



**Minutes of the 37th Annual General Meeting of the Meteorological
Society of new Society of Zealand
16 November 2016, Wellington.
Meeting began at 4:45 pm, chaired by Daniel Kingston (President).
Minutes taken by Katrina Richards (Secretary).**

1. Attendance

Daniel Kingston, Andrew Tait, Katrina Richards, Michael Martens, Mike Harvey, Erick Brenstrum, Luke Sutherland-Stacey, James Renwick, Trevor Carey-Smith, Gregor Macara, Nava Fedaeff, Sylvia Nicol, Brett Mullan, Mike Revell, Neil Gordon, Mark Rolston, Olef Morgenstern, Neal Osborne, Guang Zeng, James Lunny.

2. Apologies

Mike Green, Howard Diamond, Jim Salinger, Richard Gorman, John Lumsden, Matt Ruglys, Tim Gunn, Bob McDavitt, Charles Pearson, Jenny Salmond, Adrian McDonald, Stephanie Kremser, Richard Turner, David Wratt, Errol Lewthwaite, Tony Bromley, Pip Revell, Sam Dean.

3. Confirmation of minutes of previous AGM.

Motion that *“The minutes of the previous AGM, held on the 23 November 2015 be accepted as a true and correct record”* proposed by Andrew Tait/Seconded by Jim Renwick – carried.

The Treasurer’s Report was next presented, as Andrew needed to leave the meeting early. [Numbering has been retained as set out in the Agenda. KR]

6. Treasurer’s report (Andrew Tait)

**Meteorological Society of New Zealand
Profit and Loss Account for the year ended 31 July 2016**

	2016	2015
Income		
Subscriptions Received	13,985	14,079
Conference (Deficit)/Surplus	(5,127)	2,158
Interest Received	1,603	1,575
Total Income	10,461	17,812
Expenditure		
Audit fee	525	455
Newsletter	1,928	2,065
International Conference travel grant	1,000	0
Other Expenses	91	576
P O Box	175	170
Royal Society NZ fees	1,407	1,495
Student Conference Prizes	750	600
Student Travel Grants	1,000	800
Weather and Climate	904	2,685
Total Expenditure	8,430	8,846
Surplus of Income over Expenditure	\$2,031	\$8,966

Meteorological Society of New Zealand

Balance Sheet as at 31 July 2016

	2016	2015
Accumulated Funds		
Balance 1 August	55,059	46,093
Surplus Income over Expenditure	2,031	8,966
Balance 31 July	\$57,090	\$55,059
Represented by:		
Cheque Account	13,619	13,456
Accrued Interest/Prepayment	857	1,758
Term Deposits	42,614	40,593
	57,090	55,807
Less Accounts Payable	0	748
	\$57,090	\$55,059

Notes to the Financial Statements

The Meteorological Society of New Zealand is an independent group of weather enthusiasts whose aim is to encourage an interest in the atmosphere, weather and climate as related to the New Zealand region.

Statement of General Accounting Policies

These financial statements have been prepared using the historical cost method. Accrual accounting has been used except as noted below, and reliance has been placed on the Society being a going concern.

Statement of Particular Accounting Policies

Subscription receipts have been accounted for on a cash basis.

These financial statements were prepared on a Goods and Services Tax (GST) inclusive basis.

The conference surplus is accounted for on a cash basis.

Interest income includes accrued interest on the term deposits as at balance date.

Changes in Accounting Policies

There have been no changes in accounting policies. All accounting policies have been applied on bases consistent with the previous year.

Income Tax

The Society is registered as a charitable entity so no income tax is payable.

Motion that *"The financial report be accepted as a true and accurate record"* proposed by Andrew Tait/seconded by Neil Gordon – carried.

Andrew noted that the subscriptions were fairly similar. The deficit was based on a more expensive Raglan Conference with fewer attendees. This is the first year for the International Travel Grant. Substantial savings have been made with our new publisher and most members get the journal electronically. So we ended with a profit overall. He went on to say we need to work out how to spend our surplus. In committee meetings we agreed we want to send more students to conferences, plus upgrade our web presence. A discussion followed: We should budget carefully in future so we don't get a conference loss. But we don't expect any costs from the AMOS conference, and this is an opportunity to fund students to get there. As a NPO we shouldn't make large profits, but we need a reasonable cash reserve to cope with future conferences. This profit is a new thing, the outcome of several factors.

