



Minutes for 58th AGM of NZMSS

Napier Conference Centre, Napier, New Zealand

12.00 pm Wednesday 4th July 2018

Present: Hilke Giles, Dana Clark, Hannah Jones, Anna Madarasz-Smith, Liz Slooten, Nick Shears, Lizzy Myers, Anastasija Zaiko, Sam Thomas, Alice Rogers, Leena Riekkola, Pete Wilson, Kate Davies, Wendy Nelson, Cath Wallace, Olivia Johnston, Lesley Bolton-Ritchie, Roger Grace, Courtney Burn, Hannah Charan-Dixon, Robyn Dunmore, Genevieve Bennett, Jose Beya, Chris Cornelisen, Dan Crossett, Alex Hallwell, Yvan Papa, Megan Oliver, Ben Knight, Xavier Pochon, Phil Ross, Megan Carbines, Tim Young, Laura Biessy, Chris Battershill, Matt Pinkerton, Helen Neil, Mark Gall, Samantha Happy, Leigh Tait, Brett Beamsley, Shade Smith, Jason Schwartz, Matthew Bennion, Kaeden Leonard, Helen Cadwallader, Sam McCormack, Daniel Leduc, Simon Thrush, Emily Joy Frost, Ulla von Ammon, Sarah Brand, Sahar Izadi, Kush Jhugroo, Brenton Iurist, Leonardo Durante, Stina Kolodzey, Jess Waley, Erica Donlon, Aless Smith, Yusuf Hussain Qureshi, Emma Jones, Rob Christie, Esther Stuck, Mads Thomsen, Sophia Clark, Irene Middleton, June Loogie, Tamlyn Somerford, Rob Lewis, Steph Bennington, Scott Nodder, Chris Woods, Marta Guerra, Stephen Hunt, Will Rayment, Jeff Shima, David Schiel, Steph Mangan, Shane Kelly, Stefano Schenone, Benn Hanns, Hazel Needham, Michael Townsend, Tarn Drylie, Rebecca Gladstone-Gallagher, Grady Petersen, Vera Rullens, Georgina Flowers, Conrad Pilditch, Emily Douglas, Bob Hickman, Islay Marsden, Drew Lohrer, Richard Bulmer, Martin Cryer, Judi Hewitt, Andrew Bell, Pamela Mace, Kathy Walls, Kura Paul-Burke, Tommaso Alestra.

1) Apologies received: Holly Bennett, Rob Major, Ani Murchie, Emma Newcombe, Bailey Lovett.

2) Voting for president

a) Voting procedure explained and voting forms handed out.

3) Minutes of the 2017 AGM

a) The minutes were approved via email (sent 8 August 2017, responses due by 18 August 2017). No objections were raised to finalising the circulated draft minutes.

4) Matters arising from 2017 AGM

Minute	Action	Status
3)	Finalise conference guidelines, including sponsorship guidelines	Sponsorship guidelines completed, conference guidelines to be completed after 2018 conference to incorporate changes resulting from working with new conference organisers. See Appendix 8

4) b)	Dana to circulate the AGM minutes to members before the end of the month	Completed
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5) Reports tabled to the AGM 2018

1. President – Hilke Giles (Appendix 1) - moved by Helen Neil, seconded by Pete Wilson.
 - a) No questions raised.
2. Treasurer - Hannah Jones (Appendix 2) - moved by Judi Hewitt, seconded by Nick Shears.
 - a) Question on rationale for keeping the membership payments going through the conference. Hannah explained that we are cautious about removing it from conference registration because people may not voluntarily renew their membership and we could lose a lot of money. Also results in time chasing people up. A David Schiel showed support for keeping membership joint with conference registration based on his experience with other societies.
 - b) Suggestion was made that people should be able to have the option of opting out of being a member of NZMSS because it is not democratic to force membership onto people just because they want to attend the conference. There could be a penalty for opting out to discourage it.
 - c) Suggestion of a multi-year membership. Potential issue with rectifying the finances but is an option that we will consider.
 - d) Suggestion of providing automatic emails to past members to encourage them to renew. This will be incorporated into the new membership system.
3. Proposed Budget – Hannah Jones (Appendix 3) - moved by Judi Hewitt, seconded by Nick Shears.
4. Auditor - Hannah Jones (Appendix 4) - moved by Judi Hewitt, seconded by Nick Shears.
5. Other Council reports – Hilke Giles (Appendix 5) - moved by Kathy Walls, seconded by Ann Madarasz-Smith.
 - a) Sam Thomas gave an overview of the new website and requested that people that who would like to contribute photos to contact the secretary. Hoping to launch in early August.
 - b) Hilke gave an overview of the new membership system.
 - c) Question on security of the membership details. Hilke said the website comes with standard privacy requirements and it is password protected. Any specific requests can be passed onto Prefer.
 - d) Hilke thanked Kerry South for her work organising past NZMSS conferences. Unfortunately, she moved to a new company and the quote for organising the conference was significantly more expensive than it has cost us to run the conference in the past so we decided to go with OnCue.
 - e) Suggestion to have face-to-face meeting day after or day before the conference. Issue is

that it would be either an outgoing council or incoming council so it may not be very productive. Will consider how we can incorporate a face-to-face meeting in the future.

6) Election of Officers and other Council members for 2018-19

Nominations received and vacancies as of 16 June 2018 are listed below. Further nominations may be made before or at the AGM. 2017/18 Council members are listed in Appendix 7.

Officers

1. *President* (see statements from Nick and Liz below)
Nick Shears is willing to stand.
 - Nominated by Hilke Giles, seconded by Craig Radford.Liz Slooten is willing to stand.
 - Nominated by Steve Dawson, seconded by Will Rayment.

a) Voting results: Nick Shears voted by membership to be NZMSS President in 2018/19.
2. *Vice-president*
Kathy Walls is willing to stand.
 - Nominated by Nick Shears, seconded by Pamela Mace.
3. *Secretary*
Dana Clark is willing to re-stand.
 - Nominated by Emma Newcombe, seconded by Ben Knight.
4. *Treasurer*
Hannah Jones is willing to re-stand.
 - Nominated by Hilke Giles, seconded by Pete Wilson.
5. *Immediate Past President* (non-elected) – Hilke Giles

Other roles

6. *Secretary "in training"*
Holly Bennet is willing to stand.
 - Nominated by Dana Clark, seconded by Deanna Elvines.
7. *Treasurer "in training"*
Rob Major is willing to stand.
 - Nominated by Emma Newcombe, seconded by Sam Thomas.
8. *Website coordinator and student rep*
Sam Thomas (Otago University) is willing to re-stand
 - Nominated by Josie Crawshaw, seconded by Hilke Giles.
9. *Membership secretary and student rep*
Vera Rullens (University of Waikato) is willing to stand
 - Nominated by Conrad Pilditch, seconded by Tarn Drylie.

General council members

10. Will Rayment is willing to re-stand.
 - Nominated by Dana Clark, seconded by Marta Guerra.
11. Emma Newcombe is willing to re-stand.
 - Nominated by Robyn Dunmore, seconded by Daniel Crossett.
12. Anna Madarasz-Smith is willing to re-stand. (conference organising transition)
 - Nominated by Hannah Jones, seconded by Carolyn Lundquist.
13. Liz Slooten is willing to stand.
 - Nominated by Steve Dawson, seconded by Will Rayment.

Student Reps (at least 2)

14. Leena Riekkola (University of Auckland) is willing to re-stand
 - Nominated by Rochelle Constantine, seconded by Carolyn Lundquist.
15. Sam Thomas (above)
16. Vera Rullens (above)

General nominations

17. Ani Murchie is willing to stand.
 - Nominated by Dana Clark, seconded by Carolyn Lundquist.

New position: Membership Liaison

For the first year this will not be a designated role and will be shared by Anna Madarasz-Smith, Hannah Jones and Hilke Giles.

- a) One additional nomination during the AGM: Islay Marsden
Nominated by Cath Wallace and seconded by Lesley Bolton-Ritchie
- b) Decision to accept all nominations moved by Judi Hewitt and seconded by Megan Carbines. All in favour.

