



**MINUTES of the New Zealand Institute of Physics
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
Held on Friday, 13th December 2024**

Chair: Richard Easter

Present: Joachim Brand, Peter Garrick, Simon Granville, David Housden, Helen Housden (observer), Annette Koo, Nathan Mehrtens, Natalie Plank, Annika Seppälä, Mark Standley, Elizabeth Strugnell, Geoff Willmott, Marcus Wilson

Apologies: Jono Squire

Minutes: Chris Gordon

The meeting opened at 3:10 pm.

2023 AGM minutes

- These Minutes are available on the NZIP website.

*Moved by Joachim Brand
Seconded by David Housden*

minutes accepted CARRIED

President's Report

President Richard Easter talked about:

- **Advocacy and Reviews**
The NZIP made a thoughtful submission to the parallel reviews of the science system and tertiary sector, advocating for the crucial role of physical sciences in education, research, and innovation. The outcomes of these reviews are expected in early 2026, with significant changes anticipated in the coming years.
- **Marsden Fund Changes**
Changes to the Marsden Fund this year included the exclusion of humanities and social sciences from its scope. Richard noted concerns about these changes, emphasising the importance of supporting fundamental research across all disciplines and recognising its long-term economic contributions.
- **NCEA Curriculum Pressures**
Schools faced challenges as the curriculum became a topic of political debate during the election period. Despite these pressures, Richard observed that the curriculum process seems to be progressing more reasonably now. The Education Section continues to provide critical support to physics teachers across New Zealand.
- **Opportunities in Physics**
Physics remains central to key developments in New Zealand, including initiatives like Rocket Lab, Open Star, Quantum Technologies Aotearoa, and a fusion startup. These highlight the role of physics in addressing climate change and advancing innovation.

- **Organisational Strengths**
Richard emphasised NZIP's strong financial position and the goodwill it enjoys within the community, thanks largely to the efforts of the Education Section. However, he noted a lack of visibility to the wider community, citing missed opportunities to share NZIP's perspective on significant issues like the Marsden Fund changes.
- **Future Directions**
Richard called for the development of a strategic plan for physics in New Zealand to enhance visibility and demonstrate its value. He also highlighted the need to revisit the NZIP Constitution in light of recent legislative changes.

*Moved by Natalie Plank
Seconded by Simon Granville*

report accepted CARRIED

NZIP Education Section Report:

- The report was presented by NZIPES Chair David Housden.
- **Achievements and initiatives:**
 - **Examinations and Resources:**
Successfully completed Year 11, 12, and 13 examinations for 2024. A secure website was developed, with regularly updated resources, ensuring accessibility and relevance.
 - **Membership Growth:**
NZIPES subscriptions reached an all-time high of 353, up from 325 in 2023. This increase includes ten new subscribing schools and 19 schools renewing after a lapse of 2 or more years. The private NZIPES Facebook group membership also grew by 33 members, reaching a total of 354.
 - **Funding and Professional Development:**
Successfully secured regranting of Networks of Expertise (NEX) funding. Delivered a range of professional learning and development (PLD) opportunities, including Zoom workshops, resource development, and regional teacher meetings. Key highlights include the launch of Python coding tutorials and a series of new videos and tutorials on physics demonstrations and classroom practices.
 - **Curriculum Engagement:**
Continued advocacy for a strong knowledge-based curriculum, with significant involvement in the NZC Refresh and related educational sector engagements.
 - **International Connections:**
Strengthened overseas collaborations with the Institute of Physics in Scotland and Wales and the Perimeter Institute in Canada.
 - **Collaboration with the Ministry of Education:**
Delivered professional services during the holiday season, supporting the development of learning materials for Level 1 Physics and Earth and Space Science.
- **Professional Development Highlights**
The NZIP PLD team, comprising a core group of five facilitators and eight regional PLD facilitators, supported a wide range of initiatives. Examples include:
 - Eight Level 1 Zoom workshops, accompanied by extensive resources such as lesson plans and practice assessments.

- A new series of tutorials on Python coding, with three Zoom workshops for physics teachers.
 - Regional teachers' meetings across various regions and universities, supporting Level 1 topics and other physics-related areas.
 - Eight new videos on physics demonstrations and three additional videos on practical work for junior levels.
- **Impact Evaluation:**
The PLD programmes' impact has been evaluated by Teaching Development Aotearoa, with feedback from teachers and the wider community being overwhelmingly positive.
 - During the discussion, David Housden mentioned that level 3 physics has more students than level 3 chemistry. He also noted that the funding was until the end of 2025.

Moved by Richard Easter
Seconded by Annika Seppälä

report accepted CARRIED

Financial (Treasurer's) Report

- The report was presented by Treasurer Annette Koo.
 - Note the presented finances relate to 2023.
 - Income - Most sources of income were steady, there was additional income due to a surplus in organising the conference (\$12.5K) and higher than usual interest income (\$9K)
 - Expenses - These are also in line with previous years, noting that awards are made during conference years.
 - There was good use of NEX funds in 2023 but still significantly less than the funding for the year, which accounts for most of the net surplus for the year.
 - Overall, our financial position is strong, with an equity that is over six times our usual annual expenses. This could be used for strategic initiatives of value to our community.
 - The rigorous allocation of operating expenses against the various income streams (NZIP membership, NZIPES subscriptions, NEX funding) is still to be done.

Moved by Richard Easter
Seconded by Joachim Brand

report accepted CARRIED

Election of Officers:

- The following were nominated and elected to the NZIP Council for 2025. No positions were contested, and there were no objections to the elections.
- **Officers:**

Prof. Richard Easter	President
Dr Annika Seppälä	Vice President
Dr Chris Gordon	(Honorary) Secretary
Dr Annette Koo	Treasurer
Prof. Joachim Brand	Immediate Past President
Mr David Housden	NZIPES Chair

- **Other council members:**

Dr Simon Granville (Wellington U and IUPAP)

Dr Natalie Plank (Wellington U)

Dr Jonathan Squire (Otago U)

Prof. Geoff Willmott (Auckland U)

Dr Marcus Wilson (Waikato U)

All nominated by Richard Easther

Council elected unanimously

Registration under the Incorporated Societies Act 2022

- Motion: that NZIP proceeds with reregistering under the Incorporated Societies Act 2022 by reviewing the current constitution, amending where necessary, drafting a new constitution, consulting with Council/Members, obtaining expert advice if required, etc., with the goal of presenting a new constitution to an Extraordinary General Meeting in the first half of 2025.

Moved by Richard Easther

Seconded by David Housden

2025 conference

- It will be at the University of Auckland from July 1st to 3rd, 2025.
- Richard Easther has invited Nicole Bell to be the plenary speaker.
- Quantum Technologies Aotearoa (QTA) will be invited to co-locate their workshop with the NZIP conference.

Marsden Fund

- **Action item:** Richard Easther will contact the New Zealand Institute of Chemistry (NZIC) to make a joint statement with NZIP, expressing concern about the recent changes to the Marsden fund.