



# New Zealand Hydrological Society

## NZHS Annual Report 2017 / 2018

It has been a busy and productive year for the society and it is a pleasure to be able to report back to the membership. The Society's Conference in Napier last year was a success with many excellent papers and posters presented. Hawkes Bay turned it on with great weather over the week including a fabulous and hot field trip day. The conference also realised a profit for our Society, which is always welcome. The Society would like to acknowledge Stephen Swabey from HBRC the Napier conference committee chair, the NZHS Napier conference committee team and On-Cue, the conference organisers, for their excellent work in making the Napier conference a success.

The Technical Branch of the society has also been busy with four workshops held over the last year. The first of the 2017 technical workshops were held in Dunedin in April 2017 with over 100 people in attendance. During the workshop a training session was conducted by our visiting guest from the USGS Kevin Oberg on quality assurance of acoustic flow measurements. Jennifer Leslie from PDP won the Best Emerging Presenter award, which will have her traveling to the Australian Hydrographers Association conference in Canberra this November. Two NEMS workshops were also held later in 2017 the first one focusing on Rating Curves and the second one on Open Channel Flow Measurements. The Technical Branch is continuing its support of the learning and implementation of NEMS standards in our industry. The year finished up with the 2018 Technical Workshop being held in Palmerston North in March with a real focus on Sediment where John Gray from the US provided some excellent in-sight into the world of sediment measurement. The workshop presenters and attendees enjoyed a great field day in the Manawatu region complete with a full array of weather conditions on offer. I am told there was plenty of wind and rain and a flooded river. (Check it out here [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HNN1KU-m1EE&list=UUji1iTUyEGzD8WFMx6ZP - g&t=7s&index=7](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HNN1KU-m1EE&list=UUji1iTUyEGzD8WFMx6ZP-g&t=7s&index=7)). Ethan Coulstan from Greater Wellington took out the Best Emerging Presenter prize at this workshop and will be joining Jennifer in Canberra in November.

Our newsletter "Current" has continued well as an electronic publication. Mike Thompson who has overseen the current publication has indicated he would like to move on from that role and has worked with the Executive to see through a transition in Current's oversight. The new setup involving Raelene our Secretary, Sarah Mager from the Executive and Laura Watts our Assistant Editor is working well. A big thank you from the Society to Mike Thompson for his dedication and oversight of Current. I would like to encourage all members to continue to support Current by your contributions and also to our Journal. We can always do with more papers as this helps our planning for the bi-annual publication of the journal. The special edition of our journal, which incorporated Korean and Australian papers, arising from the 2016 Queenstown conference has been published (Vol 56 Number 2 December 2017). Our Editor is now working on a special issue on sediment transport, which is planned for late next year. There will be more information on this at our upcoming AGM. I would like to thank the efforts of all contributors and reviewers to our journal and our newsletter and encourage you to continue to provide this support. It is your contributions that make these publications a success.

The Society continues to be successful in procuring ongoing sponsorship revenue both for the conference and the Society, and this has helped us fund project grants as well as student grants. It is pleasing that over the years we have been able to improve our ability to fund these grants. The Society

is keen to be able to support and help more students in their hydrologic studies. A big thank you to all the sponsors and supporters for the ongoing support of the Society. Well done to all who have also worked diligently on this as it means a lot to the Society's financial position.

It is my pleasure to advise that the Society was able to support the "Kees Toebes Scholarship" again this year. This has been funded jointly by the NZHS, Professor David Maidment and the Toebes family (Justin Toebes). This scholarship funds the participation of New Zealand students at the Australian Climate and Water Summer Institute 2018 / 2019 - held at ANU in Canberra. The support of Professor Albert van Dijk, the Director of the Summer Institute in Canberra is also acknowledged. This will be a great experience for our students attending and also helps support opportunities for our students and our science. Dr Cornelis (Kees) Toebes - if you were not aware - was one of the founding members of the New Zealand Hydrological Society and contributed significantly to the early hydrological developments in New Zealand. The Society is pleased to be able to honour Dr Toebes again via this scholarship.

The Society has continued to improve its administrative systems and is integrating its membership database with our new updated mail-server. Work continues on improvements to our webpage and in optimising our accounting software. These ongoing developments will help us achieve continued efficiencies and to be able to offer better services to the membership. Our administrator Helen Kinaston resigned from her part-time role in September this year to pursue a new job that better fitted her family circumstances. In the interim, the Executive has engaged On-Cue to provide administrative support to the end of this financial year (March 2019). Ongoing administrative support for the NZHS is an agenda item for the upcoming AGM in Christchurch and our Treasurer Mike Ede, and I would like to discuss the options available before the Executive making decisions on ongoing administrative support. Helen was fantastic in the transition and was kind in giving us ample notice. All information has transitioned to On-Cue, and I would like to express my appreciation to Helen, Mike Ede and Lea from On-Cue for making this possible. We have tried to ensure all documentation and process matters are documented and trackable and transferable for the future. The Society Executive have thanked Helen for her services and wishes her all the best in her new job. I would like to convey my appreciation and to thank Raelene Mercer our Secretary for all the administration overview, Richard Hawke, our Editor for continued work on our journal and Mike Ede our Treasurer in managing the Society's finances and advice to the Executive team. I also would like to acknowledge the support of the whole Executive Team for their contribution to another successful operational year.

Last year's election at the AGM resulted in Raelene Mercer being re-elected as Secretary and Richard Hawke being re-elected as Editor for a two-year term. Two executive members Sarah Mager and Abigail Lovett were re-elected, and we also welcomed David Leong as a new Executive member. Clare Houlbrooke who served the Society for many years did not seek re-election. I would like to acknowledge Clare for all her contributions over the years to the Society. The Society's membership continues to be stable over the last few years with just over 600 members. The Society is always looking to expand its membership base, and I would like to ask all members to encourage their friends, colleagues and students to join the Society, and help promote our mission.

This year's conference is a joint one with the Meteorological Society of New Zealand and is being held in Christchurch from 4 to 7 December 2018. The Society is keen on joint conferences with other water-

related societies as this greatly helps integration and cross-pollination of ideas and knowledge across the water sciences in New Zealand. The conference theme this year is: "The Hydrological Cycle in Changing Times". This is an apt theme showing the changing links between weather and water and its effects on us. The organising committee has compiled an exciting programme for the conference. It is pleasing to note a large number of papers that were submitted for oral presentation at this year's conference. The keynotes, papers and poster presentation look excellent and I encourage and invite you all to attend this conference. It is also particularly pleasing to be back in Christchurch after 12 years (the last conference in Christchurch was in 2006) and to be able to acknowledge and be supportive of Christchurch considering the effects of the earthquakes.

The Society continues to be in a good position financially and the financial reports will be tabled at the upcoming AGM. The Executive has been diligent in how our finances are managed and our strong financial position gives us the confidence to undertake and plan further projects and to make more opportunities accessible for funding and supporting various undertakings that promote our science.

At the AGM this year there are several positions which are up for election i.e. President, Treasurer and two or three Executive members as per our Constitution. I am looking forward to seeing you at the AGM. The Executive team are keen to get input from all our members, so we can continually progress our science. Please feel free to contact any of us. I would personally like to thank all who have contributed to the successful running of the Society over the last year.

Joseph Thomas

President