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New Zealand Geographical Society

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2016

The Victoria University of Wellington
Geography Department
Room AM 101, Alan MacDiarmid Building, Kelburne Parade

Thursday, 6 October 2016
3.30 – 6.30pm NZGS AGM

MINUTES

Present: Harvey Perkins (President), Lynda Johnston (Vice President), Ann Pomeroy (Past President), David Hayward (Treasurer), Maria Borovnik (Secretary), Karen Fisher (Membership Officer), Michael Roche (IGU Officer), Michael Hilton (Co-opted Member), Richard Bedford, Rebecca Kiddle, Sara Kindon, Margaret Leamy, Brion Lynch, Warwick Murray, Kevin Norton, John Overton, Marcela Palomino-Schalscha, James Renwick, Roseanna Spiers, Amanda Thomas, Michelle Thompson-Fawcett, Peyman Zawar-Reza.

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

Apologies: Gail Adams Hutcheson, Glenn Banks, Jane Foster, Ian Fuller, Matthew Henry, William Howie, Robin Kearns, Richard Le Heron, Sue Lynch, Juliana Mansvelt, Etienne Nel, Suzanne Smith, Hamish Rennie, Yvonne Underhill-Sem.

Minutes of the AGM held in Christchurch, 24 September 2015, were accepted and confirmed by the Meeting.

MOTION: To confirm that the minutes are a true and accurate record of the meeting (Maria Borovnik/David Hayward). Carried.

No Matters arising.

President's Report: (A written report had been circulated within the Annual Report). President, Harvey briefly spoke to the report. He thanked Ann Pomeroy for her contributions to the Executive Committee and for supporting his transition towards the Presidency. He explained that he is grateful for Ann's continued kind support in her role as Past President.

Secretary's Report: (A written report was circulated within the Annual Report). Secretary, Maria Borovnik, thanked Ann Pomeroy for her work as President, and she also acknowledged Treasurer David Hayward and Information Officer, Matthew Henry.

Treasurer's Report: (A written report was circulated within the Annual Report). Treasurer, David Hayward explained the different parts of the report. He observed that finances during 2016 had eroded to a certain extent due to a new system of membership subscription. However, there were also some positive impacts on finances mostly because of the removal of publisher royalties and the new contract for the New Zealand Geographer journal. Overall there was a modest surplus of just over \$5,000.

Individual membership increased slightly, and there was a small decrease in school membership. The Society's Executive had focused during 2015 on many membership building activities, and had started to address the decreased school membership.

MOTION: to accept the accounts: David Hayward/Ann Pomeroy. Carried.

The accounts have been audited by Nihal Jayawickrama.

MOTION: to thank the auditor for his records and to approve of the auditor's honorarium. David Hayward/Lynda Johnston. Carried.

MOTION: to ratify the new honorarium for the auditor that was approved in May 2017. David Hayward/Ann Pomeroy. Carried.

Treasurer, David Hayward, completed his report by thanking the Administrator, Toa Holani, for her work for the NZGS head office, Trustee Michael Roche, and Secretary Maria Borovnik. He also thanked Ann Pomeroy for her work during her Presidency. – He proposed to have an agreement by the meeting that there will be no membership fee changes for 2017.

MOTION: to leave membership fees unchanged in 2017. David Hayward/Lynda Johnston. Carried.

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

Report from the Managing Editor and Chair of the Editorial Board: A written report by Managing Editor, Etienne Nel, was tabled in his absence and acknowledged by the meeting. The meeting commented that it were important to have more people submitting journal articles and that it were important to increase the impact factor of the journal. – President, Harvey Perkins thanked Etienne Nel for his work as Managing Editor and for his report.

Report from the Chair of the New Zealand Board of Geography Teachers: A written report from the Chair of the NZBoGT, Nick Page, was tabled and acknowledged by the meeting in his absence. Treasurer, David Hayward, responded to questions. Teachers are now included within school membership. School membership had gone down but has been slowly rising during 2016. President Harvey Perkins explained that the work that the NZBoGT does with regards to membership is important. It is important to the Society to support young people's involvement in geography.

MOTION: to accept the Reports by President, Secretary, Managing Editor and Chair of the NZBoGT. Harvey Perkins/Warwick Murray. Carried.

