

NZHS Annual Report 2021 / 2022

It is my pleasure to be able to report back to the membership on another busy year for the Society, despite the ongoing challenges of Covid. This annual report provides an overview to the members of key Society activities and undertakings over the last year. One of the key events for the year was the celebration of the Society's 60th Anniversary Conference in Wellington (30 November - 3 December 2021) which despite the challenges of Covid protocols was well planned and run at Te Papa. It was great that we still had good numbers attending with the added benefit of the virtual option for those that could not be there. A big thank-you and acknowledgment goes to the Conference Committee co-chaired by Richard Hawke and Mike Thompson, the Wellington organising Committee and OnCue the Conference organisers for working through all the uncertainties and making the event happen.

The pandemic has required the Society to adapt and function so it can continue to provide the services to our members in the pandemic environment. The ongoing administrative support provided by On-Cue continues to deliver greater efficiency and improvements to our services and the ability to provide timely response to queries from our members. Our website continues to get improved and is providing better and more online information and access to documents including more capacity for future enhancements to our services. Our accounting system continues to deliver efficiency in managing our finances. The Society membership is also being informed more regularly via short electronic updates every second month on activities and upcoming events and notices. I would like to acknowledge and thank Raelene Mercer our previous Secretary for all the administration overview and commitment over the years. A big thank you to Richard Hawke who continues his excellent work as Editor for the Society and Mike Ede our Treasurer for managing the Society's finances diligently and for his advice to the executive team.

The last year has been tough for technical hydrology with the annual Technical Workshop being cancelled in March due to another COVID breakout. The positive is that the venue have transferred the booking and deposit through to next year so we should be back to normal with a face-to-face event in Napier 28-31 March 2023. We have also just had word that the AHA (Australian Hydrographers Association) are back in action with a conference set for 22-25 May 2023, their first conference in 5 years. We have four emerging technicians award winners from our previous workshops keen and eager to attend this event as part of their award. The NZ Diploma in Field Hydrology is also growing in strength with currently 30 trainees in the process of completing this diploma. This is far greater than the initial annual projections of the number of trainees we would have.

I am pleased that we have already published two issues of our Journal this year. Following on from volume 60(2) – the “orange book” - which celebrated 60 years of the New Zealand Hydrological Society the first issue of 2022 was focussed on “How hydrologists helped respond to the SARS-CoV-2 pandemic”. The issue demonstrated, again, how hydrologists contribute to the knowledge, protection and management of water. Thanks to Richard Hawke and Sam Trowsdale for their effort to get this issue printed. The second issue of the year contained articles covering groundwater-surface water interactions, hydroelectric power potential, groundwater quality, climate change impacts and modelling; so, a good selection of key hydrology issues! Thanks to Richard (Editor), Laura Keenen (Assistant Editor) and Jo Dickson (for her layout and production expertise) for all their mahi. The Society's newsletter “Current” is also tracking well. I would like to offer my sincere thanks to all the contributors to and reviewers of our publications.

Last year's election at the AGM resulted with Conny Tschritter being elected as Secretary, with Richard Hawke re-elected to the position of Editor. Two current executive members of the Society i.e., Sarah Mager and Adam Martin were re-elected, and we also welcomed a new executive member, Rebecca Morris. The Society has been fortunate in the continuity of knowledge and experience in key positions with the added benefit of new Executive members coming in with new views and ideas. I would like to thank the membership of the Society 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.

Long term relationships with regular sponsors and development of relationships with new sponsors has enabled the Society to continue being successful in procuring revenue both for the conference and the Society. Sponsorship support continues to help fund project grants as well as student grants. The Society also continues

to develop and improve details on the range of project and other grants available and is keen for suggestions from membership to further consider other options for expansion in this area. The Society would like to acknowledge and thank all the sponsors and supporters for the ongoing support of the Society over the years. Well done also to all who have worked diligently on securing sponsorship as it means a lot to the Society's financial position and reputation.

At the Society's 60th Anniversary Conference in Wellington we also had the pleasure of awarding several of the Society's Outstanding Achievement Awards. The recipients well deserved these awards for their contribution in their expert areas of hydrology over many eras. The outstanding achievement awards were awarded to Dr Murray Hicks for his contribution in the sediment transport and process field, Dr Li Ping Pang for her work in the area of pathogen removal and transport and Dr Uwe Morgenstern for his work in isotopic and tracer hydrology. It was also pleasing to see an Early Career Scientist award made to William Dench. This award should be a real positive and encouraging one for all our budding hydrologists. The Society would welcome more nominations from members for this award to further encourage and attract scientists to hydrology.

This year's conference (Hydrometsoc22) is a joint one with the Meteorological Society of New Zealand and is being held in University of Otago Ōtepoti / Dunedin campus from 6 to 9 December 2022. The Society supports joint conferences with other water related societies as this greatly helps integration and cross pollination of ideas and knowledge across the water sciences in New Zealand. The conference theme this year is: "*Our water: a taonga in an ever-changing world*" reflects the value of water to Aotearoa New Zealand. The organising committee have compiled an exciting programme for the conference. It is also pleasing to note the large number of papers that were submitted for oral and poster presentation at this year's conference. The keynotes, papers and poster presentation look excellent, and I encourage and invite you all to attend this conference. It is also pleasing to back in Dunedin after 12 years (re; last conference in Dunedin was in 2010).

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 572 which is a positive despite the events over the last few years. 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 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