

NZHS Annual Report 2020 / 2021

Another extraordinary and challenging year for all of us with the Covid-19 pandemic last year and its re-emergence in the later part of this year. 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. I also hope that this report and update finds all our Society members, family and friends safe and well.

The Society has continued to function well and has kept busy over the last year. We have adapted to function and provide the services to our members with the new normal pandemic environment. Administrative support provided by On-Cue has seen greater efficiency and continued improvements to our services and timely response to queries from our members. Our new website gives us greater opportunity and ability to provide more online information and access to documents and more capacity for further enhancements to our services. Our current accounting system also continues to deliver efficiency in managing our finances. We have also been keeping the membership informed more regularly via short electronic updates every second month on activities and upcoming events and notices. I would like to convey my thanks Raelene Mercer our Secretary for all the administration overview, Richard Hawke for his continued work as Editor and Mike Ede our Treasurer for managing the Society's finances diligently and also advice to the executive team.

The Technical Branch of the society held its annual technical workshop themed "Rising to New Challenges and Changing Conditions" during March in Christchurch and ventured into live streaming for the first time. This live stream enabled our international participation at this event to continue despite the COVID19 restrictions and looks like a feature we will continue with next year. The annual ADCP regatta at the workshop expanded into both Water Quality and Groundwater domains this year also added an extra element to the day. Plans are in place for next year's technical workshop in Napier. The technical branch has also been involved with co-ordinating New Zealand's involvement and financial contributions to the development of QRevInt, which is software to calculate and assess ADCP moving boat gaugings.

Our Journal is going well and since our last conference we have published Volume 60. Issue 2 – Sediment Transport and Volume 61 Issue 1. The Volume 61 Issue 2 a special issue on "Covid research" is also just about ready. The Society's newsletter "Current" is also tracking well. Laura Keenen (Assistant Editor) and Jo Dickson (for her layout and production expertise) are continuing to do a wonderful job in assisting our Editor. It's a milestone this year as the Society celebrates its 60th Anniversary with the Society being formally founded on 25 August 1961. A further publication to celebrate the 60th Anniversary is also about to be delivered. I would like to offer my sincere thanks to all the contributors to this anniversary publication. The publication will build on the "red book" the NZHS published for its 50th anniversary in 2011.

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, Louise Weaver and Helen Rutter were also re-elected. The Society has been very fortunate 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 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. Even with the pandemic the Society continues to support and make available project grants and other support e.g. travel grants. There also continues to be several student projects underway with support from our grants. A big thank you to all the sponsors and supporters for the ongoing support of the Society. Well done to all who have worked diligently on this as it means a lot to the Society's financial position and reputation.

The Society's Conference in Invercargill last year was initially a joint conference with IPENZ Rivers Group but later included the Freshwater Science Society (FSS) as their earlier planned conference got postponed due to the Covid-19 pandemic. The Invercargill conference was a success and had many excellent papers and posters. This conference was also a hybrid conference and offered a virtual option for attendees who could not get to Invercargill. The conference also realised a profit for our Society that is always welcome. A big thank you to Karen Wilson and the whole organising committee who ably organised and ran the conference with support from On-Cue who provided the conference support.

This year's 60th Anniversary Conference is being held at Te Papa in Wellington from 30 November to 3 December. The conference theme this year is: **He kimihanga waiwaiā o te wai māori | 2021: An Essential Freshwater Odyssey**. This is an appropriate theme as it captures the idea of a water management/guardianship journey, from the past to the future, and at the stage we currently find ourselves at with the government's Essential Freshwater reforms and the central concept of Te Mana o te Wai. The conference offers a large and diverse range of papers (both in person and virtual) with an exciting range of keynote speakers. This conference also offers a great opportunity for learning and networking with a wide and varied range of colleagues involved in the water sciences. The Wellington organising committee despite the challenges have put a lot of effort into organising this conference under the current Level 2 requirements. The committee and the conference venue Te Papa are confident in the ability to run the conference safely with the protocols that have been established. This conference is also a hybrid conference with virtual options for presentation and attendance made available. Detailed planning for a fall-back option has been developed by the committee if alert level change happens with the option of a totally virtual conference.

The Society continues to be in a good position financially and the financial reports will be tabled at the upcoming AGM. The current membership stands at 563 which considering the events over the last two years is a positive. The Executive has been diligent in how our finances are managed and being conscious of the Covid-19 pandemic impacts and our expenditure and making savings. I am pleased to note our continued strong financial position. This enables us to continue to undertake and plan further projects and to make accessible more opportunities 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. Secretary, Editor and three executive members as per our Constitution. Nominations are welcome from members for any of the positions. I encourage members who are unable to attend the AGM to please use your proxy. I am looking forward to seeing you at the AGM. Please feel free to contact any of us. A personally thank-you to all who have contributed to the successful running of the Society over the last year. The executive team are keen to get input from all our members so we can continually keep progressing and advancing our science.

Joseph Thomas
President