



**MINUTES of the New Zealand Institute of Physics
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
Held on Thursday 17th December 2020**

- Chair:** Natalie Plank
- Present:** Simon Granville, Chris Gordon, David Housden, Annette Koo, Mike Reid, Joachim Brand, Marcus Wilson, Geoff Willmott, Rod Syme, Helen Housden (observer)
- Apologies:** Denis Burchill, Kerry Parker, David Wiltshire
- Minutes:** Simon Granville

The meeting opened at 12:00 pm

2019 AGM minutes

- Briefly reviewed at the start of the meeting. Note that David Hutchinson is still the NZ representative to IUPAP

President's Report:

- A summary of the report was given by President Natalie Plank.
- See the *General Business* section for discussion of the report.

Moved by the Vice President (Joachim)

Seconded by Geoff Willmott

report accepted CARRIED

Financial Report:

- The report was presented by Treasurer Annette Koo.
- Suggest revising the AGM dates to soon after the end of the financial year.
- Income is around \$52k, mostly from membership fees and the Conference 2019.
- Expenses are mostly to Confer for running the Conference, keeping records, hosting and maintaining the website and managing membership. The net NZIP profit was \$6k, resulting from the Conference 2019. Expenses in 2020 should be ~ \$8k less due to the revised workload outsourced to Confer.
- Memberships in 2019 held up well compared to the previous 2 years, though 2020 numbers are not yet known due to the AGM timing.
- SIG funding (Special Interest Groups within NZASE) will not come in 2020 due to financial issues at the NZ Association of Science Educators.
- A new financial report will be done in April 2021 after the financial year is finished, then the following one in Feb 2022 to better align with the end of the financial year, on 31 December.

Moved by the President

Seconded by Marcus Wilson

report accepted CARRIED

NZIP Education Section Report:

- The report was presented by NZIPES Chair David Housden.
- This year (2020) the same resources were provided to secondary schools as normal, only some slight variation of the school numbers.
- The NCEA Level 1 proposed changes were the big event this year. Some success was achieved with our feedback, i.e. that physics as a subject was kept (albeit merged with Earth and Space Science), and a group has just been set up to plan the new standards. Thanks for all the support, including written letters to the Ministry, media interviews etc, which seemed to have made a difference, though changes are still underway.
- The request for proposals for the next 5 years of professional learning and development funding has just been released by the Ministry of Education. The NZIPES bid is being written now, and it is hoped the good work provided by NZIPES in the current contract for this will mean refunding is likely. The RFP requires new details not previously asked for, and the bid is due 21st January 2021, with funding to start in March 2021.

Moved by the President

Seconded by Geoff Willmott

report accepted CARRIED

Election of Officers:

- Natalie nominated the existing Council be re-elected. There were no new nominations and all current council members were duly re-elected. Officers are currently: Natalie Plank – President; Joachim Brand – Vice-President; David Wiltshire – Immediate Past President; Simon Granville – Secretary; Annette Koo – Treasurer; David Housden – NZIPES Chair; Geoff Willmott – Auckland representative; Marcus Wilson – Waikato representative; Chris Gordon – Canterbury/Christchurch representative; David Hutchinson – Otago/Dunedin representative.

General Business:

- NCEA Level 1 proposed changes: As well as Natalie Plank and David Housden, NZIP Council member Marcus Wilson was also closely involved in the efforts to make submissions and comment on the proposed changes.
- NZIP survey: Simon Granville noted that, as of the AGM date, there had been 121 responses to the survey, the majority of whom were not current NZIP members. This should turn out to be a valuable set of information we can draw on to better identify what the NZ Physics community is interested in.
- The dormant @NZPhysics Twitter account was relaunched at the start of the year, though with the extra workload from Covid disruptions on everyone it was not as actively used as had been planned.

- NZIP Conference 2021: due to a mix of Covid-related travel restrictions and financial issues, some NZ organisations have banned all conference attendance, or such attendance requires university management approval, which could limit attendance at Conference 2021. **ACTION POINT:** Confer will survey the Conference 2019 attendees about whether this will affect them. A virtual participation option might help with attendance, and this will be explored with Confer also. The NZ Association of Science Educators conference was fully online in 2020 and it was financially very successful.
- Challenges and membership: membership renewals are due at the end of January 2021, providing an opportunity to shore up member numbers from those who may have forgotten during the difficult year that was 2020. In particular, more NZIP Fellows need to renew their membership as only they can nominate new NZIP Fellows <https://nzip.org.nz/join-nzip/fellowship-of-nzip/> .
- Mike Reid suggested NZIP needed more events like the NZ Institute of Chemistry's invited talks, sponsored morning or afternoon teas, with the last NZIP event being a talk about the new SI units in 2019. Existing physics-focused events e.g. at universities could be part sponsored by NZIP, with some NZIP presence – this would be more efficient than attempting to arrange a new event in already very busy calendars. **ACTION POINT:** Council will explore this possibility at the next Council meeting.

Meeting closed at 12:58 pm with the hope for a much more settled year in 2021!