



**MINUTES of the New Zealand Institute of Physics  
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING  
Held on Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> December 2021**

- Chair:** Natalie Plank
- Present:** Simon Granville, Chris Gordon, David Housden, Joachim Brand, Geoff Wilmott, Nathan Mehrrens, Uli Zuelicke, Elke Pahl, Annika Seppälä, David Wiltshire, Richard Easther, Tulasi Parashar, Helen Housden (observer)
- Apologies:** Marcus Wilson, Annette Koo
- Minutes:** Simon Granville

The meeting opened at 4:02 pm

**2020 AGM minutes**

- Briefly reviewed at the start of the meeting. Joachim and David H affirmed the minutes to be an accurate account of the AGM – accepted without objections.

**President's Report:**

- A summary of the report was given by President Natalie Plank, following the minutes below.
- Chris Gordon reported that University of Canterbury had the usual student symposium, and NZIP sponsored 2 student prizes.
- Simon invited anyone to suggest other existing events that could be supported or sponsored by NZIP in future

***Moved by Natalie Plank***

***Seconded by Simon Granville***

***report accepted CARRIED***

**Financial (Treasurer's) Report:**

- Treasurer Annette Koo (not in attendance) prepared a report as a video+audio file which was played for the attendees. The Annual Financial Statement was prepared by Confer.
- Membership is down a little but this is more than made up for by the professional learning and development (PLD) contract funding from the Ministry of Education.
- Running the NZIP involved some extra costs in 2020.
- Book tokens were last paid for in 2018, then topped up in 2020.
- The seed fund was for setting up the 2021 conference.
- The PLD contractors/workshop expenses were lower due to Covid disruptions preventing the expected range of events from happening.

- Overall NZIP had a higher profit in 2020 due to the PLD income and lower outgoings from Covid disruptions.

***Moved by Natalie Plank***

***Seconded by Simon Granville***

***report accepted CARRIED***

### **NZIP Education Section Report:**

- The report was presented by NZIPES Chair David Housden.
- As mentioned in the Financial report, it was not possible to run many expected activities that were to be supported by the Ministry of Education PLD funding due to Covid. The one major event supported was the NZIP Conference held in Wellington in July 2021. This was a major success, especially in the education section parts.
- NZIPES has this year worked with the Ministry group that organises teaching networks to fund Māori capacity building plans. This work will launch next year (2022). We successfully received a new Ministry PLD contract, which has tasks in 1. building cultural capabilities in physics teaching, especially related to mātauranga Māori, and 2. NCEA.
- The teachers appreciated the support from the academic side to pressure the government to modify their proposed changes to NCEA Level 1. While completion of the changes was delayed from 2025 to 2026, the timeline is just as rapid and the next 12 months will involve a lot of work.
- For the core work of the NZIPES of providing resources to physics teachers, we have captured almost the entire 'market' for this, with nearly all NZ schools subscribing to our resources. While in-person events have been limited, the last year has been well-used to further build the resources and appoint people into the physics network of expertise. There are now NZIPES representatives across the country, working also with university academics. This is an excellent sign that we will be able to deliver on our Ministry contract.
- Q+A from the AGM attendees: delivery on the PLD goals is 3 ½ years but it will likely be extended to 5 years based on Covid delays. The funding of ~\$100k/year will be provided to NZIP annually rather than as a lump sum. Much of the funding is committed already to various initiatives, some of which have happened (e.g. the 2021 conference). It was noted this could be an excellent springboard for NZIP to engage with schools and universities about integrating mātauranga Māori with physics more widely, as solid examples of this intersection are currently rare. NZIPES has appointed a Māori ambassador to help physicists and physics teachers make the direct connections that will be needed.

