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New Zealand Geographical Society

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2017

University of Otago
Department of Geography
Room 5N4 – Richardson Building, Level 5

Thursday, 12 October 2017
1 – 4.30pm NZGS AGM

MINUTES

Present: Harvey Perkins (President), Lynda Johnston (Vice President), David Hayward (Treasurer), Maria Borovnik (Secretary), Chair Auckland Branch), Swati Shah (ECRN Representative), Tony Binns (Tertiary Liaison to NZBoGT), Louise Richards (Deputy Chair NZBoGT), Michael Hilton (Co-opted Member), Christina Ergler (VP Otago Branch), Ralf Ohlemüller (Treasurer Otago Branch), Karen Johnston (Chair Canterbury Branch), Dave Barrie, Lex Chalmers, Nicolas Cullen, Gillian Elliot, Ian Fuller, Peter Holland, Robyn Longhurst, Sam Mehrrens, Katiani Molitika, Simon Vale, Kirsten Anne-Marie Vavasour.

Welcome and confirmation of the Agenda, by NZGS President, Harvey Perkins.

Apologies: Ann Pomeroy (Past President), Karen Fisher (Membership Officer, Matthew Henry (Information Officer), Etienne Nel (Managing Editor), Jane Foster (Secretary NZBoGT), Michael Roche (IGU Officer), Mike Taylor (ITE NZBoGT), Roseanna Spiers (ECRN Representative), Gail Adams Hutcheson (Co-opted Member), Anna Wilson (NZBoGT), Richard Bedford, Christina Bright, Richard Heerdegen, Richard LeHeron, Robin Kearns, Juliana Mansvelt, Hamish Rennieh, Warwick Murray, Amanda Thomas, Suzanne Smith.

Apologies for late arrival: Ian Fuller, Louise Richards.

Apologies for early departure: Christina Ergler (VP Otago Branch), Nicolas Cullen.

Minutes of the AGM held in Christchurch, 6 October 2016, were accepted and confirmed by the Meeting.

MOTION from the Chair: To confirm that the minutes are a true and accurate record of the meeting. Carried.

No Matters arising

President's Report: (A written report had been circulated within the Annual Report).

MOTION from the Chair: To accept the Annual Report. Carried.

President, Harvey Perkins, talked briefly to his report and explained that 2016 was a very busy year for the Society, specifically with regards to the conference organised by the Otago Branch. The meeting discussed that the conference was financially successful mostly because the branch had organised it and because the University of Otago had financially supported the event by offering all services without charge. He explained that the work of the NZBoGT and the NZECRN was very important. He felt that young geographers are invigorating the Society with their fresh ideas and motivating actions. He thanked Treasurer David Hayward and Secretary Maria Borovnik for their work.

Secretary's Report: (A written report was circulated within the Annual Report). Secretary, Maria Borovnik, had nothing to add to her report. She thanked President Harvey Perkins and Treasurer David Hayward in particular for their excellent team work.

Treasurer's Report: (A written report was circulated within the Annual Report). Treasurer, David Hayward explained the accounts for 2016 and that the increase in membership was encouraging; however, he expressed concerns that the membership increase needed to be higher to have the Society recover financially. Reserve Funds had to be used to make up for financial deficits occurring. Since membership is the only significant income for the Society it is important to keep subscriptions to a viable level. There have been no particular larger grants in recent years.

MOTION: to accept the accounts: David Hayward/Ian Fuller. Carried.

The accounts were audited by Nihal Jayawickrama.

MOTION: to thank the auditor for his records. David Hayward/Lynda Johnston. Carried.

MOTION: to accept the Treasurer's report. David Hayward/Karen Johnston. Carried.

Report from the Managing Editor and Chair of the Editorial Board: (A written report was circulated in advance). In Etienne Nel's absence, President, Harvey Perkins briefly explained the Managing Editor's report. He encouraged everyone to support and contribute to the *New Zealand Geographer*. Etienne Nel has decided to stop down from his Managing Editor and Chair of the Editorial Board roles. After a lengthy search for someone to step into this combined role, the Executive decided to split these and invited Juliana Mansvelt to take up the role of Managing Editor, and Nicholas Lewis the role of Chair of the Editorial Board. Other newly appointed roles are: Human Geography Editor, Francis Collins and Physical Geography Editor, Nicolas Cullen. President, Harvey Perkins, explained that the Society's Constitutions was changed according to these decisions.

Report from the Chair of the New Zealand Board of Geography Teachers (NZBoGT): The Liaison to the NZBoGT officer, Tony Binns, briefly explained some of the activities of the NZBoGT. Sue Lynch, who was the Chair NZBoGT during 2016, stepped down early from her role at the beginning of 2017 and Louise Richards has stepped in as Deputy Chair. The NZBoGT emphasised that competitions have been very important in 2016 and also 2017. The Board is currently working on updating a school membership list. The Board wanted to highlight the importance of Lex Chalmers and Anna Wilson in their supporting roles for the Olympiads and that both will be receiving awards at this meeting.

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

Membership Updates: Treasurers, David Hayward explained that there is a need to address membership fluctuations. He referred to the online subscription procedures that were introduced at the beginning of 2017 and that these have caused delays in subscriptions, particularly for school membership. Some of these issues may have caused lower membership numbers. School membership is very important to the Society. President, Harvey Perkins encouraged the meeting to shoulder tap colleagues in university geography programmes and to think about possible ways to have geographers outside schools and universities join the Society. He warned that tapping into the Society's financial reserves is limited.