Statements from President candidates

Liz Slooten

Liz Slooten's research in ecology and risk analysis has provided the scientific underpinning for better protection of marine mammals - from fisheries mortality, marine mining and other threats. As a Professor at Otago University she is actively involved in organising the 2019 NZMSS Conference in Dunedin. Held on a university campus the conference aims to reduce registration costs, to allow the widest possible range of people to participate and to reduce NZMSS's dependence on commercial sponsorship. Keeping conference costs under control also reduces the risk of NZMSS losing money, in years when the number of registrations or the amount of sponsorship are insufficient to cover the full cost of running the conference. Liz believes in open, transparent communication and decision making, within NZMSS, in marine science in general and in marine management. She would love to hear from other NZMSS members and other marine scientists about what they think are the biggest threats and opportunities for marine science and the marine environment right now. In particular, what do people think NZMSS can do in the next couple of years to help reduce the threats and make the most effective use of the opportunities?

Nick Shears

I am a marine ecologist at the University of Auckland and have been on the NZMSS Council since 2012. My students and I regularly attend the NZMSS annual conference, and I believe attending the NZMSS conference should be a rite of passage for future marine scientists in NZ. However, an ongoing challenge for NZMSS is ensuring the annual conference remains relevant and is attractive to the full spectrum of marine scientists in NZ.

Over the last five years, NZMSS has made great progress in developing new operational procedures and financial systems that allow the Council to run more smoothly and effectively and be financially sound. I believe the focus now is for NZMSS to reconnect with its membership and the wider Marine Science community and re-establish and strengthen its role as an independent voice that represents the views of marine scientists across NZ. The need for change in the management of marine

ecosystems is increasingly being recognised, and believe it or not, the role of science in decision-making is increasing. Consequently, I believe NZMSS has an increasingly important role to play in the future of both marine science and the management of marine ecosystems in NZ.

7) Sponsorship Guidelines

Following discussions at the 2016 and 2017 AGMs, the NZMSS sponsorship policy was finalised by council (see Appendix 8).

8) General Business

1. Applications for the 2018 NZMSS Award and 2018 John Morton Medal have been evaluated and the awards will be presented at the NZMSS 2018 conference dinner. The 2018 NZMSS Award recipient will be announced on Thursday, 5 July, at 4:30pm and the recipient will give a plenary speech before the closing session.
2. Future NZMSS Conferences
 - Conference for 2019 will be held in Otago (3-5 July)
 - Conference for 2020 will be a join NZMSS/AMSA conference in Australia
 - Conference for 2021 will be a North Island conference (location to be confirmed).
- a) We have been approached by the Freshwater Society Conference to have a joint conference. Chris Battershill put forward Tauranga as an option for 2021. The Freshwater Society usually has their conference at the end of the year so will need to discuss when will suit both societies to hold the conference. Previously when we had a joint conference with the Freshwater Society, it was held in August.

9) Any Other Business

1. Scott Nodder congratulated the council on getting the society back on track. Hilke acknowledged Helen Neil's (Past President) contribution towards this.

Close of meeting at 1:15 pm

Appendix 1 – President’s Report 2017/18

In 2017/18, we continued our initiatives aimed at responsible management of the society and improved value proposition to our membership. For a comprehensive overview of Council activities please see Appendix 5.

Following the progress made in 2016/17 on core operational aspects (including the change of our society rules, setting up our finances in Xero and clarifying financial reporting requirements), in 2017/18 we focussed on more visible initiatives that will modernise the society and add value to the membership. Our biggest project is our new website development, which will include a new membership system. Other achievements are the completion of the NZMSS Sponsorship Policy and the circulation of monthly updates to the membership sharing the highlights of the NZMSS council conference calls.

Thank you to all of you who responded to the surveys sent out after the 2017 conference. This year we surveyed conference attendees as well as members who did not attend our conference. This provided valuable information on not only what people liked about the conference and where we can improve but also why people chose not to attend. We will continue improving our surveys to ensure that we make decisions based on robust information. The survey results are provided in Appendix 9.

To further strengthen our understanding of and add value to the membership, we have created a new role on council titled ‘Membership liaison’. We decided that it is valuable to have one person primarily focussed on the link between the council and the membership and to feed their understanding of the views and priorities of the membership into the various council activities.

One of the most rewarding aspects of the society is the presentation of our student awards. Congratulations to the four successful students who received the First Overseas Conference Travel Fund (Tarn Drylie, Lindsay Wickman, Dyahruri Sanjayasari and Suong Nguyen) and to Irene Middleton who received our Student Research Award.

Many thanks to the 2017/18 council members who supported the society despite everybody’s high workloads in their day jobs. I like to particularly acknowledge Dana and Hannah who both have continued to provide invaluable support to the society in their roles as Secretary and Treasurer, respectively.

Special thanks also to our 2018 conference organising committee and our new conference organising team from OnCue for their hard work and enthusiasm.

As outgoing President, I like to thank everybody who has worked, debated, exchanged emails, laughed and torn their hair out with me during these two years. It has been a pleasure.

Hilke Giles
President NZMSS, June 2018

Appendix 2 – Treasurer’s Report 2017/18

1. Society accounts

As of 31 March 2018 there was a total of \$90,775 in the Society’s accounts (Table 1). The Society generated a surplus of income over expenditure in 2017/2018 of \$2,045. The 2017 conference generated a surplus of nearly \$7,000. This year, we awarded the Student research award to one student (\$3,000), First Overseas Conference Travel Awards to four students (totalling \$4,500), as well as the usual student conference prizes (\$950). Figure 1 shows the 2017/2018 year in the context of previous years. The Society’s funds had mostly been decreasing since 2009, but the past few years have reversed that trend and increased funds significantly. This puts the Society in a much stronger position financially in the years to come.

An online accounting system (Xero) has significantly improved our record keeping and allows us to track the Society’s income and expenses more effectively, and more easily file accurate and timely GST returns. Our intention for the past year was to ensure that we were maximising our investment returns and minimising bank fees. To this end we transferred some funds into term deposits and an online saver account, and also questioned our payment of monthly bank fees with Westpac. Westpac found that we have been paying bank fees in error since 2009 and issued a refund to the society of \$955.20. We are also in the process of switching over our website, which will make the online credit card payment facility redundant and this should result in a further saving of c. \$50 per month.

As per our budget, this year we purchased 10 new NZMSS awards from the sculptor Nick Dryden. We also had budgeted \$5,000 for a website re-design this year, but spent far less than the budgeted amount as the RSNZ has enabled consistent organisations to create websites under their umbrella for very little cost.

As for last year, we will need to update the signatories on our Westpac accounts to include any new Officers of the Society after this AGM, and so will need to circulate and approve our minutes (by email) within one month of this meeting.

Table 1: NZMSS Balance Sheet

	2017-18	2016-17
NZMSS Funds		
<i>Balance 1 April</i>	\$88,730	\$65,407
Surplus income over expenditure for year	2,045	23,323
Cheque accounts	34,686	52,814
Savings accounts	17,966	2,844
Sculptures on hand	8,000	700
Accounts receivable/prepayments	1,739	12,424
Westpac term investments	30,961	20,289
Less Accounts payable	2,578	340
<i>Balance as of 31 March</i>	\$90,775	\$88,730