***Moved by David Housden***

***Seconded by Natalie Plank***

***report accepted CARRIED***

### **NZIP Awards review:**

- A proposed review of the awards was prepared by Geoff Wilmott, and will be available to read after the AGM. Geoff summarised the report.
- The review was initiated by Council this year after a number of years where the Dodd Walls medal has not been regularly awarded, and the Rutherford Trophy even less often. Consultation with a working group led to the following recommendations:
  - The Dodd-Walls medal criteria will stay the same but it will be a biennial award.
  - A new award with potentially a suitable Te Reo Māori name is to be implemented for broader contributions to physics and its impact in NZ.
  - The Rutherford Trophy criteria will be revised and a physical award will be created that winners can keep. At present the Rutherford Trophy is kept in one place to prevent damage or loss.
- The review will be circulated to members for feedback on the recommendations, and then a vote held on allowing the Council to enact changes to the existing awards. A separate process for establishing the new award will be considered and voted on another time.

### **Election of Officers:**

- The following Council was nominated. There were no new nominations received after the AGM notice was sent out.
  - Joachim Brand—President; Richard Easter – Vice-President; Natalie Plank – Immediate Past President; Simon Granville – Secretary and IUPAP representative; Annette Koo – Treasurer; David Housden – NZIPES Chair; Geoff Wilmott – Auckland representative; Marcus Wilson – Waikato representative; Chris Gordon – Canterbury/Christchurch representative; Annika Seppälä – Otago/Dunedin representative, David Wiltshire – other Council member.

***All nominated by Natalie (except Natalie herself who was nominated by Joachim Brand)***

***Council elected unanimously***

### **General Business:**

- David H and Joachim thanked Natalie for her work as President. Natalie thanked the Council for making it a fun time for her; she feels there was lots of learning and the environment is very supportive. Joachim hopes that as Immediate Past President Natalie will help drive many initiatives that were discussed for 2020-2021 but not possible because of the extra Covid workloads everyone faced.

Meeting closed at 5:05 pm with once more the hope for a much more settled year in 2022!

## NZIP – President’s report 2021

### Highlights

**NZIP and PHYSIKOS Conference 2021:** The NZIP and NZIP Education Section ran a very successful conference in July 2021, with over 200 delegates.

Particular highlights were the talk from Dr Craig Rofe, PhD student participation, and awarding Professor Jenni Adams the Dan Walls Medal.

Thank you to all of the committee members, Simon Granville, Anette Koo, David Housden, Delphine Mitchell and Joachim Brand. And of course Kerry South and her team from Conference and Events.

A special thanks to Helen Housden and Haggis Henderson who also put in an immense amount of effort during the conference and helped me out particularly.

Brief updates:

David Housden and Marcus Wilson have again been heavily involved with the NCEA review process and offering NZIP Council insights and advice, and wherever possible we have acted to support the NZIP Education Section.

**Awards and Fellowships:** We have been aiming to have better processes and practices for awarding prizes within NZIP, with the establishment of a committee for awards. Similarly a fellowship committee will be established and more strategic use of the role of NZIP fellow will be made.

**Newsletter:** In 2021 we have issued 2 newsletters again this year. Unfortunately not making our target of 4.

**Social media:** The NZIP twitter account @NZPhysics has been much more active in 2021.

**Challenges:** The lurking presence of Covid, the extended lockdown in Auckland and the shorted lockdowns elsewhere have made it another challenging year. We were extremely lucky with the conference going ahead in person, although we did have a contingency plan.

Workloads amongst teaching and academic staff have been very high again this year. Due to this there is not a lot of mental space or time to do new things or push extra initiatives.

### Matters arising from the 2020 minutes

- NZIP survey: no specific action was taken on this in 2021.
- *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.*

- By July 2021 there were less travel restrictions. Our timing was extremely lucky between level 2 restrictions in Wellington and the level 4/3/2 lockdowns in Wellington and the extended lockdown for the Auckland region.
- 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.
  - These have been discussed. However with high workloads, covid restrictions and the huge amount of effort that went into the conference, extra activities have not yet taken place. The excellent attendance at the conference was an indication of the need for more in person events and the role that NZIP could take in these.

Natalie Plank

President, NZIP

12<sup>th</sup> December 2021