

NZHS Annual Report 2018 / 2019

It is my pleasure to be able to report back to the membership on a productive, busy and successful year for the Society. The Society's joint Conference with the Meteorological Society in Christchurch was a great success. The quality of the papers and posters presented by members from both Societies was excellent. The joint conference committee has to be congratulated on the excellent programme: from the opening to the enjoyable icebreaker evening at the University Staff Club, to the conference proceedings and the excellent dinner and field trips that followed. It was my pleasure at the conference dinner to present David Painter and Murray Close with the Society's Outstanding Achievement in Hydrology award and to Mark Rodgers the Achievement in Operational Hydrology award. It was pleasing to hear from the MetSoc President who commented to me on how professional our Society is run including the conference. The joint conference realised a profit for our Society and for the Met Society, which is always welcome. The Society would like to acknowledge MS Srinivasan - from NIWA - the conference committee chair, the NZHS/NZMS conference committee team and On-Cue - the conference organisers - for their excellent work in making the Christchurch conference a success.

The Technical Branch of the society held its annual technical workshop during March in Blenheim. This year focussed on water quality and drew a record attendance of over 120 people. Following on from last year the field day again featured rain - have a look at Mic Clayton's interpretation using the following link <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EBC0eWC6raQ>. Mark Randall from Queensland, who had won the best presenter at last year's AHA conference introduced the attendees to STIV (Space Time Image Velocimetry) - river flow gauging by video. The interest in this sparked a follow up training course in July. Proceeds from both workshops enabled three attendees to attend a further advanced training session in Cairns. At the dinner of this event I was pleased to be able to present Michael Cook his Achievement in Operational Hydrology Award.

The Society continues to be successful in procuring ongoing sponsorship revenue both for the conference and for 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. In the 18/19 year, due to the excellent number of project grant applications received, we accepted and granted more than our average yearly project grant budget. The Society is pleased in this way to be able to support and help more students in their hydrologic studies. I would like to thank all the sponsors and supporters for the ongoing support of the Society.

Our newsletter "Current" is continuing well as an electronic publication. Our Secretary, Raelene, and our administration support from On-Cue have diligently gathered articles and features from members. We continue to grow our contact list for Current contributions, but we always welcome contributions from our membership. Laura Watts, our Assistant Editor, is doing a sterling job in checking and proofing articles with Sarah Mager from the Executive doing the final review before Current is published.

The Society Journal continues to go well and we are striving to keep up with our schedule. Our editor Richard Hawke continues to expand our reviewer list and so, if you feel you can contribute in any specific area of hydrological review, Richard is keen to hear from you. As usual, we can always do with more papers as this helps our planning for the bi-annual publication of the journal. To promote and help with expanding and getting more papers the Society is particularly keen for some of the excellent conference papers to be converted to journal papers and to help this we can consider "some ghost writer support". I encourage all members, including the operational hydrologists to consider this. Our editor will be most keen to help with progressing this with you so please make contact with Richard.

As mentioned at last year's AGM Richard and Murray Hicks have planned a special issue on sediment transport. Potential manuscript titles and authors have been identified and the issue is planned for next year.

In addition to the special issue of the Journal Richard is working on a Special Publication to celebrate the fact that 2021 is the 60th Anniversary of the Society! A high-level contents page has been developed and key Theme leads have agreed to oversee the various themes. Please consider it a privilege if you are approached to contribute. I will update the membership with more information on both the sediment special issue and the 60th Anniversary Special publication at our upcoming AGM. I would like to sincerely 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 supported the "Kees Toebes Scholarship" in the 18/19 year. This has been funded jointly by the NZHS, Professor David Maidment, University of Texas, Austin, USA. and the Toebes family (the late Justin Toebes). This scholarship funded the participation of a New Zealand student at the Australian Climate and Water Summer Institute 2018 / 2019 - held at ANU in Canberra. The recipient of the award was Marc G. dela Torre a

doctoral student from Auckland University. The support of Professor Albert van Dijk the Director of the Summer Institute in Canberra is acknowledged. As there is still some money left from the Toebes family contribution so the summer scholarship has been notified again for application in the 19/20 year. 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 again honour Dr Toebes via this scholarship.

On-Cue provide administration support to the Society and this has worked very well over the year. As On-Cue also provide our web support it has greatly helped in integrating our membership database with our new updated mail-server. We have been able to more quickly respond to queries and being able to keep our membership records updated. There has been ongoing work over the year on our new webpage. This will be a more enabling webpage with more functionality with better ability to add more features. We hope to have this operational by the start of the conference in Rotorua. This will further help our administrative work and provide more enhanced service to our membership. I would like to convey my appreciation and to thank Raelene Mercer, our Secretary, for all the administration overview, 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.

I would like to thank the membership for my re-election as President at last year's AGM. It has been a pleasure and privilege to serve you as your President. Mike Ede also was re-elected as Treasurer at the AGM. Two executive members Helen Rutter and MS Srinivasan were re-elected. We also welcomed Louise Weaver from ESR as a new executive member. 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. In addition, we would gladly accept any new ideas to expand our membership base.

This year's Society conference is being held in Rotorua from 3 to 6 December 2019. The conference theme this year is: "Water, above, below and beyond – Challenges facing civilisation". A great theme considering the local and global challenges with water. The conference committee have organised an exciting programme including the keynote speakers for the conference. It is very pleasing to note the large number of papers and posters that were submitted as well to this year's conference. It is also great to back in lovely Rotorua after 12 years - our last conferences in Rotorua were in 1976 and 2006.

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 for funding and supporting various undertakings that promote our science. At this year's AGM, the Executive will signal a relook at our membership categories and fees, which has not been reviewed in years. This will be to look at the efficiency and possible simplification of the large number of membership categories we now have and the financial implications. Any proposed changes will need to be considered at next year's AGM.

At this year's AGM there are several positions 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 many members at the AGM. A big thank you to all of you who have contributed to the successful running of the Society over the last year. The executive team are always keen to get input and feedback from members on all our Society's endeavours so we can continually keep progressing and advancing our science. We look forward to hearing from you, so please do not hesitate to contact any of us.

Joseph Thomas
President