

Annual Report
for the 160th year

of the

ROYAL SOCIETY OF NZ
WELLINGTON BRANCH
INCORPORATED

Year ended 31 August,
2011

Report for the 160th year of

ROYAL SOCIETY OF NEW ZEALAND
WELLINGTON BRANCH INCORPORATED

Founded July 1851 as the New Zealand Society

Reconstituted November 1867 and renamed the Wellington Philosophical Society

Incorporated in 1868 with the New Zealand Institute Act 1867

Renamed in 1938 as the
Wellington Branch of the Royal Society of New Zealand

Incorporated in 1939 under the Incorporated Societies Act 1908 as the
Wellington Branch of the Royal Society of New Zealand Incorporated

The Society changed its name in 1995 to
Science Wellington Incorporated and then changed in 2001 to
Royal Society of New Zealand Wellington Branch Incorporated

The Branch was registered in 2009 as a Charitable Entity with the
Charities Commission (registration number CC42176)

The Branch is a Regional Constituent Organisation of the Royal Society
Of New Zealand under the Royal Society of New Zealand Act 1997,
Section 14. It is a Committee under Sections 14(2) and 28(3)

P.O. Box 3085, Wellington 6011, New Zealand
www.wellington.rsnz.org

COUNCIL OFFICE BEARERS 2011

PRESIDENT	John Field
VICE-PRESIDENTS	Frank Andrews David Lillis
SECRETARY	David Lillis [to 28 Feb.] Ian West [from 1 March]
TREASURER	Yvonne Curtis
COMMUNICATIONS OFFICER	George Jones
FINANCIAL REVIEWER	Ross Moore
COUNCIL MEMBERS	Robert Persse Lucy Forde Margaret Gordon Ian West
BRANCH'S REPRESENTATIVE FOR RSNZ	Yvonne Curtis

PRESIDENT'S REPORT 2011

Overview

The Wellington Branch goal is “to promote Science and Technology in the Wellington region.” The Branch achieves this through a number of activities. Until April 2011, George Jones provided a free e-mail diary of lectures, radio and television programmes, and events. Since April, this service has been continued by Glean Media. If you have not already subscribed you can do so by emailing a “subscribe to Glean Report” request to gleanmedia@gmail.com

The Branch also produces, when required, a newsletter which features branch and national RSNZ activities.

The Branch supports and co-chairs, along with GNS, Te Papa, Hutt City Council, and Wholly Bagels Lower Hutt, two lectures in Cafe Scientifique style each month. These provide topical sessions. The Branch promotes a regional Book Club by hosting its web site. The Book Club has monthly meetings in Wellington, Johnsonville and the Hutt Valley.

The Branch also holds a number of key lectures during the year. The Branch's premier lecture is The Hudson Lecture. We host other lectures in co-operation with the Royal Society of New Zealand. Often these are lectures by recipients of RSNZ awards.. The Branch's AGM and Dinner is held in October.

The Branch supplies support and an annual prize to the Wellington Regional Science and Technology Fair with which it has had a long association. A member of the Branch Council sits on their Committee.

Council Activity

At the 2010 AGM Graeme Claridge and Ross Moore stood down from Council and we were joined by Ian West, Yvonne Curtis, Robert Persse and Margaret Gordon. Off council, George Jones took up the role of Communications Officer. A Motion was passed at the AGM requiring the Branch to make submission in regards to the inclusion of Humanities in the Royal Society of New Zealand without consultation with the Branches. The Branch submission to the Select Committee confined its objections to matters directly affecting the Branch and members with other concerns were invited to make independent submissions. Several were assisted to make their views known in this manner. Humanities is now included as part of the RSNZ but it is up to each individual Branch if they wish to include Humanities as part of their structure. Currently, Humanities are not part of our Branch Structure.

George Jones stood down as Communications Officer in March due to other commitments and since then Ian West and Ross Moore have been producing irregular updates of Branch notices of meetings or special lectures. The Branch urgently needs a Communications Officer as George has not been able to fulfil this role since February and will not be available to serve in the coming year. The

Council has been continuing work on its relationships with the Book Club and Science Fair and endeavouring to move forward the transcriptions of the Oral History recordings.

Membership

The Treasurer has reviewed and updated the membership database. The Branch has had a slow decrease in membership this year. This is a problem that faces many societies today. As our membership is aging we must recruit new financial members to secure the Branch's future. The Council is continually looking at ways of improving the Branch's profile and in this way increasing its membership. To this end we have updated our website and promotional material for Branch lectures and Cafe Scientifique meetings, although there is still more to do. Through good promotion we hope to increase the membership and ensure continuation of the Branch into the future. If we do not see an increase in membership we may need to review the viability of the Branch.

Branch Branding

The RSNZ has created new branding for the branches which includes logos. The new branding allows each branch to be distinct from the RSNZ and other branches, while still emphasising our unity and common purpose. We hope to be able to start using this branding in the near future.

Financial

The Council has attempted to keep expenses to a minimum during this financial year. By doing so we have staved off a need to increase branch subscriptions. A full financial report by the Treasurer is included in this Annual Report.

Summary

The Council has been active in tidying up many long-term relationships and issues, which will allow the upcoming year to be focused on moving the Branch forward. The Branch is in a good current financial position, although it continues to face the challenge of increasing costs without an increasing membership.

Branch Future

This will be my final term on Branch Council due to work, research and other commitments. Since coming on to the Branch Council I have seen the dedication and devotion of many members to the ideals and purpose of the Branch. I wish the new President and Council success in their efforts to continue to grow the Branch into the future.

I wish you all the best for the coming years.

