

New Zealand Association of Scientists Incorporated

Draft Minutes of the 78th Annual General Meeting of the Association held on Tuesday 22nd October, 2019, 4.50pm Auckland & by Zoom to Dunedin and Wellington

Meeting opened 4.50pm

PRESENT: in Auckland: Heide Friedrich, Craig Stevens, Troy Baisden, Hamish Campbell, Siouxsie Wiles, Shaun Hendy, Kate Hannah, Peter Buchanan, Georgia Carson, Geoff Jameson, Paula Jameson, Jack Clemens.

In Dunedin: Fiona McDonald.

In Wellington: Natalie Robinson

INTRODUCTION: Heide (President) welcomed everyone.

APOLOGIES: Naomi Fleming, Simon Granville, Allen Petrey, Mike Berridge, Philip Yock, Frank Cook, Jack Sommer, John Clare.

MINUTES: The Minutes of the 77th Annual General Meeting held on **Thursday, 15th November 2018** were previously circulated to members and copies were available. Moved (Heide, Craig) that they be taken as a true and accurate record. **Carried *nem. con.***

MATTERS ARISING: No matters arising.

CORRESPONDENCE: None relevant to the AGM.

ANNUAL REPORT: Heide thanked Kate Hannah for organising the very successful “Changing the Culture of Science” workshop held today. Also thanks to Hamish Campbell, Craig Stevens, Siouxsie Wiles and others for their excellent contributions. The issues raised in the workshop will be carried forward by Council. Thank you to Natalie for preparing the financial report. NZAS still has financial challenges e.g. membership and library fee collection and we are behind with NZSR issues. This was Heide’s last AGM as President and she thanked Council for their work in the last year, Craig Stevens for suggesting the role to Heide, and for providing guidance. Heide also thanked Troy Baisden for putting himself forward to be President, and turned the floor over to Troy.

Troy thanked Heide for her efforts as President and said he was impressed with the full line-up of officers nominated for next year. Heide has achieved an enormous amount often behind the scenes including a lot of time spent on membership issues. A number of issues related to science have been addressed, though these are often reactive. Heide is possibly the first President in a while who will be stepping away from Council and not taking on the past-President role. This is well deserved.

In looking ahead Troy said that Council will continue with efforts in changing culture in science using advice from today’s workshop. He said that improving diversity starts with ourselves – so we will look to improving diversity of our membership and Council. Membership recruitment should be redoubled to increase diversity and recruit younger members. Early career researchers and students should be targeted and NZAS needs to support the development of more coherent pathways into science, and mentoring for these members.

When looking back at NZAS achievements over the years we do best at reacting to issues as they come up – and we know the people that we represent appreciate our support. Therefore we must maintain ourselves as a society that represents all scientists in NZ.

Measuring and managing of science by government in NZ remains poor. Our role is to scrutinise government plans and policy and to offer improvements. In the past NZAS has made a unique contribution by running a survey of scientists. This has helped measure the impact of changes in the science system on the science workforce. It is 10 years since the last survey was run. Troy is keen to run another survey soon. Previously, a social scientist had assisted with running the survey but they are now long retired. Therefore, we need to identify an appropriate researcher and means of funding the effort.

FINANCIAL REPORT:

The Treasurer Natalie Robinson has prepared the accounts of the Association, and these were circulated to members by email.

Moved: (Fiona/Heide) that the Annual General Meeting of the NZ Association of Scientists (Inc) approve the 2018-19 accounts of the Association, pending review of the final version by the 2019-20 Council, and reviewing. **Carried *nem. con.***

RESIGNATION OF OFFICERS

Noted with thanks that Mike Berridge (30 years served since 1990 and always a wealth of knowledge), Charlotte Toma (1 year served going on maternity leave), Heide Friedrich (3 years served) will step down from the NZAS Council. Heide thanked them for their many years of service, and contribution to Council.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS AND COUNCIL:

Heide then presented a list of nominations of Officers and Council Members for the 2019-2020 year. The following were declared duly elected:

President	Troy Baisden
Secretary	Fiona McDonald
Treasurer	Natalie Robinson
Membership	Naomi Fleming
Immediate Past-President	vacant
Editor	Allen Petrey

Councillors:	Simon Granville (Webmaster)
	Peter Buchanan (Awards)
	Georgia Carson (Early Career Researcher)
	Shaun Hendy
	Craig Stevens
	Nicola Gaston
	Kate Hannah
	Hamish Campbell

GENERAL BUSINESS: None

The meeting closed at 5.05pm.