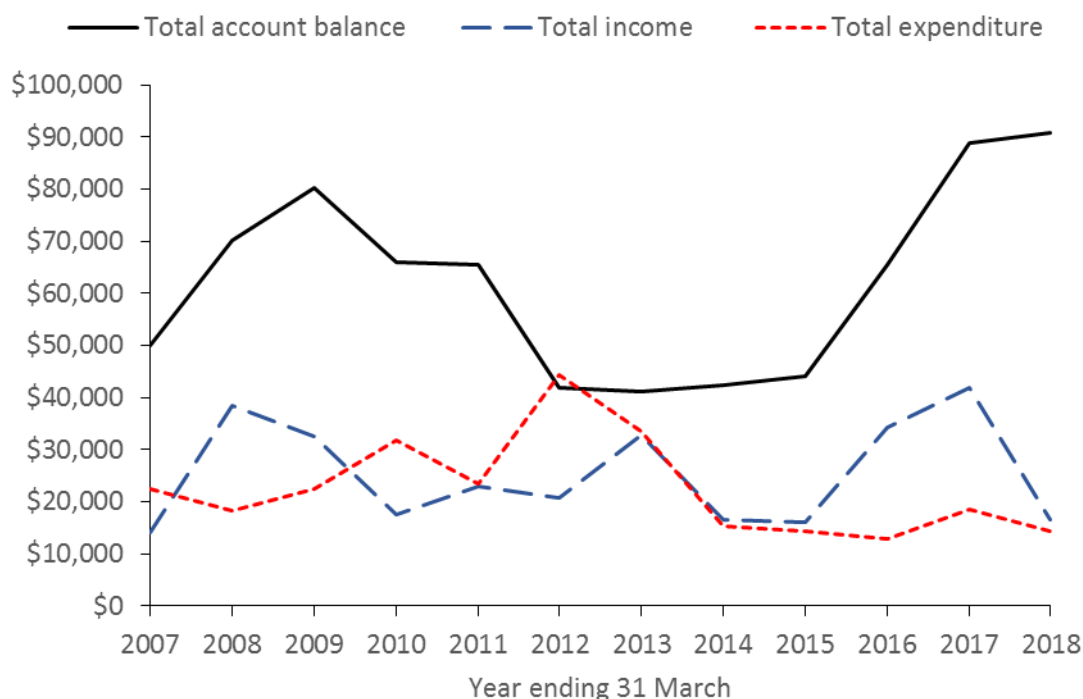


Figure 1: NZMSS total income, total expenditure and total account balance over time

2. Financial summary (2017/2018)

Table 2 shows income and expenditure for the 2017/2018 year and is prepared on a GST exclusive basis. However, note the Society usually pays a GST bill of several thousand dollars each year. The Society pays GST on memberships, conference registration and sponsorship, and can claim GST on some expenditure (e.g. website), but not on others (e.g. student awards).

Conference profit and loss is included in this summary to show that the Society is exposed to significant risk with this event due to the large amount of money that is received and spent (i.e. conference income and expenditure in 2017 were around \$100,000 each and have been nearly double this amount in previous years). The Society relies on conference organisers to demonstrate financial acumen and to aim to return a surplus of c. \$10,000. Thank you to Kerry South and the conference organising committee for managing to return a \$7,000 surplus for the 2017 conference. Note that income received from sponsorship at the 2017 conference totalled c. \$44,000, which is a substantial amount and demonstrates the degree to which the Society relies on sponsorship for conferences to break-even or return a surplus. Figure 3 shows the conference surplus and membership income for 2017/2018 in the context of previous years. Note that conference surplus varies considerably from year to year, but has averaged around \$12,000 over the past 10 years. Membership also varies quite a bit from year to year, and has averaged around \$9,000 over the past 10 years. Note that, at times, membership income seems to be significantly affected by the number of people attending the conferences, as membership is included in conference registration and it seems that many people may not renew their membership if they do not attend a conference in a particular year. Note the degree to which the Society relies on these two streams of income, both of which can fluctuate greatly from year to year.

Table 2: NZMSS income and expenditure for the year ended 31 March 2018

	2017/2018 (GST exc.)
Conference profit and loss	
Conference income	101,651
Conference expenditure	94,757
Conference surplus	\$6,894
 NZMSS Income	
Membership	7,704
Conference surplus	6,894
Interest	886
Other income ¹	1042
Total income	\$16,526
 NZMSS Expenses	
Audit fees	950
Bank fees	616
Council and general expenses	1,372
NZMSS award sculpture	700
John Morton Medal	126
RSNZ affiliation fee	-
First Overseas Conference Travel Award	4,500
Student research award	3,000
Student conference prizes	950
RSNZ - sponsorship	500
Bookkeeping and Xero subscription fees	705
Website (hosting)	468
Website (re-design)	594
Total expenditure	\$14,481
 Surplus income over expenditure for year	\$2,045

¹ Other income comprises the refund of Westpac bank fees (\$955) and the reimbursement from RSNZ for expenses associated with NZMSS attendance at a RSNZ constituent's meeting in Wellington (\$87).

