

Draft minutes of 46th Annual General Meeting of the NZMS

Virtual meeting hosted by AUT (via MS Teams), 1st December 2020.

Present: Boris Baeumer, Alona Ben-Tal, Florian Beyer, Richard Brown, John Butcher, David Bryant, Jiling Cao, Lisa Orloff Clark, Marston Conder, Graham Donovan, Luke Fullard, Steven Galbraith, Rod Gover, Marie Graff, Shaun Hendy (chair), Astrid an Huef, Joerg Hennig, Sam Irvine, Stephen Joe, Vivien Kirk, Carlo Laing, Woei Chet Lim, Michael Lockyer, Tammy Lynch, Stephen Marsland, Gaven Martin, Mark McGuinness, Robert McLachlan, Jeanette McLeod, Rua Murray (minutes), Eamonn O'Brien, Mike Plank, Claire Postlethwaite, Iain Raeburn, Mick Roberts, Jeroen Schillewaert, Dominic Searles, John Shanks, David Simpson, Kerri Spooner, Catherine Hassell Sweatman, Winston Sweatman, Melissa Tacy, Steve Taylor, Tom ter Elst, Christopher Tuffley, Alna van der Merwe, Geertrui Van de Voorde, Graeme Wake, Phil Wilson, Wenjun Zhang

Apologies: Sina Greenwood, Emily Harvey, Fabien Montiel.

Meeting opened: 2.20 pm.

1. Minutes of the 45th Annual General Meeting were accepted.
(Moved from Chair, passed.)
2. There were no matters arising.
3. *Vaughan Jones, in memoriam.* Prof Sir Vaughan Jones, New Zealand's most celebrated mathematician, died tragically this year following a short illness. Prof Marston Conder gave a tribute to Vaughan, noting his Fields medal in 1990, and numerous international and New Zealand honours, including a Knighthood. Vaughan was widely known as a generous friend and colleague. His efforts raised the profile of mathematics in New Zealand, as well as New Zealand mathematics internationally.
4. *President's verbal report.*
Prof Hendy noted that 2020 has been a very hard year, dominated by the Covid-19 pandemic. The Society's business included fallout from proposals to restructure Massey Sciences, with likely loss of jobs of mathematicians. The Society has made submissions on two iterations of proposals, as well as public comment. These developments are particularly distressing in the light of the significant contribution that mathematics has made to the country this year.
Prof Hendy also noted the disproportionate impact that Covid-19 related disruptions are having on early career researchers: honours and masters students are unable to take-up doctoral positions abroad; there is a loss of inflow of overseas graduate students; uptake of postdoctoral positions has been severely limited; beginning faculty without permanent jobs have been at the frontline of position cuts. Prof Hendy emphasised and commended the work that Melissa Tacy has been doing to support the ECR mathematics community.
The President concluded his report by thanking Immediate Past President Vivien

Kirk, and Secretary Rua Murray for picking up a significant portion of the President's workload in 2020. He then announced his intention to step down as President as a result of the demands associated with his ongoing commitments to the mathematical modelling that will continue to support the national Covid-19 response in 2021.

A member thanked the Society, and the President in particular, for the support of Massey staff.

The meeting then accepted the President's report, by electronic ballot.

5. *Treasurer's report.* The report was taken as read, with the Treasurer emphasising that budgets were underspent in 2020 due to Covid-19 related disruptions to student conference travel. Income from the Society's interest bearing investments is falling due to low interest rates. The Treasurer's report was accepted. (Moved from Chair, passed by electronic ballot.)
6. *Appointment of auditors.* The current auditor, Nirmala Nath from the School of Accountancy, Massey University, to be re-appointed as Auditor. (Moved from Chair, passed by electronic ballot.)
7. *Membership Secretary's report.* This was presented (as tabled) and accepted. (Moved from Chair, passed by electronic ballot.)

2020 fees to remain unchanged for 2021. (Moved from Chair, passed by electronic ballot.)

