



Met Society Newsletter

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President's report (Mike Revell)

- 29th since founding of Society in 1979



First let me apologise for the late arrival of this report. What with completion of some last minute commercial work and preparing my talk for the conference I completely forgot that I also had to provide a presidents report at the AGM.

Summary of activities

Committee meetings

There were five of these roughly every two months as in previous years. There have been no major initiatives but we have made progress towards becoming a charitable organisation. The issue of falling numbers in the society has been raised at every meeting and several suggestions made to try and improve things. It appears many university students do not know about our society or what it offers. This was discussed further at the AGM and will be reported on in the AGM minutes.

This year's conference joint with the Hydrological society

Charles Pearson pretty much single-handedly managed the MetSoc contribution for which I am very grateful. We were able to subsidise several students' attendance at the conference and provided two prizes worth \$500 for best student and open papers presented by a MetSoc member. I thought it was an excellent meeting with many papers of a high standard including many student presentations. The convenient rear access to the 3 meeting rooms at Shanty Town meant the concurrent sessions worked really well.

Branch meetings

Looking back through the minutes it seems there is a regular series of talks in Christchurch (thanks Mikhail) and one or two at the other branches. Perhaps this is something we should give a push to in the coming year as it is one of the key things we offer as a society to our members, along with the newsletters, journal and annual conference.

Retiring of some long standing committee members

Rowena Moss (circulation) to be replaced by Sylvia Nichol, Simon Kjellberg (secretary) by Sam Dean, and Cliff Revell (treasurer) would like to step down but we need to find a replacement. I'm sure you all agree with me that Simon, Rowena and Cliff have all done an excellent job over the last several years and join with me in thanking them very much for their valuable contribution to the society.

Newsletter/Website

Bob McDavitt continues to do an excellent job here. This is one of the main ways we communicate with members. Thanks to Peter Knudsen also for maintaining the web site. I believe this will become the key way people access information about our society so it is important that we keep it up to date.

Journal

Another issue has appeared – thanks Brian. Brian is always looking for more papers and feels the new A4 format could handle an extra paper per year. Any of the papers presented at the 2008 MetSoc conference could become journal papers. I encourage you to consider this.

Upcoming conferences

SHEM Meteorology conference in Melbourne, 9-13 February, 2009.

2009 MetSoc conference joint with the Marine Sciences Soc in Auckland later in the year at a date yet to be finalised.

Photo competition

Bob McDavitt presented the entries and announced the winners at the MetSoc conference.

Relationship with RSNZ

There was a meeting in November in Wellington to discuss the relation between the Royal Society and its constituent organisations attended by myself and Jim Salinger on behalf of the Met. Society.

General discussion covered: Feedback from Constituent Organisations (COs), some very negative, mainly addressing whether organisations are getting value for money; that many organisations don't see RSNZ as independent but too close to the beauracracies; the fate of the National Science Panel; the new RSNZ building project; the fate of the journals published by RSNZ.

There was discussion on the current status of communication between RSNZ and COs and Branches—extremely important that it is improved and that important information, e.g., the new building, strategic directions, be communicated. There was

a request for regular feedback of information. Eleven motions were passed relating to these issues.

The 2008 AGM

The minutes follow. I would specially like to thank Kim Dirks for organising the election of officers for the coming year and Bob McDavitt for managing the procedural aspects of the meeting.

The future


It has been said “People talk about the weather but no one ever does anything about it!” Is the same true for the falling number of members of the MetSoc? It was disappointing to hear at the AGM that there were many university students doing earth science degrees that didn’t know about the MetSoc and what it offers. Several suggestions were made at the AGM to rectify this and we will endeavour to follow these up in the coming year.

Hope you have all had a good break over the Christmas New Year period.

Best Wishes for the coming year.

Mike Revell

Minutes of the
**29th Annual General Meeting of the
Meteorological Society of New Zealand (Inc.)**
Tuesday, November 18th, 2008
Shantytown, Greymouth



The meeting opened at 5:30pm

The meeting was chaired by Mike Revell (President) and the minutes have been written by Sam Dean (Committee member).

