

NZHS Annual Report 2016/2017

It is a pleasure to be able to report back to the membership on another busy, productive and successful year. The Society's joint conference in Queenstown last year with the Australian Hydrology and Water Resources Division of the Institute of Engineers Australia which also included the IPENZ Rivers Group was a success. It was pleasing to host many of our colleagues from Australia and international attendees. The Society also took the opportunity to launch the book titled "Advances in New Zealand Freshwater Science" at the conference in Queenstown. This joint publication by the New Zealand Hydrological Society and the New Zealand Freshwater Sciences Society is a great achievement and has been a significant undertaking with voluntary contributions from many. Work of the editors and contributors is greatly appreciated and I urge all members to support this book if you haven't already bought one as it is a valuable addition to our knowledge of freshwater science in New Zealand.

The society is continuing to publish its journals and current newsletter. I thank everyone for the ongoing contributions and encourage authors to submit papers especially to our Journal. A special edition of the journal with the Korean Water Resources Association is in progress. We are also in the early planning stages on updating information on sediment transport – the mode of which is yet to be finalised. There are also discussions on further book possibilities and as usual any volunteers and suggestion on themes/topics would be welcome.

It has also been a busy year with several successful technical workshops run over the year. These have been co-ordinated and run by the Technical Branch of the Society. The NZHS is keen to continue to support workshops and encourages members who may have any ideas to approach any member of the Executive. Having supported several workshops there is already established contacts and organisational procedures to enable workshops to happen hopefully without too onerous an input from the organisers. The Society is committed to helping run workshops, and is keen to offer funding support and welcomes ideas for the coming year.

The Society's membership currently stands at just over 620. The Executive and I are keen to grow our membership further and would welcome more new members. I would like to make a plea to members to encourage their friends & colleagues to join the Society and to help promote our science. I would also ask our academic institution members to encourage more of their students to become members as there are many benefits available to them in the form of project grants, travel grants and society links being a conduit for training and job opportunities. The Society continues to be successful in procuring sponsorship revenue both for the conference and the Society over the last few years and this has helped us fund project grants as well as student grants. Well done to all who have worked diligently on this as it means a lot to the Society's financial position. The Society would also like to offer a big-thank you to all the sponsors and supporters for the ongoing support of the Society.

Last year's election at the AGM resulted in me being re-elected President, with Mike Ede re-elected to the position of Treasurer. The three Executive members of Society i.e. MS Srinivasan, Mike Thompson and Helen Rutter were also re-elected. The Society has been very lucky in the continuity of knowledge and experience in these key positions. I would like to thank the membership for the confidence in the Executive and would like to note that we consider it is a privilege to serve the Society. The Executive is 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 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 confidence to undertake and plan further projects and to make accessible more opportunities e.g. for students and projects.

This year's NZHS annual conference is being held in Napier from 28 November to 1 December 2017 at the Napier Conference Centre. It is great to be back to Napier after 18 years. The conference theme this year is: 'Filling the Knowledge Reservoir'. A great range of oral and poster papers will give everyone an opportunity to learn and gather knowledge on a wide area of hydrology. An excellent range of keynote speakers have been confirmed for the conference. Interesting field trips covering Hawkes Bay hydrology has also been organised. I welcome all of you to attend this very exciting conference.

At the AGM this year there are several positions which are up for election i.e. Secretary, Editor and three executive members. Nominations are welcome from members for any of the positions and if you are unable to come to the AGM please use your proxy so someone attending can vote for you. I encourage all of you to attend the AGM and hear how the Society is going, partake in electing your executives and raise matters and make suggestions. As always the executive team are keen to get input from all our members and please feel free to contact any of us.

The administrative work of the Society continues to be ably handled by Helen Kinaston and it is a pleasure to have someone in this role who is passionate, keen and always looking for opportunities to improve the efficiency of services to our members. It's been a pleasure working with the Executive team and I would like to convey my thanks to all of them for their contributions and work over the past year.

Joseph Thomas
President