria Borovnik, and National Treasurer, David Hayward for their work. She thanked the Executive for their work on implementing the new membership structure and pointed out the key change was the introduction of the Fellows' scheme, which gained very good momentum in 2014. Ann continued with her thanks to the NZ Board of Geography Teachers and to the Postgraduate Network. She particularly praised the group of postgraduates that implemented the network and explained that a special Presidential award was prepared to honour this group. Ann complimented branches and their excellent activities. She talked briefly about some specific

activities, and explained that she is encouraging more combined activities between the Society and Geography Departments, which she hopes will gain more attention through the Society Newsletters, the Society's webpage and other media.

**Secretary's Report:** (A written report was circulated within the Annual Report). Secretary, Maria Borovnik, briefly highlighted some of the Executive membership changes.

**Treasurer's Report:** (A written report was circulated within the Annual Report). Treasurer, David Hayward explained that the Society's membership situation is still of concern and he is hoping that the situation will continue to improve. He explained some changes, such as that the Society's head-office and the NZBoGT reports are now merging into one item (see AR, p.9); however the Board will maintain a separate bank account. Another change concerns the Society's Olympiad's activities. These are now separated from the Society's business financially, to acknowledge that the Society does not own these funds (see AR, p.14). David Hayward acknowledged the Society's administrator, Toa Holani, who is based in Palmerston North and works with him on a regular basis. He also thanked trustee, Michael Roche, and secretary, Maria Borovnik.

**MOTION:** to accept the accounts: David Hayward/Nick Lewis. Carried.

**MOTION:** to thank the auditor for the auditing of the report and for his generosity to accept a reduced honorarium of \$1,500. David Hayward / June Logie. Carried.

**MOTION from the Chair:** to thank the auditor for his work. Carried.

**Report from the Managing Editor and Chair of the Editorial Board:** Nick Lewis spoke on behalf of the Managing Editor. He thanked all geographers that have submitted work to the *New Zealand Geographer* and encouraged everyone to make submission. He thanked Richard Le Heron for initiating a special issue. He briefly talked about fluctuations of the journal's impact factor, which has recently improved. The editorial board met with the publisher in Melbourne and a new strategy has been discussed. This will mainly involve moving away from paper copies. He thanked Ann Pomeroy and David Hayward for leading through this process.

**Report from the Chair of the New Zealand Board of Geography Teachers:** A written report was tabled and acknowledged by the meeting.

**MOTION from the Chair:** to accept the Reports by President, Secretary, Treasurer, Managing Editor and Chair of the NZBoGT. Carried.

**Amendments to the Constitution:** Three documents were tabled and viewed by the Meeting. President, Ann Pomeroy, explained the particularities of the proposed changes. She explained that Council has approved these changes and asked the Meeting to ratify the new constitutional document.

**MOTION:** to ratify the Constitutional changes that have been approved by Council, 14 May 2014.

During a brief discussion the Meeting asked some more details about the different documents.

Motion carried.

**Confirmation of Officers:** Council confirmed all officers 14 May 2014. Council also approved of the establishment of a Membership Officer. The President asked the Meeting to ratify these decisions.

**MOTION:** to ratify the establishment of the Membership Officer position and confirmation of all existing officers: Ann Pomeroy / Nick Lewis. Carried.

Ann Pomeroy explained that Karen Fisher (Auckland Branch) had been nominated for the Membership Officer position.

**MOTION from the Chair:** to have Karen Fisher take up the Membership Officer position. Carried.

One of the Membership Officer's first tasks will be to deal with subscription reminders. The President explained that the Society is planning to reward members that pay promptly with an early bird subscription fee and asked the Meeting to accept this suggestion.

**MOTION from the Chair:** to accept the introduction of an early bird subscription fee. Carried.

Finally, Ann Pomeroy asked the Meeting to accept two co-opted members to the Society: Mike Hilton (Otago Branch) and Lex Chalmers (Waikato Branch).

**MOTION from the Chair:** to have Mike Hilton and Lex Chalmers co-opted to the Executive Committee. Carried.

**Study Groups:** Secretary, Maria Borovnik, briefly explained that the Society will be welcoming proposals from interested scholars. These should explain the tasks of study groups in some detail and how these will contribute to the Society. Contribution could, for example, include conference special sessions and/or a special issue in the *New Zealand Geographer*. It is possible to ask for a small amount of funding.

**Postgraduates:** On behalf of the postgraduate representatives, Maria Borovnik, noted that the group is currently in a transitory situation. Maria acknowledged the excellent work of the network over the last few years and that support for the newly incoming representative, Simon Vale, would be much appreciated. The network would appreciate if Branches and Departments could shoulder tap postgraduates to become involved.

**No Other Business**

**Concluding remarks**

The President thanked everybody for their participation in this meeting and closed the first part of the meeting at 5pm.

**Presentation of Awards followed after a short Refreshment Break.**

## **LIST OF NZGS AWARDEES**

**Distinguished New Zealand Geographer Award:** Professor Robin Affric Kearns (The University of Auckland).

**Distinguished Service Award:** Dr David Hayward (The University of Auckland), Sue Lynch (Otago Girl's High School), and Lennox Sharp (East Otago High School).

**Honorary Life Fellowship Award:** Richard Heerdegen (Manawatu Branch).

**President's Award for Best Master's Thesis:** Hayley Christine Spark (The University of Auckland) and Sam McLachlan (Otago University).

**President's Award for Best Doctoral Thesis:** Dr Thomas Etherington (The University of Auckland) and Dr Amanda Thomas (Victoria University of Wellington).

**President's Award for Emerging Researcher in Geography:** Dr Alan John Gamlen (Victoria University of Wellington).

**President's Award for Exceptional Services (in recognition of contributions to the establishment of the postgraduate network)**

- **Dr Gail Yvonne Adams-Hutcheson** (Waikato University)
- **Gradon Diprose** (Victoria University of Wellington)
- **Dr Marcela Palomino-Schalscha** (Victoria University of Wellington)
- **Marc Tadaki** (The University of Auckland)
- **Dr Amanda Thomas** (Victoria University of Wellington)
- **Cherie Todd** (Waikato University)

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

**The meeting closed at 6.45pm.**

Maria Borovnik, National Secretary, NZGS, 30 August 2015.