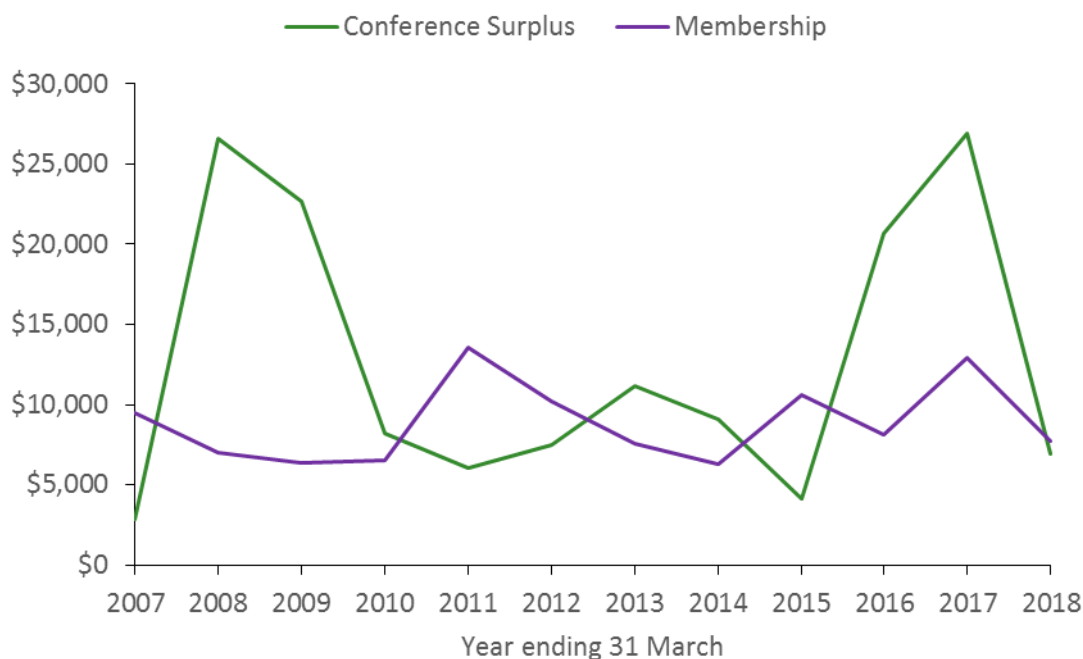


Figure 2: NZMSS conference surplus and membership income from 2007 to 2018

3. NZMSS finance system

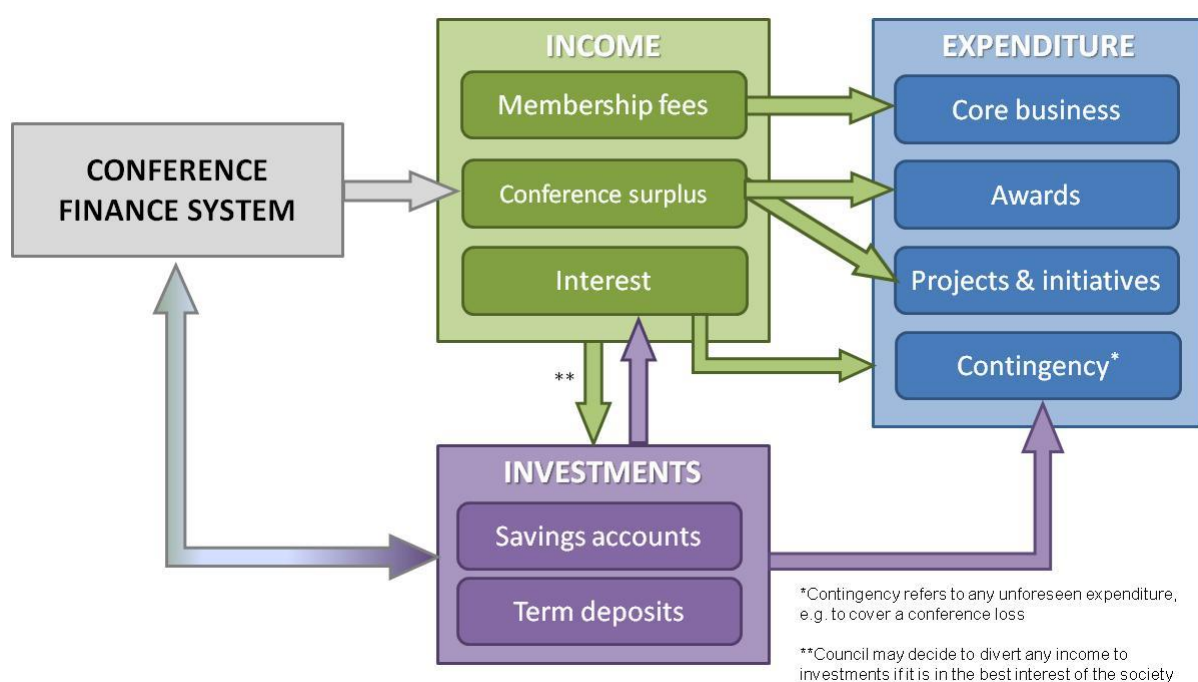


Figure 3: NZMSS generates income in three main ways: membership fees, conference surplus and interest from society investments. Society expenditure includes core business (the costs of running the society), projects and initiatives (e.g. website redesign) and awards (e.g. First Overseas Conference Travel Awards, student conference prizes). The conference finance system uses the society investments to outlay funds such as conference deposits, which should then be returned to the society investments after the conference. However, in the event of the conference running at a loss, or any other unforeseen expenses, the society requires sufficient investments to bear those expenses.

Appendix 3 – Proposed Budget 2018/19

To ensure that the council follows the financial system as outlined in Appendix 2, the proposed budget:

- i. Aligns income received from the previous year's conference to expenditure in the financial year following the conference, to reflect the amount the Society can afford from known conference surplus,
- ii. Aims to keep student awards (FOCTA and Student Research award) as for last year so that students know how much is available and awards are consistent from year to year,
- iii. Recommends \$2,000 be budgeted to pay for continued work on the new website to transfer current content over to the new platform, ensure content is up to date and that facilities (e.g. membership log on and payment pages) work as intended.

The budget includes a mix of projected and actual income to reflect the amount of funds available for the 2018/2019 year. Projected income includes membership subscriptions and bank interest, and actual income is from the 2017 conference. Note that the budget has been prepared on a GST exclusive basis to reflect the amount of money available, and to be consistent with the financial summary and auditor's reports. With these recommendations in mind the council proposes the following budget for 2018/19 financial year:

Table 3: Proposed budget for 2018/2019

	2018/2019 (exc. GST)
Projected and actual income	
<i>Projected income</i>	
Membership	8,000
Interest received	1,000
Auckland Museum NZMSS award sponsorship ²	1,000
<i>Actual income</i>	
Conference surplus (from 2017 conference)	6,894
Total projected and actual income	\$16,894
Budgeted expenditure	
<i>Core business</i>	
Audit fees	1,000
Bank fees	500
General council expenses	2,000
Website hosting	500
Potential event sponsorship ³	0
NZMSS review ⁴	0
NZMSS award sculpture and John Morton Award	1,000
Royal Society of NZ - affiliation fees	1,000
Xero monthly subscription	700
<i>Awards</i>	
First Overseas Conference Travel Awards	4,500
Student research award	3,000
Student awards at conference	1,000
<i>Projects and initiatives</i>	
Website re-design (continued work)	2,000
Total budgeted expenditure	\$17,200
Projected surplus of income over expenditure	-\$306

² The Auckland Museum has previously provided sponsorship for the NZMSS Award but this has previously been included in conference income. It has been separated out here to clarify that it is not actually conference sponsorship.

³ There is no money available to budget for this item in the 2018/19 year.

⁴ All previous NZMSS reviews still need to be collated and made available online on the new NZMSS website. However, there is no money available to budget for this item in the 2018/19 year.

Appendix 4 – Auditor's Report (2016/2017)

Independent Assurance Practitioner's Review Report to the Members of the New Zealand Marine Sciences Society

I have reviewed the accompanying financial statements of the New Zealand Marine Sciences Society which comprise the balance sheet as at 31 March 2017, and the income and expenditure statement and cash flows for the year then ended, and a summary of significant accounting policies and other explanatory information.

Council's Responsibility for the Financial Statements

The Council are responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of these financial statements in accordance with New Zealand equivalents to International Financial Reporting Standards Reduced Disclosure Regime, and for such internal control as the Council determine is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

Assurance Practitioner's Responsibility

My responsibility is to express a conclusion on the accompanying financial statements. I conducted my review in accordance with International Standard on Review Engagements (New Zealand) (ISRE (NZ)) 2400, *Review of Historical Financial Statements Performed by an Assurance Practitioner who is not the Auditor of the Entity*. ISRE (NZ) 2400 requires me to conclude whether anything has come to my attention that causes me to believe that the financial statements, taken as a whole, are not prepared in all material respects in accordance with the applicable financial reporting framework. This Standard also requires me to comply with relevant ethical requirements.

The procedures performed in a review are substantially less than those performed in an audit conducted in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (New Zealand). Accordingly, I do not express an audit opinion on these financial statements.

Other than in my capacity as an assurance practitioner I have no relationship with or interest in the New Zealand Marine Sciences Society.

Conclusion

Based on my review, nothing has come to my attention that causes me to believe that these financial statements do not present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the New Zealand Marine Sciences Society as at 31 March 2017 and of its financial performance and cash flows for the year then ended, in accordance with the New Zealand equivalents to International Financial Reporting Standards Reduced Disclosure Regime.



Peter Scholtens CA
Wellington, NZ
2 November 2017

Appendix 5 – Council Reports 2017/18

1. Membership numbers

Membership type	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18
Professional	170	130	131	109	189	108	170	120
Life	19	18	18	19	20	19	20	23
Retired/student	114	98	76	90	86	121	113	
Retired								0
Student								91
Institutional	9	8	7	7	-	-	-	-
Total	312	254	232	225	295	249	303	235

A full list of 2017-18 members is provided in Appendix 6.

2. Council operational activities

Members

Council had 18 members (including seven student reps). A list of 2017-18 members is provided in Appendix 7.

Meetings

There have been 11 meetings; all via phone conference call.

No face-to-face meeting was held in 2017/18 because the travel support requested by council members was greater than the amount budgeted for this meeting.

Royal Society Constituent Organisation Forum meetings

Hilke Giles attended both Royal Society Constituent Organisation Forum meetings organised during the year (July 2017, Dec 2017)

3. Submissions

Submissions prepared:

- Proposed national environmental standards for marine aquaculture (August 2017).
- Review of sustainability measures for four rock lobster stocks, two sea cucumber stocks and one southern blue whiting stock for the 2019/19 fishing year (February 2018). Advised membership that submissions were open but did not make a submission on behalf of the society.
- Proposals for an in-season increase to the total allowable catch for southern bluefin tuna (February 2018). Advised membership that submissions were open but did not make a submission on behalf of the society.
- Sustainable Seas Science Strategy 2019-2024 consultation document (April 2018). Advised membership that submissions were open but did not make a submission on behalf of the society.
- Draft Chatham Islands (PAU4) Fisheries plan (June 2018). Advised membership that submissions were open but did not make a submission on behalf of the society.
- Temporary closure of the Southern Scallop (SCA 7) fishery. Advised membership that submissions were open but did not make a submission on behalf of the society.

You can view the NZMSS submissions on our website at <http://nzmss.org/documents/documents-of-public-statement-or-release>

4. Student awards

NZMSS supported four students to attend their first overseas conference

- Tarn Drylie (University of Waikato - \$1050)
- Lindsay Wickman (University of Otago - \$1050)
- Dyahruri Sanjayasari (University of Auckland - \$1100)
- Suong Nguyen (University of Auckland - \$1300)

NZMSS supported Irene Middleton with a \$3000 Student Research Award to contribute towards her research costs on 'Marine debris: an underappreciated habitat for juvenile fishes in New Zealand's pelagic environment'.

5. Website renewal

The NZMSS website rebuild has been a priority project since 2016/17. During this time the Royal Society made the following offer to all constituent organisations:

Introduction

For some years now, the Royal Society of New Zealand has provided website hosting for some of our organisational members. In more recent times as technology has changed and demands have increased, it has become apparent that what has been provided is now inadequate for many of you. Quality has become poor and inconsistent which does not support a professional organisational image.

Prefer has developed a solution that will benefit you all and provide development opportunities for the future.

