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## New Zealand Geographical Society

### ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2013

Victoria University of Wellington

Friday, 20 September 2013  
4 – 6 pm

### MINUTES

**Present:** John Overton (President), Ann Pomeroy (Vice President), David Hayward (Treasurer), Maria Borovnik (Secretary), Amanda Thomas (Postgraduate Representative), Gradon Diprose (Postgraduate Representative), Peter Holland (Co-opted Member), Norman Austin, Jerram Bateman, Tony Binns, Mike Crozier, Jenny Dahl, Mairèad de Róiste, Harvey Franklin, Alan Gamlen, Regina Giarai, Juliana Mansvelt, Laura McKim, Kevin Norton, Marcela Palomino-Schalscha, Michael Sloan, James Renwick, Clare Robertson, Linda Singh, Richard Singleton, Rachel Tallon, Mike Taylor.

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

**Apologies:** Glenn Banks, Richard Bedford, Lex Chalmers, David Conradson, John Flenley, Ian Fuller, Christopher Gomez, Richard Le Heron, Robert M. Kirk, Annette Lanigan, Michael Roche, Regina Scheyvens, Suzanne Smith, Siniva Vaitohi.

**Minutes** of the AGM held at the NZGS Conference in Napier, 2 December 2012 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). There were no additions made to this report.

**Secretary's Report:** (a written report was tabled). The Secretary explained the different functions of the new emails lists to the Meeting. There were no further additions being made to this report.

**Treasurer's Report:** The Treasurer's report was tabled. The Treasurer, David Hayward provided details about this report and particularly pointed out a decline in membership numbers, including a decline in School membership, which is a concern for the Society. He also explained that the Society has made reasonable savings in its expenditures in the last couple of years.

**MOTION:** to accept the Treasurer's report: David Hayward/Ann Pomeroy.

The Meeting accepted the report without further discussion. President John Overton thanked David Hayward very much for his work on this report and on behalf of the Society expressed gratitude for David's exceptional work as Treasurer.

Motion Carried.

**MOTION:** to accept the Auditor's honorarium. David Hayward/Tony Binns.

The Meeting discussed the honorarium for the auditor and suggested that the amount of \$2,500 was rather high. The Treasurer explained that re-negotiating arrangements would be difficult. Discussions suggested considering ways to avoid a costly audit and to consider a review instead.

Motion Carried.

**Report from the Managing Editor and Chair of the Editorial Board:** (a written report was tabled). There were no further additions being made to this report. President John Overton explained on behalf of the Managing Editor that the number of journal downloads have increased. He pointed out that supporting the journal will be significant for the Society and encouraged geographers to keep submitting publications to the journal and to download articles. There were no further additions made to this report.

**Report from the Chair of the New Zealand Board of Geography Teachers:** (a written report was tabled). President John Overton explained that the NZBoGT has done excellent work and that geography in schools is in excellent shape with vibrant activities coming from the Board. He underlined that such activities are very positive for geography as a whole. Vice President, Ann Pomeroy, thanked co-opted member Peter Holland for his longstanding involvement with secondary school competitions. There were no further additions made to this report.

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

### **Amendments to the Constitution**

Co-opted member, Peter Holland and Secretary, Maria Borovnik have been working on changing the constitution and forwarding some proposals for amendments. They have worked on a first draft of changes to the constitution and are hoping that the executive committee will approve changes that can then be presented to the Council meeting in 2014.

### **Confirmation of Officers**

Council has approved of new terms for Secretary, Maria Borovnik, Media and Information Officer, Matthew Henry, and the incoming Vice President, Harvey Perkins.

### **Fellowship**

The President explained that since the last AGM there have been some membership related changes and that the category of fellowship had been introduced. It seemed, however, as though there are not many nominations for fellowship coming forward. Therefore, the executive committee is working towards a more streamlined way to encourage people to become Fellows of the Society. The executive is thinking about establishing a nominations sub-committee that will work on proposals for invitations to geographers to become fellows.

**MOTION from the Chair:** That the Society's executive committee be delegated with the power to consider and, if appropriate, approve nominations for fellowships of the Society.

The Meeting discussed that Fellowship is a sign of peer esteem. Being invited as Fellow to the Society can recognise a person's past contributions to geography and the society. Fellowships can also encourage people to be more engaged and active towards contributions to the Society. The Meeting felt that self-nominations were problematic as many would feel uncomfortable putting themselves forward. Comparisons to the Royal Society were made. The Meeting concluded that nominations, including self-nominations, should be approved by a committee.

Motion Carried.

### **Postgraduate Support**

Postgraduate Representative, Amanda Thomas, pointed out that postgraduates were seeking for some support for the upcoming conference in Melbourne. Postgraduates have already started preparing a postgraduate conference workshop with a variety of themes. However, they are hoping that there would be some financial support from the Society to make these workshops happen.

Postgraduates are also looking at finding replacements for current representatives that are leaving.

The President reassured the meeting that some financial support will come from headquarters to support these workshops and suggested that branches and departments could be encouraged by the Society to providing some support. Some branches, for example Auckland, Otago and Waikato, are happy to support their postgraduates and are currently looking at raising funds.

### **Other Business**

1. President, John Overton, thanked the outgoing Past President Tony Binns profoundly for his work in the executive committee, and specifically Tony's involvement with the Board and the Postgraduate Network. Tony Binns will be stepping down by end of 2013. – Harvey Perkins will come in as new Vice President.

2. John Overton thanked the Wellington Branch, and specifically Linda Singh and Helen Tobin for their roles in the branch and for the branch's hosting of this meeting. He explained that a new branch committee has been elected. He thanked the outgoing Branch Chair, Linda Singh,

very much for her excellent and longstanding involvement with the branch. Marcela Palomino-Schalscha, the incoming Chair presented Linda with a flower-bouquet.

### **Concluding remarks**

The President thanked everybody for their participation in this meeting and closed the first part of the meeting at 4.44pm.

**Presentation of Awards followed at 5pm.**

### **LIST OF NZGS AWARDEES**

**Distinguished New Zealand Geographer Award:** Emeritus Professor Robert Miller Kirk (University of Canterbury) and Professor Philip S. Morrison (Victoria University of Wellington)

**Distinguished Service Award:** Mr Norman Austin (NZBoGT) and Dr Juliana Mansvelt (Massey University)

**Honorary Life Fellowship Award:** Emeritus Professor Peter Holland (University of Otago)

**President's Award for Best Master's Thesis:** Jerram Bateman (University of Otago) and Laura McKim (Victoria University of Wellington)

**President's Award for Best Doctoral Thesis:** Dr Sara Kindon (Victoria University of Wellington) and Dr Clare Robertson (Massey University)

**President's Award for Emerging Researcher in Geography:** Dr Christopher Gomez (University of Canterbury) and Dr Kevin Norton (Victoria University of Wellington)

**President's Award for Teaching in Geography:** Dr Mairéad de Róiste (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 6.45pm.**

Maria Borovnik, National Secretary, NZGS, 1 September 2014