The AGM recorded its thanks to John Shanks for his ongoing service as Membership Secretary. (Moved from Chair, passed by electronic ballot.)

8. *Election of Incoming President and Councillors.*
 - (a) Departing Councillors: the following Council members have completed their terms:
 - Florian Beyer — Otago (2014–2020)
 - Kevin Broughan — Waikato (2017–2020)
 - Vivien Kirk — Auckland (Immediate Past President)
 - Rua Murray — Canterbury (2014–2020)
 - (b) Incoming Vice-President: Prof David Bryant is the only nominee (nom: Boris Baeumer, Vivien Kirk), and is declared elected.
 - (c) Election of Councillors: an election was held for three vacant Council positions. The nominees were:
 - Stephen Joe — Waikato (nom: Woei Chet Lim, Kevin Broughan)
 - Bernd Krauskopf — Auckland (nom: Vivien Kirk, Claire Postlethwaite)

- Dominic Searles — Otago (nom: Florian Beyer, Melissa Tacy)
- Geertrui Van der Voorde — Canterbury (nom: Clemency Montelle, Miguel Moyers-Gonzalez)

The ballot was conducted by anonymous poll in MS Teams, with Michael Lockyer and Rua Murray acting as returning officers. Bernd Krauskopf, Dominic Searles, Geertrui Van der Voorde were elected.

- (d) The President and Secretary explained to the meeting the consequences of a resignation from the Presidency, as detailed in the Society’s constitution. In these circumstances, the Vice-President becomes President until the next AGM and the Council appoints a replacement Vice-President. The term of that Vice-President lasts until the next AGM. Normally, the Vice-Presidency would pass from the Immediate Past President to the Incoming Vice-President immediately after the AGM at which the Incoming Vice-President is elected. The constitution does not specify the course of action to be followed when the Presidency and Vice-Presidency become vacant simultaneously on the date of the AGM. The principles implicit in the constitution suggest that the newly elected Incoming Vice-President becomes President, and that Presidency should last for two years. The Council intends to resolve the situation by Prof Bryant immediately assuming the Presidency, the Council appointing a Vice-President, and the next AGM electing a new Incoming Vice-President (after one year). These actions will allow the normal cycle codified in the constitution to be restored. There is no provision in the constitution for the AGM to elect either an interim President, or a Vice-President other than as Incoming Vice-President (who would then become President after one year). Prof Hendy indicated the Council’s intention to appoint a Vice-President from among the elected Council members. This will create a vacancy in the Council, which the Council can fill by cooption. In these circumstances, the Council prefers to coopt the remaining nominee for regular Council membership, following the election in part (c).

9. *Forthcoming colloquia:*

2021 7-9 December, Canterbury.

2022 VUW.

2023 Joint AMS/NZMS/AustMS meeting. This was planned for Auckland to host (4-8/12/23). However, preliminary organisational steps have been stalled due to the Covid-19 pandemic, and it is presently unclear whether the meeting will go ahead on the planned timeline.

10. Julia Wolf’s 2020 Forder tour was cut short by the deteriorating global situation due to Covid-19, and she returned to the UK in March. It has been agreed with

the LMS that all future Forder and Aitken lectureships will be deferred by one year.

11. The report for the NZJM report was accepted. (Moved from Chair, passed by electronic ballot.)
12. Correspondence (none)
13. General business: Several members had raised for discussion the issue of the requirement for all authors of a paper nominated for the Kalman Prize to provide CVs. Papers attached to the agenda were taken as read. Members were invited to communicate any views on matters raised to the Council (via the Secretary). The incoming Council will review processes for the Kalman Prize prior to the call for nominations in 2021.

A member noted Professor Hendy's service over the last two years, particularly his leadership on the responses to the Massey restructuring. Members in general, and the Council in particular, thank him for his service.

Motion: "The AGM records its thanks to the outgoing Council members, especially Immediate Past President Vivien Kirk." (Moved from Chair, passed by electronic ballot.)

Meeting closed 3.14 pm.