Hoppon

Hoppon is a solution which provides Constituent Organisations and Branches of The Royal Society of New Zealand the right features to support their online needs. This service, which is managed by Prefer on behalf of the Royal Society of New Zealand generates complete, feature packed websites.

The offer

The Royal Society of New Zealand will offer your organisation this service for free. You will get all the features described in attached leaflet of Hoppon and we will cover the ongoing costs.

We accepted this offer and are in the process of finalising the new NZMSS website.

Update on website development

A subcommittee was formed to lead the redevelopment of the NZMSS website. We are taking a staged approach with an initial focus on the transfer of existing material to the new website, with some editing of content and structure. The subcommittee reviewed the content on the existing website, considering readability, accuracy, and relevance. Highest-priority material was restructured or edited as required, in preparation for creation of a new website. Once the new website has been populated with basic content, the website will go live. This is planned for early August 2018.

Our next steps will include development of a news feed and an improved social media presence.

Update on membership management system

We have a new membership management system (MemberPress) that is integrated in the new WordPress website. Each member will have a login and the ability to update contact details and renew their membership online. The system includes secure credit card facilities.

We will also use this system for communication with the membership and slowly phase out the listserv. More information will be provided before we commence this transition.

All 2017/18 members have already been imported into the new system. After the conference, the system will be updated with 2018/19 renewals and new members. Emails will be sent out to everybody providing information on how to access the system. Expect to receive an email early August.

We will ask you to check and, if necessary, update your contact details and would appreciate if you could keep your details up-to-date to ensure you receive our emails and notifications.

6. Conference surveys

After the 2017 conference we surveyed conference attendees as well as members who did not attend our conference. This provided valuable information on not only what people liked about the conference but also why people chose not to attend. We will continue improving our surveys to ensure that we make decisions based on robust information. The survey results are provided in Appendix 9.

7. Conference guidelines

As described in the Treasurer's report, our society is exposed to significant risk due to the large amount of money that is received and spent in relation to our annual conference. The Society relies on conference organisers to demonstrate financial acumen and to return a surplus (aim c. \$10,000) to provide the funds for student support and other expenditure items (see finance diagram in Treasurer's report). Membership numbers also vary from year to year and are largely a reflection of the number of conference attendees.

To support the conference organising committee to meet these expectations, we have been working on conference guidelines for some time. These guidelines were meant to be completed in 2017/18. During the 2017/18 year, Kerry South informed us that she has changed positions and can no longer organise our conference in the previous format. Following a thorough comparison of conference organising services, we contracted OnCue to organise our 2018 conference. Kerry has provided conference organising services to the NZMSS for a very competitive rate and the change in service provider resulted in an increased cost to NZMSS. At the same time, OnCue are providing new opportunities that we are benefitting from. We decided to delay the completion of the conference guidelines to 2018/19 so that we can incorporate the changes resulting from the change in conference organising services.

Appendix 6 – 2017/18 NZMSS Membership List (as of 31 March 2018)

Aguirre, David	Dean, Matthew	Heath, Ron
Alestra, Tommaso	Decima, Moira	Hendriks, Hannah
Allen, Ro	Dencer-Brown, Amrit	Hewitt, Judi
Allison, Andrew	Dickson, Toby	Hickey, Chris
Austin, Trevor	Douglas, Emily	Hickford, Mike
Babuder, Mareike	Drylie, Tarn	Hickman, Bob
Barker, Jeremy	Dudley, Jade	Hillman, Jenny
Barriball, Leana	Dunmore, Robyn	Hoffmann, Linn
Bates, Tracey	Ebdon, Philippa	Holmes, Monique
Beamsley, Brett	Edwards, Mark	Hupman, Krista
Beaumont, Jennifer	Ellenberg, Ursula	Inglis, Graeme
Beets, Fenna	Eme, David	Jackson, Susan
Bell, Jacqui	Espinell, Nadjeida	James, Mark
Berthelsen, Anna	Fletcher, Lauren	James, Kate
Betty, Emma	Floerl, Oliver	Jennings, Jessica
Blain, Caitlin	Flood, Ashley	Jillett, John
Blessy, Laura	Foergill, Nicola	Jones, Doug
Bollen, Michael	Foley, Melissa	Jones, Hannah
Bolton-Ritchie, Lesley	Ford, Rich	Murchie (nee Kainamu), Ani
Booth, John	Francis, Chris	Kearney, Emma
Bowden, David	Francis, Malcolm	Kellett, Melissa
Brough, Tom	Gammon, Malindi	Knight, Ben
Bulmer, Richard	Gentry, Rebecca	Kovacs-Wilks, Kimberley
Cadwallander, Helen	Gerrity, Shawn	Koverman, Ryan
Cameron, Tania	Geytenbeek, Mark	Lambie, Joanna
	Gheitanchi Mashini,	
Camlek, Florjan	Amirhossein	Leunissen, Eva
Carbines, Megan	Giles, Hilke	Lewis, Robert
Carmona-Noklegaard, Tone	Gillies, Tasman	Li, Moyang
Carter, Lionel	Gladstone-Gallagher, Rebecca	Lischka, Alexandra
Cassie-Cooper, Vivienne	Glockner-Fagetti, Andrea	Lohrer, Drew
Choat, Howard	Godoy, Daniel	Lovett, Bailey
Clark, Dana	Goldstien, Sharyn	Loy, Candace
Clark, Kate	Gordon, Dennis	Lundquist, Carolyn
Clark, Malcolm	Gorman, Lucy Mae	Lust, Bobby
Clark, Sophia	Grandiosa, Roffi	Lydon, Greg
Clemente, Ken Joseph	Gray, Fiona	MacDiarmid, Alison
Cope, Jane	Grieve, Janet	Mace, Emily
Corne, Chloe	Guerra, Marta	Mace, Pamela
Costello, Mark	Guo, Xiangzhao	Mackay, Kevin
Crawshaw, Josie	Gutierrez Rodriguez, Andres	Madarasz-Smith, Anna
Creese, Bob	Hailes, Sarah	Madi Salloum, Priscila
Cressey, Peter	Happy, Samantha	Markic, Ana
Cunningham, Shaun	Harbron, Amy	Marsden, Islay
Dawes, Sarahlee	Hawes, Nicola	Maryag, Lara
Dawson, Steve	Hayward, Bruce	Masi, Michelle

Masoomi Dezfooli,
 Seyedehsara
 Matheson, Fleur
 Maxwell, Kimberley
 Mc Cormack, Sam
 McCartain, Lisa
 McComb, Peter
 McCowan, Tom
 Middleton, Irene
 Milne, Juliet
 Monahan, Bradley
 Murdoch, Rob
 Myers, Elisabeth
 Neil, Helen
 Neilson, Conor
 Nelson, Wendy
 Newcombe, Emma
 Nguyen, Suong
 Nguyen, Thao
 Nodder, Scott
 Norrie, Craig
 Nutsford, Constance
 O'Carroll, Jack
 O'Meara, Teri
 Oosting, Tom
 Palfi, Orsolya
 Pantos, Olga
 Parry, Bethan
 Patiño Perez, Jessica
 Paul-Burke, Kura
 Peebles, Bryce
 Peters, Catherine
 Pilditch, Conrad
 Pinkerton, Matt
 Pook, Chris
 Pritchard, Daniel
 Probert, Keith
 Pryor Rodgers, Rata
 Putland, Rosalyn
 Rayment, William
 Riding, Tim
 Riekkola, Leena
 Roberts, Jim
 Robinson, Esme
 Robinson, Nestor
 Ross, Phil
 Ruffell, Helena
 Russell, Pete
 Safi, Karl