Andrew presented a budget: he expects a surplus overall, and maybe some surplus from the AMOS conference. The period to 31 July 2017 will not include our own conference.

CASH BUDGET ESTIMATES FOR 2016-17		
INCOME		
Subscriptions (incl MetService bulk purchase)	13,200	
Interest	2,000	
Conference surplus	1,000	16,200
EXPENSES		
Weather and Climate incl. postage	1,000	
Newsletters incl stat & post	2,000	
Student travel grants and prizes (incl overseas travel grants)	6,000	
Charities Commission	51	
Website upgrade and maintenance	2,000	
Other expenses	500	
Audit fee	550	
Royal Society	1,495	
Post Office Box	170	13,766
		2,434

In the discussion which followed, the idea was raised, Are we being too conservative? Should we spend more to send students and maybe early career scientists abroad? The general idea is \$1000 per student up to a spend of about \$6000 a year on international travel. We will invite applications and then decide, so more or less can be awarded. Andrew pointed out that when we co-hosted the Southern Hemisphere conference, we were responsible for losses, so we need cash. We are also upgrading our webpage and data base. *Before Andrew's exit, Daniel offered him our official thanks and gratitude. Andrew is leaving the committee now but has served on the committee, with some gaps, since 2000, and has been Treasurer, President and Past President. He has had a huge input to the Society. The group's thanks were expressed in a round of appreciative applause.*

4. Matters Arising

No discussion was undertaken at this point, all Matters Arising being covered in the President and Financial Reports.

5. President's report

Daniel thanked the members for coming and staying around, as its been a bit stressful the last few days because of the earthquakes.

Firstly I would like to thank everyone in attendance. I realise the last few days may have been quite trying for many of you, so it's good to see such a good attendance, especially when the AGM is not associated with a full conference as usual.

Thanks to MetService and Michael Martens in particular for helping to arrange hosting of the meeting here today.

I will now report on the main areas of activity of the society over the past year.

Summary of activities for 2016

The committee met 4 times this year via teleconference.

Membership

Numbers have been relatively stable (in the low 300s) – a healthy total.

Edward Kidson Medal

We had a call for nominations for the Edward Kidson Medal this year – resulting in the award to Hinrich Schaefer earlier. Calls for nominations are made every two years, with the medal being recognition for an outstanding weather- and climate-related paper originating from a New Zealand-based or affiliated author. The whole procedure seemed to be really successful – helped in no small part by the clear guidelines developed by Sam Dean and presented at the AGM last year.

There were four high quality nominations, with each paper sent to two leading international experts in the respective fields. The review process went surprisingly smoothly, leaving the medal sub-committee (James Renwick, Mike Revell and I) to come to a decision. Although unanimous in decision, we felt in isolation all nominated papers were worthy of the medal, so encourage re-nomination in the next Kidson round.

Website

The website still hasn't regained full functionality. Stephanie Kremser (the committee website-liaison person) has arranged a series of measures with the website designer to address this, but communication with the designer has been poor and we have been unable to push forward with this anywhere near as quick as we would have liked. A new person for this service is being sought.

We have continued using the website for posting news and updates (particular thanks to Bob McDavitt here).

Journal

Volume 36 of Weather and Climate is still pending. There are three papers in the pipeline, but the revisions will make publication this year tight – so we may be looking at another slightly delayed publication.

I encourage everyone to consider submitting to our journal. It is visible on Google Scholar. We have requests submitted to Web of Science and Scopus to include the journal in their data bases, but the procedure is proving extremely slow (requests were submitted in early 2015). We have just been contacted by JSTOR, so hope to be included in that archive soon.

Newsletter

Thanks once again to Bob McDavitt, who continues to do a lot of hard work in producing the Metsoc newsletters.

Regional meetings

By my count, 31 seminars have been advertised, mostly to the Wellington and Dunedin groups. The number of things advertised is up from last year, but it would be great to see more activity outside Dunedin and Wellington. I encourage the VPs to get connected with local groups offering seminar series for this purpose.

Conferences

There has been no full conference this year, just today's short event in combination with this AGM. Thanks again to MetService and Michael for helping with this.

