

Minutes of the 2015 AGM of the ORSNZ

Meeting held 25 November 2015 commencing at 12.55pm.

Present: Regan Baucke, Bruce Benseman, John Créquer, Anthony Downward, Oscar Dowson, Kim Frew, Jeffrey Hunter, Corey Kok, Michael Lindahl, Vicky Mabin, Sarah Marshall, Andrew Mason, Mike O'Sullivan, Andy Philpott, Geoff Pritchard, Grant Read, Kevin Ross, Keith Ruddell, Cameron Walker, Golbon Zakeri.

Apologies: Thomas Liddle, John Paynter, David Robb.

Minutes of the previous meeting were accepted as true and accurate.

Matters arising. The new eligibility rules for the Young Practitioner's Prize are now in effect; changes have been made to the Society's website and other literature.

Report of the President. G. Zakeri indicated her intention to remain as President of the ORSNZ for at most two more years, and suggested a President-Elect position be instituted in the latter of those years.

Report of the Treasurer. Paul Rouse has resigned as auditor; the meeting noted its gratitude for his contribution in this role.

Branch Reports. Reports were received from C. Walker (Auckland) and G. Read (Canterbury).

Newsletter/blog. The possible replacement of the Society's newsletter with a blog was discussed. G. Read and B. Benseman emphasized the importance of communications for the Society's members outside Auckland and in non-academic roles. G. Read further noted the advantages of asynchronous publication of articles, and the possibility of students using the blog as an outlet for project work. M. O'Sullivan suggested that the Society's website could be hosted on the same platform as a blog. A. Mason suggested WordPress as a platform, noting that this would likely allow the Society to retain payment capability for conference registrations, potentially at lower cost than the existing facility with the Bank of New Zealand. Two motions were proposed and passed: (i) that a reference group comprising A. Mason, S. Marshall, G. Read, M. O'Sullivan, and V. Mabin be formed to work on the newsletter-blog transition, and report by February 2016; (ii) that expenditure of up to \$5000 be authorised for transfer of existing material to the new platform, and to pay a Wordpress consultant.

Interest groups. There was general support for the idea that the Society's branch structure should be replaced with one of interest groups focused on content rather than location. An electricity interest group (similar to and largely coextensive with the existing EPOC group, which runs its own annual workshop) was suggested by several members as an initial example. Other possibilities include healthcare and soft OR interest groups. V. Mabin cited the Society's constitution and saw no barriers to the abolition of branches and/or Branch Chairs. G. Read saw advantages in the Society's annual conference becoming an agglomeration of more specialist conferences, in that it would be easier for industry members to get time off work to attend on days of interest to them. He also suggested that electricity industry members might prefer to join an EPOC-like interest group rather than ORSNZ. A. Mason noted that the Mailchimp list allows for identified subsets of members. A. Philpott suggested that the Society should support interest group activities financially, although it was generally felt that this would need to be approved on a case-by-case basis. K. Ross and others thought that interest groups should not be created from the top down, but should be allowed to self-organise and apply to Council for recognition and possible funding. A. Mason proposed, and the meeting passed, a motion giving Council discretion to expend Society funds on interest groups.

Next conference. The 2016 and 2017 NZSA conferences will both be in Auckland; it is expected that both will be joint conferences with ORSNZ. A. Philpott pointed out that 2016 will be the Society's 50th year, and suggested that this be noted in conference materials. G. Read queried the costs of national conferences, particularly when held outside Auckland. B. Benseman and C. Walker, however, both expressed appreciation

of joint conferences with NZSA. A. Philpott reported the cost of running the one-day EPOC workshop as about \$1800. A. Mason suggested the possibility of joint ORSNZ/ASOR conferences by electronic link, as ASOR already does for its regional sub-groups in Australia.

Election of officers. The following changes were proposed and passed:

- G. Pritchard succeeds I. Ziedins as Vice President.
- A. Downward succeeds G. Pritchard as Secretary.
- S. Marshall becomes Communications Officer, replacing the Newsletter Editor position previously held by A. Downward.
- A. Raith, A. Philpott, K. Ross, A. Mason, V. Mabin, K. Frew, M. O'Sullivan, G. Read, and C. Walker continue in their Council positions.

No auditor was appointed.

The Branch Chairs are to be renamed Regional Contacts.

C. Walker suggested that Council members have photos on the Society's website.

The meeting closed at 3.55pm (following adjournment from 1.21pm – 2.50pm).