Sanjayasari, Dyahruri
 Schenone, Stefano
 Schiel, David
 Seaward, Kimberley
 Seneviratna, Deepani
 Seyfoddin, Ali
 Sharp, Ben
 Shears, Nick
 Slooten, Liz
 Smith, Aless
 Spreitzenbarth, Stefan
 Stephenson, Fabrice
 Stevens, Craig
 Stockin, Karen
 Tait, Leigh
 Taylor, Rikki
 Tellier, Pierre
 Thomas, Sam
 Thomsen, Mads
 Thrush, Simon
 Townsend, Michael
 Trembath, Caroline
 Turner, Tracey
 Udy, Jacquetta
 Urlich, Steve
 Valdes, Maria Jesus
 van der Krogt, Rebecca
 Van Der Reis, Aimee
 von Ammon, Ulla
 Wakelin, Laura
 Walls, Kathy
 Wang, Juan
 Wang, Li
 Webb, Samantha
 Wells, Susan
 White, Sophie
 Whitehead, Amy
 Wickman, Lindsay
 Wietheger, Anne
 Williams, Uru-Manuka
 Wilson, Pete
 Wilson, Shaun
 Wood, Susie
 Woods, Chris
 Wright, Andrew
 Yan, Ruojin
 Zabarte Maeztu, Inigo
 Zeldis, John

Zha, Hua
 Zhang, Jingjing
 Zintzen, Vincent
 Zitoun, Rebecca

Appendix 7 – NZMSS Council Elected Membership (2017/18)

President:	Hilke Giles	Waikato Regional Council/ Pisces Consulting
Vice President:	Liz Slooten	University of Otago
Secretary:	Dana Clark	Cawthron
Treasurer:	Hannah Jones	Waikato Regional Council

Immediate Past President:	Helen Neil	NIWA
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Council Members:	Anna Madarasz-Smith	Hawkes Bay Regional Council
	Kathy Walls	MPI
	Islay Marsden	University of Canterbury
	Nick Shears	University of Auckland
	Will Rayment	University of Otago
	Emma Newcombe	Cawthron

Student Representatives:	Sam Thomas	University of Otago
	Phoebe Argyle	University of Canterbury
	Tarn Drylie	University of Waikato
	Leena Riekkola	University of Auckland
	Bailey Lovett	University of Auckland
	Lizzy Myers	Massey University
	Monique Holmes	Victoria University

Conference Committee NZMSS 2018:		
	Anna Madarasz-Smith	Hawkes Bay Regional Council
	Phil Ross	University of Waikato
	Megan Carbines	Auckland Council
	Carolyn Lundquist	NIWA
	Leena Riekkola	University of Auckland
	Conrad Pilditch	University of Waikato
	Oliver Wade	Hawkes Bay Regional Council
	Pete Wilson	Waikato Regional Council
	Hannah Jones	Waikato Regional Council
	Lizzy Myers	Massey University
	Shade Smith	Triplefin Consulting



New Zealand Marine Sciences Society Sponsorship Policy

Rationale

The New Zealand Marine Sciences Society (NZMSS) acknowledges that sponsorship provides funds and resources to help the society achieve its goals and objectives and thus enhance the value it provides to its members. Sponsorship may be provided by research institutes, government agencies and departments, trusts, foundations or commercial enterprises

Purpose of this policy

The objectives of this policy are to:

- Reflect the fundamental principles that shape the NZMSS's relationship with sponsors to ensure they generate mutual benefits.
- Ensure that the NZMSS has a coordinated approach to sponsorship
- Further develop positive working relationships with sponsors for the benefit of both parties
- Ensure that the integrity of the NZMSS brand is actively managed and controlled by employing a practical and fair approval process

Policy

- (a) All sponsorship arrangements must be specified in an agreement between the NZMSS and the sponsor. The agreement must outline all specific provisions as well as terms and conditions.
- (b) The NZMSS should be open to discussing specific sponsor requirements and to work with sponsors on ways they can maximise the benefits of their investment in accordance with these guidelines.
- (c) By entering into an agreement with a sponsor, the NZMSS does not imply endorsement of a company's product or service and may not be represented by the sponsor or NZMSS as such.
- (d) The NZMSS usually calls for sponsorship of its annual conference through a sponsorship proposal. Responses to this proposal are evaluated by the conference organising committee. The organising committee must follow these guidelines in their evaluation of sponsorship offers. The NZMSS Council retains responsibility for final approval of any sponsorship.

- (e) Offers of sponsorship unrelated to the conference should be addressed to the NZMSS Council.
- (f) The NZMSS prefers to have multiple sponsors for each event/activity.
- (g) Conference programming is carried out by the Society and is always independent of the sponsor(s).
- (h) Oral or poster conference presentations by people associated with the sponsors must not be used for promotional purposes. Abstracts from sponsors and other parties associated with sponsors will be subject to the same review and selection process as for any other conference presentation, and offers of sponsorship may not be contingent on selection of presentation abstracts.
- (i) The NZMSS must clearly identify all sponsors at events/activities and in related communication material
- (j) The sponsor must seek approval from the NZMSS for the use of the NZMSS name and/or logo.
- (k) Sponsors must not to promote services or products that are in contradiction to the objectives of the society (viewable on the NZMSS website).

Appendix 9 – Results of 2017 conference survey

Survey 1: Conference attendees

Results are only categorised by membership type (student, professional member). Response data also provide the ability to categorise based on answers to the questions:

- Where did you travel from?
- Did you attend one day or whole conference?
- Did you give an oral presentation?
- Did you present a poster?

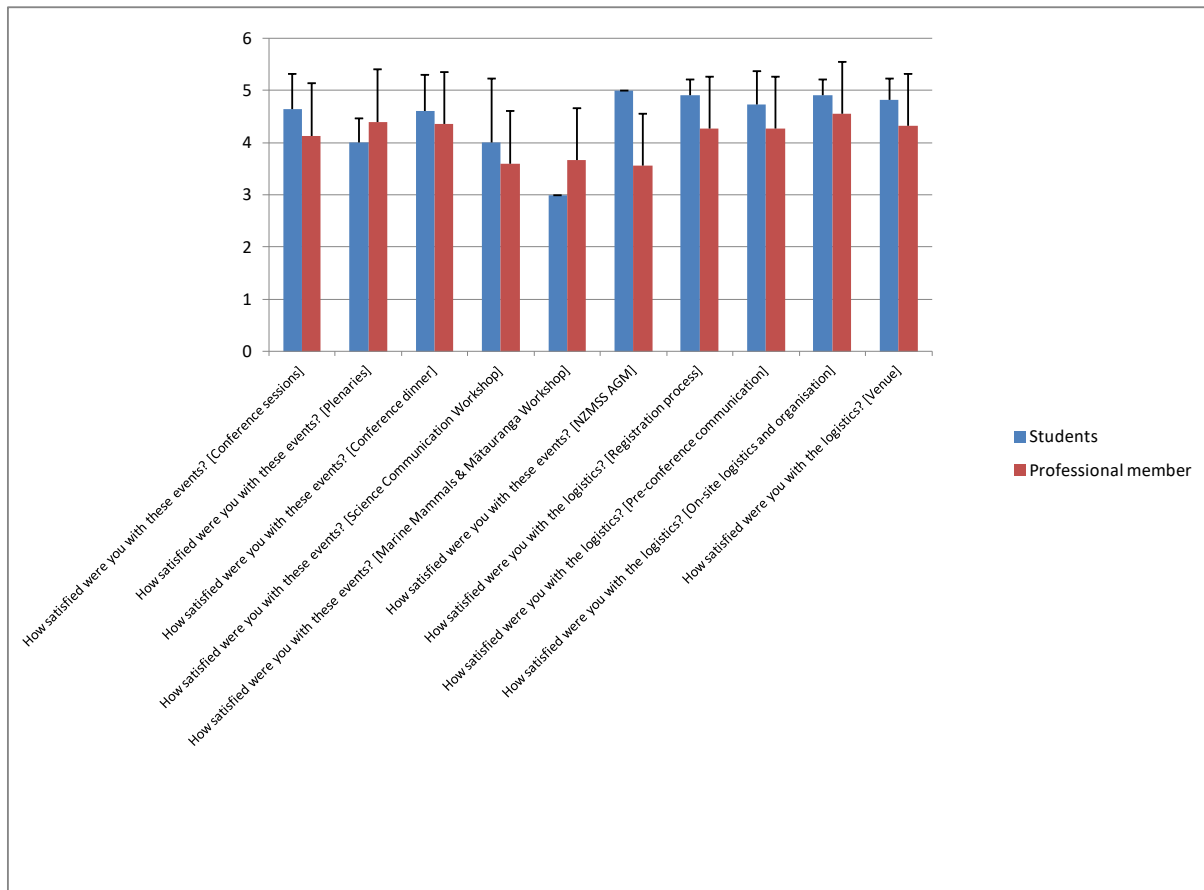


Figure: Average of ratings (scale 1-5) with standard deviation.