The reason there has been no conference is the forthcoming joint conference with the Australian Meteorological and Oceanographic Society (AMOS) in February, which takes the place of our usual 2016 conference. This meeting will also be joined with the Australia-New Zealand Climate Forum. Planning for this joint meeting is well underway. The meeting will take place from 7-10th February at ANU, Canberra. The abstract deadline has passed, and guest speakers have been organized. A good number of abstracts were received, and notification about acceptance should come through before too long. The conference budget hasn't been finalized yet, including the registration costs. The Society has the ability to provide a small number of grants to help with attendance costs to students and early career researchers, details which will be forthcoming soon. The conference itself will make various concessions as well.

This is something for the 2017 committee to resolve, but I expect there to be a domestic NZ conference at the usual time late in 2017. The 2018 conference should be a joint meeting with the NZ Hydrological Society in Christchurch.

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Finally – this AGM just about marks the last contribution from my two-year term as President. I would like to thank the committee members from both years for their hard work and advice, without which my role would have been far more difficult. In particular, I would like to acknowledge the efforts over a number of years of three retiring long-standing committee members: Andrew Tait, Sam Dean, Jennifer Salmond.

Daniel Kingston, President of the Meteorological Society of New Zealand (2016).

7. Appointment of Auditor

Daniel proposed that the same auditor be appointed. There were no objections.

8. Subscription rate.

Daniel proposed that the rates remain the same. He noted that if we continue to have excessive profits we could consider a reduction. However, the rates are low compared to other societies, the profit is a new thing, and we could spend more instead. There were no objections to keeping the rates the same.

9. Election of Officers

Nominations for the 2017 Committee of the Meteorological Society of NZ were:

President – Sylvia Nichol

Immediate Past President – Daniel Kingston

Secretary – Katrina Richards

Circulation Manager – Zoe Buxton and Lisa Murray (both absent)

Treasurer – Gregor Macara

Website Liaison – Stefanie Kremser

Newsletter Editor – Bob McDavitt

Journal Editor – Nava Fedaeff, assisted by Jim Renwick

Auckland VP – Petra Pearce (absent)

Hamilton VP – Tim Gunn

Wellington VP – James Renwick

Christchurch VP – Adrian MacDonald

Dunedin VP – Daniel Kingston

General Committee – Michael Martens, Charles Pearson, Mike Revell, Lisa Murray

Note: The work of the committee is supported by two paid roles: Peter Scholtens (Auditor) and Eddie Wealthall (web).

As the candidates for Circulation Manager (Zoe Buxton, Lisa Murray) were both absent, this position was left open (to be confirmed). Auckland VP Petra Pearce (absent) will also be confirmed by the committee. If Lisa Murray is not appointed Circulation Manager she may join the committee as a general member.

[Subsequent to the AGM, Zoe Buxton has agreed to take the role of Circulation Manager. Lisa Murray will therefore be a general committee member. KR. 5 Dec 2016]

There were no further nominations from the floor. Motion that *“Those standing for uncontested positions be declared elected”* proposed by Neil Gordon/seconded by Mike Revell – carried.

10. Other Matters.

10.1: Editorship of Weather & Climate: Jim Renwick noted that we need younger and dynamic people to be involved. Nava Fedaeff has taken on the job, assisted by Jim Renwick.

10.2: Bob McDavitt is looking for some trusted and willing members to add to those with permission to post to our facebook page. Nava and Gregor volunteered.

10.3: Andrew stated that our bank wants the signatories for our account to be listed in the AGM minutes. At the time of the AGM meeting they consisted of: Gregor Macara (incoming Treasurer), Sylvia Nicol (incoming President), Sam Dean (a Past President), Mike Revell (committee member).

[Subsequent to the AGM, Zoe Buxton has agreed to take the role of Circulation Manager and will be a signatory to the bank account. The four signatories will be Gregor Macara (Treasurer), Sylvia Nicol (President), Zoe Buxton (Circulation Manager), Mike Revell (committee member). KR. 5 Dec 2016]

The issue of dual electronic signatories was raised from the floor. This may involve bank charges or a change of bank. It will be looked into by the incoming Treasurer, Gregor Macara. *Meeting closed at 5:45 pm with an expression of thanks from the outgoing President Daniel to Sam Dean and Jenny Salmond (both absent) who (like Andrew Tait) are leaving the committee. Sam has been on the committee since 2007, as a general member, secretary, president and past president. Jenny has served as Auckland Vice President and our Journal Editor. Our thanks were expressed in appreciative applause. The next AGM is expected to be in November 2017.*