1. Attendance

Kim Dirks	Roger Davies	Andrew Tait	Bob McDavitt
Blair Fitzharris	Charles Pearson	Richard McKenzie	Mike Revell
Sam Dean	Warren Gray	Murray Poulter	Tony Bromley
Ross Martin	Sally Garrett	Stacy Dravitzky	Neil Gordon
Agate Ponder-Sutton	Trevor Carey-Smith	Richard Gorman	Charles Pearson
Richard McKenzie			

2. Apologies

Rupert Wood	Alex Neale	Geoff Austin	Simon Kjelberg
James Renwick	Jim Salinger	Mikhail Titov	Katrina Richards
Rowena Moss	Gareth Renowden	Richard Turner	

3. Confirmation of the minutes of the previous AGM (Mike)

Motion that “*the minutes of the previous AGM, held at NIWA Wellington on the 28th of November 2008 be accepted as read*”

Bob McDavitt / Stacy Dravitzky -carried

4. Matters arising from the last AGM (Mike)

Carbon Neutrality

The aim of carbon neutrality for Metsoc conferences raised at the previous AGM was considered. Murray Poulter suggested that this would be a difficult objective for an organisation such as the Metsoc to achieve. He suggested divulging this responsibility to the attendees own organisations. Neil Gordon suggested that “minimizing the carbon footprint” would be a more realistic aim compared to carbon neutrality. The question of how to achieve carbon neutrality was referred on to the incoming committee.

Media awards

Bob McDavitt explained that the 2008 committee reviewed the issue of whether to undertake a media award and decided against it for 2008. The issue was raised as to whether the AGM considered this a worthwhile activity for 2009. The purpose such an award was raised and Bob described the two key objectives of the awards as:

- 1) To improve the presentation of weather by the media
- 2) To raise the profile of the meteorological society

Warren Gray suggested a media release in advance of any announcement. The award is usually presented at the conference dinner. Blair Fitzharris noted that in the past the Metsoc had been to TVNZ at their invitation to discuss the awards and that the Otago Daily Times had changed the way weather was presented after coming last one year. Kim Dirks asked what kind of media would be considered. General agreement suggested it be noted in the minutes that “the incoming committee should consider organising media awards for television weather broadcasts due to the positive impact on the profile of the society and the impact on providers”.

5. President’s Report (Mike)

“It was a quiet year meteorologically”. Mike Revell presented a brief verbal report. His final report precedes these minutes.

6. Annual Report from the Treasurer (Cliff)

Meteorological Society of New Zealand: Historical summary and budget

Meteorological Society of New Zealand - Historical summary and budget

Year	Receipts						Payments					Net 12-		
	as	Subs	Int.	C & M	Misc.	Total	Intl	Newsltr	C & M	Misc.	Total			
05/06	25+	7971	1686	1478	1823	1295		5428	3486	-	5863	14777	-1820	
06/07	25+	8221	1816	9931	2012	22003		12197	5267	97	3701	21262		711
07/08	30+	8439	2360	-	1605	12404		4577	4453	258	3714	12950		-346

Budget estimates

08/09	35+	9793	2400	?	1600	13793	5000	4500	200	3500	13700		1593
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Assumes 1 journal (Vol 29) and 4 newsletters published and continued support of Messervine
Any profit on 2008 conference not included. This to be shared between SCI and current account.
Miscellaneous expenditure includes contingency fund for website and travel expenses as well as RSNZ fee and teleconferences. Cost of teleconferences also uncertain.

09/10	35+	9793	2400	-	1600	13793	5000	4500	200	4000	13700		193
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Assumes fairly stable situation at same subscription rates. Miscellaneous expenditure now allows for awards expenses in 2009. Continuing uncertainty over costs such as teleconference and newsletter.

Subscription rates recommended for 2009/2010: \$35 for individual members and \$100 for institutional members.

C G Revell
Treasurer
20 November 2008

METEOROLOGICAL SOCIETY OF NEW ZEALAND INCORPORATED

BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31 JULY 2008

	NOTES	THIS YEAR	LAST YEAR
		\$	\$
ASSETS			
Petty cash		225	425
Current acct 00 - BNZ		1,435	3,288
Term investment 02 - BNZ		11,350	10,924
Term investment 04 - BNZ		10,000	11,494
Term investment 05 - BNZ		10,982	10,000
Student conf. fund - BNZ		1,095	1,785
Total assets		35,817	37,916
LESS LIABILITIES			
Subscriptions received in advance		452	935
Expenditure accrued			1,100
NET WORTH		<u>35,365</u>	<u>35,881</u>

REPRESENTED BY:

Accumulated Funds:

Balance at beginning of year	35,881	35,139
Loss excess of expenditure over income	516	741
Total Accumulated Funds	<u>35,365</u>	<u>35,880</u>

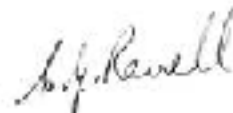
This statement of accounts should be read in conjunction with the attached notes.

Signed on behalf of the Committee

President

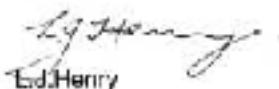


Treasurer



AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF THE METEOROLOGICAL SOCIETY OF NEW ZEALAND INC

I have examined the above Balance Sheet and the Statement of Income and Expenditure together with the financial records of the Society and have obtained all the information and explanations I have required. In my opinion the Balance Sheet and the Income and Expenditure Statement give a true and fair view of the financial position of the Society as at 31 July 2008.