Do you have any comments about conference events?

1. Students

- I really enjoyed Vonda Cumming's plenary but the other plenaries were not of interest to me
- My score for the conference sessions and plenaries comes simply from the fact that the broad topics which were covered were not as much in my area of interest as the year before's conference. The sessions themselves were run very well and there were a lot of great talks.
- Dinner took a long time to come out. But it was absolutely delicious and the venue and entertainment fantastic.
- A brilliant line-up of talks. it was difficult to prioritise which ones to attend!
- Dinner and evening functions were great - awesome catering and wine supply

2. Professional members

- conference sessions overlapped a lot in similar themes
- "Planaries" ? (Sp. mistake)

- Great venue for conference and dinner- all very well organised
- Dinner was good but venue too noisy and hard to have a conversation.
- Prefer not to have plenaries right before a session without break as this makes it difficult for the following session chair
- Prefer not to have plenaries right before a session without break as this makes it difficult for the following session chair
- The conference dinner venue and food were amazing.
- Would have loved to attend Genetics and aquaculture as they are often closely related and i work in aquaculture but they were on at the same time!
- It was great having the workshops. The conference dinner was really nice and the venue for the conference was perfect.
- Sessions included too many presentations on intrim results. A number also presented on results based on poor experimental design and set-up, and non-statistically significant results. Several also presented their results as if these were new findings, while if fact the same have previously been found by other NZ insittutions or reported overseas.
- Field trips would be very beneficial
- Social events were excellent.

Do you have any comments about the conference logistics?

1. Students

- Received multiple emails about fees being unpaid when they had been. Each time proof had to be sent.
- They were fantastic
- I am curious what happens to left over food/food waste. Is this composted? I appreciated the lack of single use plastic, thank you!

2. Professional members

- It would be great have have coffee when we arrive on the first morning!
- Only confusion was around the campus layout, almost no maps and the ones that were there were vague! Very hard to orient for someone who has never been there before.
- went very well
- Lovely organiser! :)

Did you know you were eligible for student prizes and what they were? (students only)

No: 2

Yes: 5

Do you have suggestions on how we could improve our processes related to student prizes? (students only)

- As a student giving a speed talk, I was aware I was eligible for prizes but I did not realize there was no specific prize for speed talks. I believe there should be a different category for speed-talks vs. full-length talks. It is very difficult to convey the same amount of information and make the same impact on the audience in a speed talk vs. a full length talk (as you can barely explain anything in depth in 5 minutes), so they should be considered differently when it comes to prizes.
- Have a students choice award.
- I did not present a talk although if I had I would've loved to have access to the marking scheme and/or feedback given after the talks
- I knew I was eligible but I did not know what they were. I didn't know the marking criteria and I would have liked some guidelines and feedback. I don't know how I can improve or what my strengths might have been.

**How do you rate the process of assessing student presentations and/or posters at this conference?
(professional members who were scoring only)**

3.5 +/- 1.1

Do you have any suggestions for improvement of the student marking process (to make it easier for you and possibly more consistent among assessors)? (professional members who were scoring only)

- Requires some moderation of scores
- Consistency across markers is key. We probably need to discuss this more extensively.
- Not make the scoring out of 100. I suggest out of 30.
- It went quite well really - it would be great to have more than 2 for each talk and some overlap. Would like to see a prize for estuarine work because there were a lot of student papers

Do you have any additional comments about the 2017 conference?

- A lot of people commented that it was expensive. I'm not sure how it compares to other conferences. I thought the student fees were very reasonable and the conference dinner was really nice.
- Some of the prizes were given to students even though the prize had nothing to do with what they were doing.
- Great event! Loved the location of the mingle session on the Monday night!
- It was great.
- Great conference! Just one comment about the conference catering, I feel very strongly that an effort could have been made to encourage the contracted company to reduce the over-use of plastic wrapping and plastic water bottles to service our dietary needs. I know from my experience in catering that it is not necessary to individually wrap sandwiches, 'wraps' or filled buns in glad wrap before serving. A vast amount of plastic waste was generated from catering, including the hundreds of plastic packaged individual butter and jam servings! In light of the environmental damage this is known to cause, I feel this is not in-line with our efforts to protect and care for our environment. Para kore Aotearoa!
- Conference dinner was awesome, as were social events

Do you think you will attend the 2018 conference in Napier?

Yes: 21

No: 2

Not sure yet: 11

Do you have any suggestions for the 2018 conference?

- More activities for networking between students
- I would challenge you to try and make this a zero waste conference :-)
- It would be great if any meat and animal products served were sustainably sourced and cruelty free (i.e. free range chicken and pork etc.), thanks.
- Bring the reg fee down. At present it costs same to go to NZMSS as an international more specialist conference. This may not matter to NIWA staff who are funded by national projects, or students who are sponsored, but the high reg fee may explain the low attendance of academics and post-docs from universities.
- Keep doing what you're doing!
- Before and after conference activities are available, eg a trip to the gannet colony or a winery or two.
- Focus on quality. There should be a higher bar for getting abstracts accepted.
- It should look to address Natural capital/ecosystem services/investment approaches and Ecosystem based management
- Field trips! And please retain the biosecurity session that was great. I'm happy to assist in organising this and a biosecurity field trip?
- I'm a bit of a broken record here. There are big chunks of the marine science community not attending the conference. This is mainly university groups. It would be good to understand the reason these people don't bother attending and address the issue if possible.
- The programme is one of the most difficult aspects to sort out. We were hampered a bit by not knowing where students were from and at times who the other authors were. Why were there fewer posters than usual?
- Lots of social events, networking chances

- Absolutely loved it and wish i could have stayed for longer
- very enjoyable
- "A two day conference with a focus on quality rather than quantity in terms of presentations would have been preferred.
- A higher level of industry involvement would also have been beneficial. "
- Plenary speakers were exceptional!
- Great conference, well done. I thought the number of attendees was a bit light this year, I wonder if there needs to be a push to get more people attending.
- Some sessions of similar themes ran in parallel which meant I had to miss some good content.

Survey 2: People who did not attend the conference

Results are not categorised. Response data provide the ability to categorise based on answers to the question:

- Are you a student or professional member?
- Where did you travel from?

What were your reasons for not attending the 2017 conference in Christchurch?

- I had another commitment at that time (e.g. overseas trip, teaching)
- I had another commitment at that time (e.g. overseas trip, teaching)
- I had another commitment at that time (e.g. overseas trip, teaching)
- I had another commitment at that time (e.g. overseas trip, teaching), Programme was not of interest/relevant to me, Registration cost
- Registration cost, Travel and accommodation cost
- I attended another conference (other conferences) in 2017 that were higher priority
- I attended another conference (other conferences) in 2017 that were higher priority
- I was finishing up my PhD thesis
- I did attend!
- I had another commitment at that time (e.g. overseas trip, teaching)
- I had another commitment at that time (e.g. overseas trip, teaching), Travel and accommodation cost, No longer in the country
- I attended another conference (other conferences) in 2017 that were higher priority, Registration cost, Travel and accommodation cost
- I had another commitment at that time (e.g. overseas trip, teaching), previous conference experience
- Did attend the conference
- I had another commitment at that time (e.g. overseas trip, teaching)
- I had another commitment at that time (e.g. overseas trip, teaching)
- Had nothing ready to present at this time
- Registration cost, Travel and accommodation cost
- I had another commitment at that time (e.g. overseas trip, teaching)
- working overseas
- I had another commitment at that time (e.g. overseas trip, teaching)
- Time of the year, Programme was not of interest/relevant to me, Travel and accommodation cost
- Programme was not of interest/relevant to me

