

**Minutes  
IChemE in New Zealand  
Annual General Meeting (AGM)**

**Wednesday 13 May 2020**

**Time:** 17.00 – 18:10 NZ ST  
**Venue:** Online

**Minutes**

**Chair:** Becky Macdonald

**Attendees:** 41 online attendees

**Apologies:** David Platts, Kyle Nicol.

**Welcome**

**1 Minutes of previous meeting**

*Proposed the minutes of the previous AGM held on 29 May 2019 be accepted as a true and fair representation:* Becky Macdonald    *Seconded:* P Slane    *Carried*

**2 Chair report** Becky Macdonald presented the following Chairman's report

**Annual Chair's Report, 2020**

Becky Macdonald CEng FIChemE  
Chair, IChemE in New Zealand

*It has been my privilege to be the Chair of the IChemE in NZ for the past 12 months. The NZ Board continues to be the regional face for IChemE members in our geographically remote part of the world. This is the first time we have convened the AGM in an online forum, which has been necessary due to the current Covid 19 travel restrictions – more on that later.*

*As I look back over the past year, it has obviously been a time of contrast and challenge. The year started in a very ordinary way with the AGM at Waikato University in Hamilton on 29<sup>th</sup> May, and now we are in the middle of a global pandemic.*

*Throughout the first part of the year the various NZ regional committees hosted a range of events including social gatherings, seminars, lectures and site visits (including four informative and educational visits to breweries and distilleries across the country). These various events attracted a members from many industries, with up to 40 people attending. Also, we have been working with Engineering NZ to form a more collaborative relationship, starting with cohosting events.*

*Thank you to all of the board members and regional representatives for the time they volunteer to IChemE. Specific thanks to Greig Wilson who continues to keep a careful eye on the NZ finances. Grieg is also the NZ representative of IChemE Congress where he ensures that the NZ voice is heard. He will talk about this later in the AGM. Also, David Platts, whilst no longer on the Board, continues to have a very active role within IChemE. He is currently a member of the Learned Society Committee, which provides strategic direction on technical matters to the Board of Trustees. It is amazing to have a someone from NZ taking such a key role in IChemE governance. As always Catherine Muldoon, who is our Board Secretary has kept things running seamlessly in the background. Thank you!*

*Over the past few months IChemE in NZ has run considerably fewer events, due to the Covid 19 pandemic that is currently disrupting life around the world. NZ has been in a “lock down” for several weeks impacting not only on the places we work, but also our home life. I have been working from home since the week starting the 23 March, setting up a new “home office” in what was my sewing room. I have acquired a new 9 year old co-worker, who’s working style involves short bursts of intense focus followed by longer bursts of loud and bouncy activity.*

*Covid 19 means that the world is in the middle of a period of great change where we are all having to rapidly adapt. For me working remotely from my colleagues means a lot more video conference and file sharing rather than face to face discussions. For parents balancing working with parenting and home schooling often means working into the evening. On a larger scale, the industries that chemical engineers work in has changed and universities have had to adapt very quickly to deliver much of the academic programme remotely. One local example of this change has been Chemeca 2020, which has been postponed.*

*As I embark on my second year as Chair, we will continue to adapt to a new way of doing things. The Board are looking into online seminars and webinars and how best to deliver these for NZ members. I would like to encourage all members to not only join in events, but lead events that interest you. If there is something you would like to see IChemE in NZ doing, approach one of the Board and we’ll see what we can do to make it happen.*

*Dr Becky Macdonald, C.Eng, FIChemE,  
Chair IChemE in NZ*

### 3 Financials

The 2019 Financial accounts were presented to the members by Hon. Treasurer Greig Wilson. It was noted that consideration had been given to investing in a managed fund but due to the instability in the market the money was reinvested in a term deposit. It was also noted that more should be spent on members if we were making a profit. The regions have a budget that is frequently left unspent. If there are ideas for regions please get in touch with the local representative or any board member to discuss.

*Proposed the accounts be accepted:* Becky Macdonald    *Seconded:* Jenny Culliford  
Put to the vote electronically *carried*

### 4 Elections to the 2020-2021 board

The Chair (2019/2021) - Becky Macdonald  
Deputy Chair – Danielle Lind-Corkill  
Hon Treasurer - Greig Wilson

Board members - Jenny Culliford, David Pearce, Ken Morison

*Proposed election be accepted:* Becky Macdonald                      *Seconded:* Chris Bloore  
Put to the vote electronically *carried*

### Regional group representatives:

Northland – Lisa Julian  
Auckland – Irina Boiarkina  
Waikato/ Bay of Plenty – not filled  
Taranaki – Marc Ramos  
Lower North Island – Nicola Brown  
Wellington – not filled  
Upper South Island – Not filled  
Lower South Island – John McAndrew

Youth Representative – not filled

*Proposed accounts be accepted:* Becky Macdonald                      *Seconded:* Boaz Habib  
Put to the vote electronically *carried*

### 5 COVID-19

Peter Slane updated IChemE's efforts with issues caused by the virus. There were no face to face meetings, training and conferences were no longer happening or being postponed. Training is moving to online.

Some major projects have been put on hold. The update to the database is continuing due to a higher cost to remain with the current database.

Any costs have, and will be reduced where possible. Assistance from governments in various countries has been accessed. In the UK some have been put on Furlough leave.

The Board of Trustees has approved GBP500k of funds can be used. The last resort will be a salary cut.

There has been a knowledge hub for COVID-19 set up on the website with access to webinars and online training.

Here in NZ the regional representatives will start to look at webinars and have access to IChemE's Goto webinar for this.

## **6 Congress**

Greig Wilson is the New Zealand regional representative on Congress. He gave an update on what Congress has been up to in the last year. There are six sessions held each year. There are 32 members at present, with 40 seats available. Last year the focus was project SMART (chartership for members with non accredited degrees), and code of conduct.

Next year the focus will continue to look at project SMART and also CPD, and Code of Conduct.

At the AGM last year, one of the members passed on a comment about CPD and asked how to develop goals. Greig took this feedback to Congress which got picked up on Yammer by the CEO of IChemE. He passed it on to the appropriate person at Rugby who was delighted to get some feedback and is now re-visiting the starting point of CPD.

He encouraged all members to get in touch with him if they had anything they wanted to discuss regarding IChemE.

## **7. AOB**

It is great to see events in Dunedin, considering the smaller numbers of members in the area.

The online AGM webinar has been a success – it should be combined with face to face AGMs in future.

Travel Scholarship, an idea proposed at the last AGM– this was set up but is on hold. The Grand tour speaker is also on hold, Trish Kerin was to visit in March.

It was questioned whether IChemE had run a survey to ask what members wanted. In the past a newsletter has been popular. Some people want to go to events and others may not.

Working in schools was also mentioned and would that be something that could be considered, STEM was to be encouraged. This has been previously put in the member news email for members to sign up to help and the response was low. We have worked with ENZ Future Intech in schools in the past. We would prefer to integrate with an existing framework rather than adding another one.

IChemE is communicating with ENZ on a number of levels and have several joint events with them during the year. NZIFST is another we have strong ties with.

The message to take home was if you have any ideas for events please get in touch with a board member or Catherine or Peter to discuss, we are always happy to receive them.

## **8 Close 18:10**