

## NZHS Annual Report 2019 / 2020

I have found this a challenging year given the impacts of Covid-19 at home and at work. I sincerely hope that this annual report and update finds all our Society members, family and friends safe and well. I am pleased to be able to report to the membership that it has been another busy and productive year for the Society. The Society continued to function – albeit with modified modes of communication since the pandemic. Over the 2019/20 financial year virtually all of our activities carried on as normal. Our administrative systems supported by On-Cue - our administration support provider - continues to improve including providing more timely responses and services to you. The continued improvements in our accounting software /system and our website are delivering greater flexibility and capability to us. I would like to thank Raelene Mercer our Secretary for all the administration overview, Richard Hawke for his continued work as Editor and Mike Ede our Treasurer in managing the Society's finances and advice to the executive team.

Our Journal and newsletter "Current" are 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. Issue 1, 2020 of the Journal was late this year due to Covid-19 messing up timeliness and process. Issue 2, 2020 is a Special issue devoted to "Sediment Transport". Richard and Murray Hicks are the joint editors. They are aiming for the Journal to be ready by the end of the year. Richard is also coordinating the preparation of a Special Publication to celebrate the NZHS 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2021. The publication will build on the "red book" the NZHS published for its 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary.

Last year's election at the AGM resulted in Raelene Mercer re-elected Secretary, Richard Hawke being re-elected as Editor, and Sarah Mager being re-elected; all for two-year terms. The Society also welcomed two new executive members - Connie Tschritter and Adam Martin - to the team. A strength of our Society is having an executive team with a mix of new and existing members, which brings new ideas, knowledge and experience to the table. The Society's active membership is about 580 members. Whilst we have had a small drop from just over 600 members previous, this has been a result of sorting out long term inactive members in our records and some dropping off due to Covid-19 pandemic and their circumstance. We always welcome new members and I would like to ask all members to encourage their friends, colleagues and students to join the Society, and help promote the Society and our mission.

The Society has been 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 has decided to continue to support and make available project grants and other support it has offered e.g. travel grants, student support. 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.

The Society's Conference in Rotorua last year was a success and had many excellent papers and posters. The conference also realised a profit for our Society that is always welcome. A big thank you to Peter Blackwood and his team who ably organised and ran the conference with support from On-Cue who provided the conference support.

The Technical Branch of the society held its annual technical workshop during March in Tauranga in what was to be one of the last in person events for a while due to the COVID19 outbreak internationally. Following on from last year's introduction into using video for surface velocity measurements this year's workshop theme was "The Future of Surface Velocity Measurement". At the dinner of this event Marianne Watson was presented with her Achievement in Operational Hydrology Award. Well done and congratulations to Marianne for all her work in the Operational Hydrology field. Plans are in place for next year's technical workshop in Christchurch.

Unfortunately another planned workshop in July on "Modelling and Water allocation" had to be postponed due to the Covid-19 pandemic. We hope to be able to progress this later in 2021. I would like to confirm the Society's ongoing commitment to supporting workshops in the future and we are always open to ideas.

This year's conference is being held in Invercargill from 1 to 4 December 2020. This is the first time the NZHS has had a conference in Invercargill! The conference originally was a joint event involving the IPENZ NZ Rivers Group. However the Covid-19 pandemic resulted in us also seeking the participation of the Freshwater Sciences Society (FSS) as their conference planned for earlier in the year was postponed. It is great that we have common

synergies with other groups and societies and the joint conference Committee have been doing a brilliant job as attested by the large number of registrations as at the time of writing this report. The conference theme this year is: "Weathering the Storm". This is a very appropriate theme considering the challenges we face and are emerging in freshwater hydrology. The conference offers a large and diverse range of papers with an exciting range of keynote speakers. I welcome all of you to attend this very exciting conference which offers a great opportunity for learning and networking with a wide and varied range of colleagues involved in the water sciences.

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 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. President, Treasurer and two or three executive members as per our Constitution. I am looking forward to seeing you at the AGM. The executive team are keen to get input from all our members so we can continually progress our science. Please feel free to contact any of us. I would personally like to thank all who have contributed to the successful running of the Society over the last year.

Joseph Thomas  
President