Membership Issues: Membership Officer, Karen Fisher, explained that she had been working with the Treasurer and Administrator to address some of the key problems that was experienced with membership. The team worked on sorting out problems related to the combined conference fee and subscription matter. She also followed up on invoices for paid members. Positive news is the re-development of the website that will include a membership module. This will allow members to subscribe or renew subscriptions online. Information Officer, Matthew Henry was in the process of trialling this new system.

President, Harvey Perkins, urged the meeting to renew their membership and to encourage colleagues wherever possible to join the Society. He also reminded everyone that the Society's Administrator was employed only on a part time basis.

MOTION from the Chair: to accept the membership report: Carried.

Postgraduate Matters: Auckland Representative, Roseanna Spiers explained that webinars had been invigorated and were advertised. The Postgraduate Network was trying to link webinars with schools; and they were working with Melanie Milicich to have technical issues sorted out. – Postgraduates had also worked towards creating a stronger connection with Australian postgraduates and have started contacting and linking with individual departments. All Australian universities have their own postgraduate networks but there did not seem to be a nation-wide Australian postgraduate network.

President, Harvey Perkins, explained that there are Postgraduate Representatives at each Executive meeting reporting on their activities. He explained that the postgraduate had two successful events, including research related activities and a social event, at the NZGS conference in Otago in early 2016, and that these activities will also be supported by the Society for the upcoming conference in 2018. He thanked the Postgraduate Network for their report.

Research and Study Groups: These are initiatives that are strongly supported by the NZGS:

a) The *Mobilities in Geography* Research and Study group had evolved from the ESocSci New Zealand Mobilities Network and was launched at the conference in Otago, on 2 February 2016 with two special panel sessions. The group was led by Tara Duncan, Maria Borovnik, and Gail Adams-Hutcheson. They were planning to have a second event later in 2016 and to support a postgraduate student with a presentation at this upcoming symposium.

b) The *Women and Gender Geographies* Research and Study group had evolved from the ESocSci Gender Network and was established in May 2016 at the NZGS Council meeting. The group, was led by Helen Fitt and Alison Watkins, and supported by Karen Fisher, who felt that this highly engaged group and their activities will support Society membership. They are planning to have conference sessions and virtual meetings.

c) A *Rural Geographies* Research and Study group was in planning, as Ann Pomeroy briefly explained, and a first meeting will be had by early 2017.

Vice President, Lynda Johnston, explained that these research and study group activities are important because they will be linking with international networks and activities.

Confirmation of Officers: Council, 28 May 2016, approved Lynda Johnston as new Vice President, Sue Lynch as new Chair of NZBoGT, and Tony Binns as new Liaison NZBoGT.

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

No Other Business:

Concluding remarks: The President thanked the Executive Officers for their hard and excellent team work. He thanked everyone for their support to the Society and for participation in this meeting and closed the first part of the meeting at 4.45pm.

Presentation of Awards followed after a short Refreshment Break.

LIST OF NZGS AWARDEES

Distinguished New Zealand Geographer Award: Professor John Overton (Victoria University of Wellington) and Professor Andrew Sturman (University of Canterbury).

Distinguished Service Award: Suzanne Mary Baldwin (NZBoGT), Associate Professor Michael Hilton (University of Otago), Margaret Leamy (St Peter's College, Palmerston North), Nicholas Page (Otumoetai College and NZBoGT).

President's Award for Best Master's Thesis: Kathryn Fleming (Victoria University of Wellington) and Anne Heins (University of Canterbury).

President's Award for Best Doctoral Thesis: Dr Tess Guiney (University of Otago) and Dr Richard Selwyn Jones (Victoria University of Wellington).

President's Award for Emerging Researcher in Geography: Dr Christina R. Ergler (University of Otago).

President's Award for Research Supervision: Dr Sophie Bond (University of Otago) and Associate Professor Michelle Thompson-Fawcett (University of Otago).

President's Award for Teaching in Geography (in all educational settings): Dr Wokje Abrahamse (Victoria University of Wellington).

President's Award for Exceptional Services (to the University of Canterbury): Anna Petrie (Senior Administrator to the Geography Department, 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 6.30pm.

Maria Borovnik, National Secretary, NZGS, 30 September 2017.