The meeting discussed the low membership situation and looked at possible strategies: involve more school liaison personnel; have closer links to other associations; have ECRN and BoGT work more closely together; address problems in schools, such as supporting earth sciences in schools; have younger geographers included in deciding about NZGS Awards; have some suggestions made by branches on a regular basis; have regular membership updates sent to branches.

Membership Fee Changes for 2018: Treasurer David Hayward explained reasons to increase the individual membership fees as the result of the abovementioned financial concerns; a second change is that the early bird are to be extended to the 1st May.

MOTION: to accept the changes to individual membership from \$70 to \$85 (with \$68 for early bird subscription) for 2018. David Hayward/Tony Binns.

Discussion: The meeting asked for direct debit options – this question was noted by the Executive and will be followed up.

ACTION: Treasurer and Executive to explore alternative payment options, such as automatic annual payment and direct debits.

Motion Carried.

Early Career Researcher Network (ECRN) Matters: (a report on recent activities and decisions was circulated in advance). ECRN Representative, Swati Shah, talked to the ECRN report. The ECRN has replaced the Postgraduate Network. Recent activities had included: webinars, social events, and PhD gatherings. The network has started allocating and defining different roles within the network to encourage everyone to be actively involved. ECRN members are now starting to contribute to branch reports, and they have also started to engage in social media. The ECRN is also currently putting strategies together towards the combined NZGS/IAG conference in Auckland in 2018, and are already liaising with emerging Australian geographers, encouraging these to become part of an ECRN in Australia. The ECRN hopes that these activities will increase the visibility of the network.

The President praised the ECRN and their activities and exclaimed that he has found the network committed and reliable and highly empowering. He thanked Swati Shah and Roseanna Spiers for their work.

MOTION: to accept the ECRN report. Swati Shah/Mike Hilton. Carried.

Research and Study Groups: The Society currently entertains three Research and Study Groups.

a) The *Mobilities in Geography* Research and Study group has had successfully launched during the conference in Otago, and that they have just had a special issue in the *New Zealand Geographer Journal* come out (*Mobilities and Transformation*, Volume 73 (2), 2017), show casing the range of NZ geography research in this area. Another highlight was the contribution of NZ geographers to the 7th Mobilities Symposium, Massey University, Albany campus. The network has continued being in close liaison with the ESocSci Mobilities in Aotearoa New Zealand network and the convenors thank the NZGS for their financial contributions.

b) The *Women and Gender Geographies* Research and Study group was successfully launched on 6th October 2016 at the NZGS AGM in Wellington. The group, also closely linked with their ESocSci equivalent is highly active with regular workshops, and video conference meetings, and an annual symposium held in February 2017 in Auckland. The group successfully coordinated successfully a half issue in the *New Zealand Geographer* (Volume 72 (3), 2016).

c) A *Rural Geographies* Research and Study group is still emerging and had their first meeting in February 2017.

Anniversary of the Royal Society of New Zealand: President Harvey Perkins briefly explained that the NZGS will be contributing to this anniversary.

NZGS Conference: A combined conference with the Institute of Australian Geographers will be held in July 2018. Details will be emailed to everyone as soon as they are confirmed by the organisers.

Changes to the Constitution: (new and old documents of the constitution to reflect changes were circulated in advance). President Harvey Perkins explained each change in detail.

2.7: This point was simplified to encourage not only geographers in particular fields but also outside geography to join.

8.2, 9.6 and 11.2: A detail was included in each to clarify auditing procedures and to save costs.

10.1, 10.2 and By Law changes 1.1, 1.2, 2.12, 2.3 were made to reflect the decisions made with regards to the splitting of the dual role of Managing Editor and Chair of the Editorial Board (see also report above); 2.32 and 2.33 are defining each role in detail.

By Law 2.1.2 also included the name change of the earlier “Postgraduate Network” to the now “Early Career Researchers Network”.

MOTION from the Chair: to accept all changes to the Constitution. Carried.

Confirmation of Officers: Council, 20 May 2017, decided to have the following officers to renew their roles:

1. Secretary for one more term.
2. Co-opted Member Gail Adams-Hutcheson appointed for one more year in her capacity of ECRN support.

Two nominations were received:

1. A nomination for Vice President was received for Professor Warwick Murray, Victoria University of Wellington.
2. A nomination for Treasurer was received for Ralf Ohlemüller, University of Otago.

All other officers were confirmed by Council.

MOTION from the Chair: to accept the renewals, confirm all officers, and to ratify the new incoming officers to the NZGS Executive. Carried.

No Other Business

Concluding remarks: President, Harvey Perkins, thanked the Executive Officers and explained that he had enjoyed working with everyone. He thanked everyone at the meeting for their contributions to the Society and for participation in this meeting, and explained that he will retire from his role as President towards the end of 2018.

The Secretary thanked Harvey Perkins on behalf of the Executive for his excellent contributions and easy going, supportive contributions and his approachability throughout the last two years.

Harvey Perkins closed the first part of the meeting at 2.30pm.

Presentation of Awards followed after a short Refreshment Break.

LIST OF NZGS AWARDEES

Distinguished New Zealand Geographer Award: Associate Professor Lex Chalmers (University of Waikato) and Professor Patrick A. Hesp (Flinders University).

Distinguished Service Award: Anna Susan Michelle Wilson (Wellington East Girls College, NZGS).

President's Award for Best Master's Thesis: Kirsten Anne-Marie Vavasour (University of Canterbury).

President's Award for Best Doctoral Thesis: Dr Gillian Elliot (University of Otago) and Dr Simon Vale (Massey University).

President's Award for Emerging Researcher in Geography: Dr Kelly Dombroski (University of Canterbury)>

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

The meeting closed at 4pm.

Maria Borovnik, National Secretary, NZGS, 15 January 2017.