- I had another commitment at that time (e.g. overseas trip, teaching), I attended another conference (other conferences) in 2017 that were higher priority, Programme was not of interest/relevant to me, Registration cost
- Time of the year, I attended another conference (other conferences) in 2017 that were higher priority, Only limited number of people from my organisation could attend and it was more important for others to go (e.g. students)
- Too much work on
- Registration cost, Travel and accommodation cost
- I had another commitment at that time (e.g. overseas trip, teaching)
- Only limited number of people from my organisation could attend and it was more important for others to go (e.g. students)
- I had another commitment at that time (e.g. overseas trip, teaching)
- I attended another conference (other conferences) in 2017 that were higher priority, I had long service leave this year, and so could not spare work time for conferences.
- I attended another conference (other conferences) in 2017 that were higher priority, Programme was not of interest/relevant to me, Only limited number of people from my organisation could attend and it was more important for others to go (e.g. students)
- I had another commitment at that time (e.g. overseas trip, teaching), Programme was not of interest/relevant to me
- Travel and accommodation cost
- I had another commitment at that time (e.g. overseas trip, teaching)
- I had another commitment at that time (e.g. overseas trip, teaching)
- Only limited number of people from my organisation could attend and it was more important for others to go (e.g. students)
- I had another commitment at that time (e.g. overseas trip, teaching)
- I was on maternity leave
- I attended another conference (other conferences) in 2017 that were higher priority, I am in the field in AUstralia
- Only limited number of people from my organisation could attend and it was more important for others to go (e.g. students)
- I had another commitment at that time (e.g. overseas trip, teaching)
- Programme was not of interest/relevant to me, Only limited number of people from my organisation could attend and it was more important for others to go (e.g. students)
- I had another commitment at that time (e.g. overseas trip, teaching)
- I had another commitment at that time (e.g. overseas trip, teaching), I attended another conference (other conferences) in 2017 that were higher priority, Programme was not of interest/relevant to me, Only limited number of people from my organisation could attend and it was more important for others to go (e.g. students)
- I had another commitment at that time (e.g. overseas trip, teaching)
- I attended previously as a student. At the moment I am employed in a different profession, and saw no good reason to attend.
- Registration cost, Travel and accommodation cost
- Only limited number of people from my organisation could attend and it was more important for others to go (e.g. students)
- I had another commitment at that time (e.g. overseas trip, teaching), Registration cost, Travel and accommodation cost
- Travel and accommodation cost
- Registration cost, Retired

- I had another commitment at that time (e.g. overseas trip, teaching)
- I had another commitment at that time (e.g. overseas trip, teaching)
- I had another commitment at that time (e.g. overseas trip, teaching)

Please provide detailed explanations of your selections in the previous question.

- I had uni classes on at the time
- I went to the Czech Republic for my sister in laws wedding, so was away in Europe for the time of the conference.
- Fieldwork season in Indonesia
- Not working, low on funds.
- As PhD student I needed to attend an international conference, and unfortunately it happens in the same week of NZMSS conference 2017
- I presented in America one month prior at a more targeted conference
- I attended and presented a 15 minute talk on ship strike mitigation at the conference. So you might want to check your records!
- I was in Europe to visit family
- I attended another conference overseas, and although I would have liked to attend the NZMSS conference as well, I did not have a budget for this.
- Previous conference speaking slot was reduced from 15 mins (allocated) to 10 mins (actual) due to timing + chairing issues. It is hard enough to deliver research findings in 15 mins. Considering the investment in preparing the presentation, travel, and conference fee this was a terrible experience.
- Did attend the conference
- See above
- "This needs an 'other' option above, because it won't let me carry on without choosing an option. The one I chose isn't really the case.
- Time away from work, and preparation time of a talk, is too much every year also I didn't have anything I felt I really needed to present"
- doing a post-doc in the USA
- I was a Keynote speakers at the AMSA conference which was the same week.
- Unless there is a directly relevant purpose for me to attend, i.e., I have a talk or poster to present, or there is a theme or talk session that relates directly to my role at work then I cannot justify the cost of travel and accommodation and registration to my employer.
- I am a physical oceanographer
- Many of the international conferences that I attend have much more affordable registration fees, particularly for students. I supervise a large group of students who would benefit from conferences such as NZMSS--and some years I cover their costs to attend--but its difficult for me to justify collective costs of 10K+ for student conference costs on an annual basis. Increasingly, I've become somewhat disenchanted with NZMSS conference content--which seems to me to be incorporating much more policy/outreach and science challenge propaganda, and less actual science of the sort that would be of benefit and interest to me and my students.
- My current employment would not have paid the costs.
- I was overseas, so unable to attend
- The NZMSS conferences are not as inspiring as some other NZ conferences. The theme and sessions seem loosely related and the same people attend.
- I was pretty busy. The content in these conferences is OK but does not overlap with what I do a whole lot. I generally go for social reasons.

- Conference attendance is limited (1 every 2-3 years), so have to be chosen carefully. Unless the programme is completely aligned, and there are speakers we might not otherwise get to hear or communicate with, then it's hard to justify the NZMSS.
- I attended the conference last year, didn't have anything to present this year and we had some new staff in our team. Our manager preferred to give priority to the new staff and those presenting.
- Family commitments, children to look after.
- Unfortunately the conference was to occur a few weeks out from a six week vessel-based expedition that I was leading. I couldn't afford the time to attend the conference this year.
- I joined to attend the 2016 conference but marine science is not my main interest.
- Just getting back from an overseas conference the day before.
- It was during teaching so hard to get away. Saving funds for an international conference. Session related to my area was not innovative and some talks repeated from previous years so not novel.
- on maternity leave and working limited hours
- While I am technically self-employed I have been overseas and then ill and so have earned little recently. The costs of attendance are high given I am not paid to attend. The winter date is difficult when I need to stay far away from the venue in cheaper accommodation and need to walk to and from the venue in the dark on my own.
- I was originally going to attend, and registered. However, one of my team was keen to attend, and it was more valuable and better use of funds for them to replace me.
- I'm retired so have to cover all costs myself, which is a major consideration. However, in this case I was overseas at the time anyway.
- As a pensioner, and not having my own vehicle there (I live in the north of the NI), comfortable yet reasonably inexpensive accommodation was an issue.
- Still interested in science but now focused on my specialty area.
- At announced first I was planning to go overseas, then my niece announced that she was going to have a baby at the time of the conference, so I stayed back in NZ but still could not get to the NZMSS. I really liked the conference theme and was very sorry not to be able to attend.
- Enjoying Spanish/Portuguese heat rather than Christchurch cold!

Do you think you will attend the 2018 conference in Napier?

- Yes: 19
- No: 5
- Not sure yet: 31

Do you have any suggestions for the 2018 conference?

- Not at this time.
- No
- 20 minute time slots are a lot better for the quality of presentations
- no
- I would like to have a session on the research being conducted by the Sustainable Seas National Science Challenge
- To encourage the physical oceanographic community and the wave community to attend.
- I think the use of professional conference organisers adds significantly (and unnecessarily) to the costs of these events for students. Conferences such as the Western Society of Naturalists is comparable in size and scope. Student membership fees are \$5 and

conference registration fees are typically on the order of \$100. The organisation of the conferences is managed by the local hosts (with much of the organisation and legwork achieved by students at the local host institution).

- Have more specialised sessions around a topical theme and invite people to present. More time for questions and debate.
- Keynotes are important.
- Lunch and Dinner included in registration fee would be best.
- Ensure that the tāngata whenua are involved in the conference and if they were interested provide them the ability to contribute meaningfully and participate throughout the whole conference to hear about what is going on in this space.
- marine biosecurity to be a focus and encourage regional councils and MPI to do presentations
- Cheaper options for registration - e.g. no conference dinner option
- Ecosystem-based management of activities and impacts of the marine environment; Spatial management; NZ's responsibilities to the marine environment under international law - how far are we meeting these?
- More of the same

Is there anything else you like to tell us?

- I was disappointed for not getting the NZMSS First Overseas Conference Travel Fund after presenting my PhD project outcome two years in a row at NZMSS conferences
- Are you sending out a reminder email for people that want to be members, but couldn't attend the conference?
- NO
- I miss NZ and nzmss. Would love to come every year if I could.
- Keep up the good work
- NZMSS was a good conference the two times I attended, and if I ever find myself involved in marine science again I'll be back...
- Maybe there could be a registration option for community group members as that is where I do much of my work at present (as pro bono or heavily discounted rates). This option could exclude the conference dinner. Venues closer to cheaper (e.g. backpacker accommodation) would be helpful (e.g. Claudelands used for NZ Ecological Society Conference in November 2016)
- No
- Nope, just sorry I missed this year's conference