Minutes of NZMSS AGM

5 July 2012, Hobart

List of who was present:

Mary Livingston

Bob Hickman

Zeenatul Basher

Kathy Walls

Chris Battershill

Steve Chiswell

Malcolm Clark

Jan McKenzie

Rebecca Gladstone-Gallagher

Daniel Pratt

Sarah Dwyer

Katie Halliday

Kirsten Rodgers

Scott Nodder

Jason Suwandy

Tohmaso Alestra

Nick Shears

Rochelle Constantine

Nicole Phillips

Mike Hickford

Darcy Webber

Wilma Blom

Abby Smith

Dennis Gordon

Will Rayment

Rohan Currey

Don Neale

Debbie Freeman

Liz Slooten

Apologies:

Helen Kettles (Secretary)

Accept minutes of last meeting:

Liz moved, Mary seconded

Matters arising:

4. Reports (These numbers relate to the Agenda items)

Attached as appendices

Accepted (moved by Colin)

**Financial:**

Report from Treasurer (Chris Cornelisen)

Accounts stand at about $40,000

Slow decline in funding

Need to consider how much money we’d like to spend on student travel to conferences and research awards. Treasurer proposes not increasing membership fees – as these are on a par with other, similar societies. Our membership fees for institutions are very low compared to other organisations.

Congratulated for spending more on student travel than on admin – by Abby Smith. In general an organisation like this should have at least one year’s funding in reserve and we have much more than that.

Mary Livingstone’s Motion: Council should consider adding a marine award to the Royal Society awards.

As part of the Council deliberations will need to discuss whether we want to amalgamate this new award with our existing award (Mike Hickford noted).

**Election of officers:**

President: Mary Livingston

VP: Helen Neil

Secretary: Helen Kettles

Treasurer: Chris Cornelisen

Councillors:

1. Will Rayment
2. Abby Smith
3. Chris Battershill
4. Hilke Giles
5. Liz Slooten
6. Kathy Walls
7. Drew Lohrer
8. Sue Adkins
9. Denis Gordon
10. Sharon Goldstein
11. Nick Shears
12. Don Neale

Student members of council:

1. Kirsten Rogers (Auckland)
2. Zeenatul Basher (Auckland)
3. Darcy Webber (Wellington)
4. Need to find a couple more students from South Island – one from Canty
5. And one from Otago

7. General Business

7a. Awards were confirmed for: John Booth and Malcolm Clark. Malcolm was present and was congratulated by the meeting. A certificate will be presented at the Conference Dinner, but the Award trophies for both John & Malcolm will be presented later at NIWA, Greta Point at a later date.

7b. Society Rules update

Follow up on common seal which has been lost.

Two changes to the rules (see hardcopy).

7d. Motion: Council consider the portfolio structure (moved by Mary Livingston, seconded by Kathy Walls).

7e. Chris Battershill will set up a portfolio group on Marine Biotechnology.

7f. Next conference in Hamilton. Conrad Pildich & Drew Lohrer will help organise.

Other general business:

Submissions on West Coast MPA’s due soon.

Chris Battershill: Does NZMSS have any links with Coastal Society? Colin encouraged Chris to bring this up at Council.

Mary: New Council should explore working with the Coastal Society and other expert societies. E.g. Ask for their input into our draft submissions.

Bob Hickman: We should look further ahead than the next conference (or two). Let’s decide 3-4 yrs ahead where the next conferences will be held.

Mary proposed a vote of thanks to Colin, as the outgoing President, and thanked him for his contribution to the Council. This was carried with acclimation.