Ed. Henry

Auditor to the Meteorological Society of New Zealand Inc

Date

31/10/08

METEOROLOGICAL SOCIETY OF NEW ZEALAND INCORPORATED

**INCOME AND EXPENDITURE STATEMENT
FOR 12 MONTHS TO 31 JULY 2008**

	NOTES	THIS YEAR	LAST YEAR
		\$	\$
INCOME			
Subscriptions	2	8,499	8,221
Interest	3	57	170
Interest on term deposits		2,903	1,076
Metservice profit		1,600	1,800
Copyright Licensing			412
Donation		5	
Profit on conference			5,824
Total Income		2,404	22,003
NET LOSS		518	
		12,950	
LESS EXPENDITURE			
Weather & Ultimate	4	4,527	12,197
Newsletter	4	4,453	5,287
Meetings		256	97
Royal Society NZ fee		1,487	1,487
Sundry postage, stationery		194	365
PO Box fee		135	125
Miscellaneous		52	62
Student conference grants			403
Travel			205
Telephone conferences		574	1,050
RSNZ awards		690	
Software		560	
Income tax	5	272	
Total Expenditure		12,950	21,259
NET PROFIT			741
		12,950	22,003

METEOROLOGICAL SOCIETY OF NEW ZEALAND INC.

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL ACCOUNTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 JULY 2008**

1. STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTING POLICIES

Accrual accounting is used to match expenses and revenue to the year as appropriate. There has been no change in accounting policies.

2. SUBSCRIPTIONS

Includes some payments in arrears. Subscriptions in arrears for 2007/08 have not been taken into account.

3. INTEREST

Interest on SCF and cheque accounts combined under Interest.

4. PUBLICATIONS

Both Weather and Climate and the newsletter are up to date.

5. INCOME TAX

Interest received by incorporated societies is taxable for amounts over \$1000.

6. CONTINGENT LIABILITIES

There are no contingent liabilities.

A message from Cliff was read out by Mike Revel stating that the financial accounts were in good shape and that it was his recommendation that there was no need for a change in the subscription rate. It was also Cliff's intention to step down from the treasurer role when a suitable replacement could be found.

Motion "that the MetSoc thanks Cliff for his outstanding contribution to the society"

Warren Gray / Neil Gordon -carried

Murry Poulter suggested that given the current financial crisis that the new treasurer should consider the issue of diversification of funds across different banks.

Motion “*that the incoming secretary should invite a suitable replacement for the auditor*”.
Mike Revell / Warren Gray -carried

It was moved and passed “*that the statement of accounts be accepted*”
Bob McDavitt / Warren Gray

7. Subscription Rate (Mike)

Motion “*that the subscription rates for the next financial year remain the same at \$35 for ordinary members and \$105 for institutional members.*”
Sam Dean / Warren Gray

8. Election of Officers (Kim)

The floor was then passed to Kim Dirks as Immediate Past President to carry out the Election of Officers.

The following nominations for Officers of the Society for 2007/2008 were made:

President	Michael Revell
Auckland VP	Jennifer Salmond
Wellington VP	James Renwick
Christchurch VP	Mikhail Titov
Dunedin VP	vacant
Secretary	Sam Dean
Treasurer	Cliff Revell
Journal Editor	Brian Giles
Newsletter Editor	Bob McDavitt
Circulation Manager	Sylvia Nichol
Webmaster	Peter Knudsen
Hydrosoc Liasison	Charles Pearson
General Commitee	Jim Salinger
	Stacey Dravitzki
	Katrina Richards
	Sally Garrett
	Kim Dirks (as Immediate Past President)

There being no other nominations, it was moved that the nominations be closed.

Kim Dirks / Sam Dean -carried

After a vote, Kim declared the above nominees duly elected.

It was noted that the incoming committee should invite Gareth Renowden to continue as a committee member. His nomination was inadvertently left off the list.

9. Other Matters

Recruiting new members

There was considerable general discussion from the floor about how to best recruit more members. Roger Davies suggested creating a one pager, or poster, which highlighted the benefits of being a member. It was pointed out that a poster had been created in the past. He expressed his concern that students showed no knowledge of the society. There was discussion around updating the webpage with an emphasis on recruitment. Sam suggested that

On Thursday an upper ridge crossed the South Island, providing excellent weather for the fieldtrips to Lake Brunner, Fox Glacier, Stockton Plateau (Coal), and Cropp River. Here are some photos from the fieldtrip to Cropp River's rain gauge at the waterfall, slightly higher than the hut gauge which is at altitude of 860m and around 20 km inland. This rain gauge is the wettest in New Zealand. Just after the conference, from 22 to 25 Nov, the gauge measured 991 mm in three days.

