

NZHS Annual Report 2022 / 2023

It is my pleasure to be able to report back to the membership on another busy and successful year for the Society. This annual report provides an overview to the members of key Society activities and undertakings over the last year and some updates on the upcoming conference. The Society has continued to function well over the year. The ongoing administrative support for the Society provided by On-Cue also continues to deliver efficiencies and improvements to our services both to our members and our key sponsors. I would like to acknowledge and thank Conny Tschritter, our Secretary, for the administration overview and commitment over the year. Sincere appreciation and thank you to Richard Hawke, who continues his excellent work as the Editor for the Society, and Mike Ede, our Treasurer, for managing the Society's finances diligently and for his advice to the executive team.

After a "wild" hydrological start to the year there is a paper in the upcoming Journal on the rainfall in Auckland. I know Richard is disappointed that the printing of the Journal has been slow this year, but he assures me the Journal is coming. The papers in Issue 1 of the Journal cover: probability analysis of lithology descriptions for probabilistic delineation of well capture zones; upscaling point-scale lysimeter drainage measurements; and historical measurements on Lake Joyce, Taylor Valley, Antarctica; so certainly, a variety of hydrological topics. Thanks to Richard (Editor), Laura Keenen (Assistant Editor) and Jo Dickson (for her layout and production expertise) for all their mahi. The Society's newsletter "Current" is also tracking well. I would like to offer my sincere thanks to all the contributors to and reviewers of our publications. This year is also – Richard hopes – the beginning of the transition. Richard has been our Editor since 2003 and he is intending to pass, or at least begin to pass, the baton this year.

Technical hydrology has had a great past year with our technical workshop progressing compared to the previous year. Initially we thought we may have to cancel the annual workshop again after the Hawke's Bay region was devastated by Cyclone Gabrielle. After holding our breath, Napier City were still keen to host our event and even had Mayoral approval to bring guests to town just 14 days after the event. We had a record turnout with over 150 registrations. This event just keeps building every year. The field day took a different turn this year with no rivers suitable for a regatta, and a bus trip was provided for attendees to see the flood damage first hand in the Esk Valley, a very sobering experience for all. The AHA (Australian Hydrographers Association) were back in action with a conference in May; their first conference in 5 years. We had four emerging technicians award winners from our previous workshops attend and put on a good representation of technical hydrology in NZ. The NZ Diploma in Field Hydrology is also growing in strength with over 30 trainees in the process of completing this diploma and more being enrolled each month.

Last year's election at the AGM resulted in me being re-elected President, with Mike Ede re-elected to the position of Treasurer. Two Executive members of the Society, i.e. MS Srinivasan and Louise Weaver, were re-elected, and we also welcomed a new executive member, Lee Burbery. I would like to thank and acknowledge Helen Rutter who was in the Executive team for many years for her contribution and services to the Society. The continuity of knowledge and experience in the Executive team is very positive for the continued strength and growth of the Society. I would like to thank all the membership for the confidence in the Executive and note that we consider it a privilege to serve the Society. The Executive is fully committed to the Society's core purpose in furthering the science of hydrology and its application to the understanding and management of New Zealand's water resources.

The Society has established and maintained long term relationships with regular sponsors and continues to develop relationships with new sponsors. This has enabled the Society to continue being successful in procuring revenue both for the conference and the Society. Sponsorship support continues to help fund project grants as well as student grants. The Society would like to acknowledge and thank all the sponsors and supporters for the ongoing support of the Society over the years. Well done and thank-you to everyone who has worked diligently on securing various sponsorship for the Society and its conference as it means a lot to the strength of the Society's financial position and reputation. The financial strength of the Society gives us confidence to undertake projects and to continue to provide support for a range of projects and other grants including support for students. We are keen for suggestions from the membership how we can further enhance this area.

Last year's conference was held in Ōtepoti /Dunedin at the University of Otago. The Society would like to thank

and acknowledge Sarah Mager and the Dunedin team including our joint conference partners The Meteorological Society of New Zealand and OnCue (our conference support) for running a fantastic, fun, exciting and successful 2022 conference. I would also like to acknowledge and thank the University of Otago for their venue sponsorship. At the Ōtepoti /Dunedin conference, we had the pleasure of awarding the Society's Life Membership award to Barry Fahey for his long contribution to hydrology in New Zealand and to the Society over many years. Barry Fahey was also the recipient of the Society's Outstanding Achievement Award in 2000. The Society's Outstanding Achievement Awards for 2022 were also presented to John Bright and Jeff McDonnell. The recipients well deserved these awards for their contribution in their expert areas of hydrology over many years. It was also pleasing to see an Early Career Scientist award made to Andy Pearson. This award should be a real positive and encouraging one for all our budding hydrologists. The Society also took the opportunity to recognise a range of people for their Services to the New Zealand Hydrological Society. The recipients of the services awards were Jo Dickson, Clare Houlbrooke, Mike Ede, Maurice Duncan, Tim Davie, Mike Thompson, Raelene Mercer and myself (I was not on the Committee who decided on this!). The Society would welcome more nominations from our members for these award to further encourage and attract scientists to hydrology.

This year's conference is in Tāmaki Makaurau/Auckland and is a joint conference between NZHS/Australasian Groundwater and has been organised by NZHS and the New Zealand and Australian Chapters of the International Association of Hydrogeologist (IAH). The conference is being held from 28 November to 1 December 2023 at the Auckland University of Technology – City Campus. The conference theme is “*Manaaki Wai (caring for our water): learning from the past, adapting for the future*”. It captures the idea that water is a living entity, with its own mauri (life force) that needs to be respected and cared for, which is central to te ao Māori (Māori worldview). There are over 300 delegates registered with a wide range of papers from both New Zealand and Australia. I would like to encourage as many of our members to attend and support this conference. It is also pleasing to be back in our largest city, Auckland after 18 years! (re: the last conference in Auckland was in 2005).

I am pleased to report that the Society continues to be in a sound financial position and the financial reports will be tabled at the upcoming AGM. The current membership stands at 599 which is a positive despite the events over the last few years. The Executive continues to be diligent in how our finances are managed, and our strong financial position enables us to undertake and plan projects with confidence and to support various undertakings that promote our science.

At the AGM this year there are several positions which are up for election i.e. Editor, Secretary and three executive members as per our Constitution. I am looking forward to seeing you at the AGM. The executive team are keen to get feedback and input from all our members so we can continually progress our science. Please feel free to contact any of the Executive even if you can't make the conference or AGM with suggestions and ideas to further promote our science. I would also personally like to thank and acknowledge all who have contributed to the successful running of the Society over the last year.

Joseph Thomas
President