



**MINUTES of the New Zealand Institute of Physics  
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING  
Held on Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> November 2023**

- Chair:** Joachim Brand
- Present:** Simon Granville, David Housden, Richard Easter, Chris Gordon, Annika Seppälä, Mike Reid, Denis Burchill, Geoff Willmott, Natalie Plank, Marcus Wilson, Haggis Henderson, Annette Koo, Nathan Mehrtens, Helen Housden (observer)
- Apologies:** None
- Minutes :** Simon Granville

The meeting opened at 11:05 am

**2022 AGM minutes**

- These Minutes are available on the NZIP website.

*Moved by David Housden*

*Seconded by Chris Gordon*

*minutes accepted CARRIED*

**President's Report**

President Joachim Brand talked about the

- 2023 NZIP Conference (3<sup>rd</sup> - 5<sup>th</sup> July, Massey University Auckland)
  - The conference was successful with 164 participants. Registration numbers were down on the exceptional 2021 year (which was boosted by Covid international travel restrictions) but were higher than 2019. Feedback from a participant survey was received by the council. The introduction of symposia was new this time; responses to it were positive and we will look to continue and expand these.
  - The 2025 conference will also be in Auckland, a long way for some to travel. The 2025 Conference Committee will be asked to consider having the conference venue more central.
- NCEA Curriculum changes
  - There was a media frenzy at that time of the conference about the NCEA curriculum changes, with significant public commentary on a leaked draft. Joachim and David Housden were involved in multiple radio, TV and print interviews to talk about the curriculum.

- NZIP Awards
  - These were presented at the conference dinner. This year there were some changes to the eligibility wording of the existing awards to keep them up to date, and a new award Te Tohu mō te Whaihua i te Mātai Ahupūngao – Physics Impact Award
  - The awardees for 2023 were:
    - Dan Walls Medal: Professor David Wiltshire
    - Te Tohu mō te Whaihua i te Mātai Ahupūngao – Physics Impact Award: Professor Cather Simpson
    - Rutherford Trophy: Haggis Henderson

***Moved by Joachim Brand***

***Seconded by David Housden***

***report accepted CARRIED***

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

- The report was presented by NZIPES Chair David Housden, to be sent to Simon Granville later for minuting.
- Highlights include
  - Managing the NEX funding; supplying resources to schools around NZ, staying well connected to schools across NZ.
  - The PHYSIKOS conference was a major success.
  - The NCEA Curriculum Draft refresh was an important part of this year, we (e.g. David Housden) succeeded in getting media attention on this. There is not a new draft available yet and there is uncertainty about what will happen now a new government is forming.
  - The NEX funding is almost finished and there will be a new bidding process but it must wait for the new government.
  - Despite being near the end of the NEX funding we are delivering a lot. We expanded regional facilitators from 15 to 20. We support lots of national activities, for instance holding a meeting this Friday to support Auckland physics teachers - particularly new teachers; doing work on new NCEA energy standards and we're about to have a contract to develop more such resources. A Python course is about to be launched, with help from UoA. This is very important as 40-50 physics teachers retire each year and only 5 or 6 are in training. Most attending the course are women science teachers; today is the launch of a mechanics modelling course to be rolled out to 42 'out-of-field' teachers.

***Moved by Joachim Brand***

***Seconded by Haggis Henderson***

***report accepted CARRIED***

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

- The report was presented by Treasurer Annette Koo.
  - Note we are always a year ahead of the presented finances due to the timing of the end of financial year.

- Income - up by \$30k, mostly due to the NEX funding. No surprises in the income. The large increase in the bank account is to do with NEX funding also. Lots of money from the original PLD contract (which is now NEX) is unspent. David Housden notes this is due to delays in getting work done and some payments to contracts are pending. There is some work for the next committee to do on ensuring it gets spent in an appropriate way across the different activities. Some of the NEX funding should go to supporting NZIP's administration and financial management costs, which should then give a better representation of NZIP's very good financial health. If the NEX funding wasn't retained in future years, we still have a solid buffer.
- Expenses – no surprises here either. Institute management fees are higher due to the timing of bills from 2021 carrying over to 2022. There's no change in the annual amount averaged over 2 years.
- In 2022 more of the NEX funding could be spent as travel and assembly restrictions were lifted so more activity was possible.
- There has been very little change in member subscriptions. Only 1 student was a member in 2022 (not a conference year).
- The bank account payment authoriser list is being updated; confusingly, the named owners of the bank account cannot authorise payments. Changing the names whenever the Council changes is a difficult process and Annette is working to figure out how to change it more easily.

***Moved by Joachim Brand***

***Seconded by Marcus Wilson***

***report accepted CARRIED***

### **Matters Arising:**

#### **IUPAP report**

- Simon Granville - the International Union of Pure and Applied Physics is keen to have more Pacific countries become members of IUPAP and has been working with David Hutchinson and Gabriel Bioletti to encourage this.

### **Election of Officers:**

- The following were nominated and elected to the NZIP Council for 2024. No positions were contested and there were no objections to the elections.
  - Council Members 2024:
 

Prof. Richard Easter	President
Dr Annika Seppälä	Vice President
Dr Chris Gordon	(Honorary) Secretary (interim)
Dr Annette Koo	Treasurer (interim)
Prof. Joachim Brand	Immediate Past President
Mr David Housden	NZIPES Chair
Prof. Geoff Willmott	Auckland representative
Dr Marcus Wilson	Waikato representative
Dr Simon Granville	IUPAP representative
Dr Natalie Plank	Wellington representative

Ex-officio:

Mr Jonathan Squire

*All nominated Simon Granville*

*Seconded by Haggis Henderson*

*Council elected unanimously*

### **General Business:**

- Haggis Henderson - the education section of the Institute of Physics in Wales and the NZIPES have been working closely recently. There are similarities of population size and the issue of resurrecting a native language, with lots to learn from each other.
- David Housden – there has not been much education section travel internationally, so he calls on the physicists at the tertiary and CRI institutions who do travel to help make connections to physics societies overseas where possible.
- Incoming President Richard Easter’s priorities for the next year:
  - Incorporated Society Act changes need to be addressed quickly, with some changes to the NZIP Constitution likely needed to satisfy the new law.
  - NZIP will look to involve industry and CRI physicists more, for instance those working on climate science.
  - To help those Councillors who are in interim positions to transition out.
  - To develop a strategic plan for physics in NZ, taking advantage of our connections internationally. This is important in context of the widespread university cuts in 2023, to demonstrate value of physics learning to students and to try to get in front of future issues rather than react to them, like we've had to in the last few years.
- Treasurer Annette – the new Incorporated Society Act has us needing to get financial reports in by the end of November so we need to change future AGM dates to November to make this easier.

AGM date moved to November

***Moved by Annette Koo***

***Seconded by Simon Granville***

***motion CARRIED***

- The Council leads the attendees in thanking outgoing President Joachim Brand, outgoing Honorary Secretary Simon Granville, previous (and continuing interim) Treasurer Annette Koo for their service over the last 2-4 years. Also thanked are Geoff Willmott who successfully led the revamp of the NZIP awards and David Housden for his longstanding commitment as Chair of the Education Section.

Meeting closed at 12:11 pm