John Field
Branch President

TREASURER'S REPORT

For the year ended 31 August 2011

This financial year has been one of transition. At the last AGM Ross Moore retired as Treasurer and I took up the role. By agreement I did not take over the books until the end of February which was half way through the financial year. It was more difficult to budget for the year as the loss of Science House as a venue for meetings has required finding new premises and it was not possible to be as sure of costs beforehand.

The year has ended with a substantial surplus, which is pleasing. There have been no new members join in the 2010-2011 financial year and this is reflected in the drop in revenue from subscriptions.

The Science Book Club surplus covers the expected losses of the last few years while the group was purchasing books and DVDs as their resource, on the understanding that the Science Book Club would become self-funding in the long-term.

I would like to thank Ross Moore for his help in the hand over phases and Alison Towers for her accounting support.

Yvonne Curtis
Hon Treasurer
29 September 2011

FINANCIAL REVIEWER'S STATEMENT

For the year ended 31 August 2011

In my opinion, based on the examination of the books and records of the Royal Society of New Zealand Wellington Branch Incorporated, the financial statements of the Branch for the financial year ended 31 August 2011 show the correct operating results for the year and the true financial position as at that date.

V R Moore
Financial Reviewer
5th October

BALANCE SHEET as at 31 AUGUST 2011

Current Assets

Current Account	4,758.82	
Short Term Deposits	23,000.00	
Book Club Bank	<u>701.60</u>	
Total Current Assets		28,460.42

Current Liabilities

Accruals	<u>829.80</u>	
Total Current Liabilities		829.80

Net Assets

General Fund Opening	22,168.27	27,630.62
Retained Earnings – Current year	<u>5,462.35</u>	
Total General Fund		27,630.62

Notes

1. Sundry Income was generated through the sale of two sets of recording equipment originally purchased for the oral history project.
2. Accruals
 - \$125 Book Keeping Services
 - \$575 Room hire for the Fleming and Hudson lectures
 - \$129.80 DVDs for the Science Book Club.

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT for the YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2011

	2011		2010	
	Income	Expenses	Income	Expenses
Membership Subscriptions	4,743.00		4,917.00	
Bank Interest	948.30		650.66	
Donations	156.79		98.10	
Sundry Income	546.00			
AGM & Dinner:				
Income	850.00			
Venue & Equipment Hire	(155.25)			
Refreshments	(1,005.79)			
Net Income/Expenses		311.04	93.28	
Science Book Club:				
Book Club Subscriptions	2549.00			
Book Purchases and Expenses	(659.80)			
Net Income/Expenses	1,889.20		1,074.65	
Lectures & Meetings:				
Room & Equipment Hire	(575.00)			
Other Expenses	(72.50)			
Net Income/Expenses		647.50	1,219.17	
Sci & Tech Fair Prize		1,000.00	700.00	
Communications:				
Printing & Stationery	(456.30)			
Postal Services	(194.50)			
Net Income/Expenses		650.80	1,074.18	
Administration Expenditure:				
Book Keeping Services	(125.00)			
Bank Charges	(86.60)			
Net Income/Expenses		211.60	500.00	
Total Income/Expenses	8,283.29	2,820.94	5,759.04	4,568.00
Net Surplus (Loss)		5,462.35		1,191.04

MEMBERSHIP

As at 31 August 2011

Total 167 (173). The numbers in brackets are as at 31.8.10

Ordinary, Family and Retired members 138 (143)

Life 4 (4)

Emeritus 21 (22)

Honorary 4 (4)

*Indicates a Family Member

Members

Mr F P Andrews

Dr R A Arnold

Mr W M Arnold

Dr S C Bannister

Dr H Barr

Mr Bernard Barry

Mr J J Bartlett

Ms Claire Basham

Dr C Bassett

Mr E G Bassett

Mr John Bathurst

Dr M V Berridge

Dr A G Beu

Dr H M Bibby

Dr B D Bibby

Mr Barry N Blackett

Ms C Bobbett*

Ms M Bobbett*

Dr E Bradford

Ms H Bright*

Miss G L Brown

Mr D C Calhoun

Prof Sir P T Callaghan

Mr D S Capper

Mr N Challands

Dr P Chester*

Dr D A Christoffel

Mr Frank Cook

Ms Kate Coolahan

Mr P R Crowley

Mr J H J Crawford

Mr R S Cretney

Prof. M J Crozier

Prof. N F Curtis*

Mrs Y M Curtis*

Mr J Daniels

Prof. C H Daugherty

Dr Rose G Davies

Dr W W Dickinson

Prof R G Downey

Mr N Dowrick

Dr J R Duncan

Dr B H Easton

Cdr D P Fairfax

Ms K A Fairweather

Mr John Field

Mr Glyn Filer

Dr J E C Flux*

Mrs M Flux*

Mr Murray Forbes

Dr Lucy C Forde

Mr Walter Freitag

Mr Ian Goodwin

Dr M E Gordon

Dr V R Gray

Dr P A Greet*

Mr J G Gregory

Dr A J Haines*

Dr E M Haines*

Prof. J F Harper*

Dr M A Harper*

Dr Sally Hasell

Ms Marilyn Head

Dr D D Heath

Dr Jim Hefford

Dr R H Herzer

Dr J Hickman

Ms G Higgs-West*

Ms L M Horwood

Dr M Ingham

Dr J B Jones

Mr G L Jones

Mr F B Knox

Mr M H Lehner

Mr B J Lett*

Mrs E Lett*

Glenda Lewis

Dr David Lillis

Dr G L Lyon

Dr D V Madle

Dr A Malahoff

Mr E A Mason

Dr V H McCann

Donald S McDonald

Dr A D McEwen*

Dr W M McEwen*

Mrs B McFaden*

Mr P McGavin

Prof Don McGregor

Dr Mark McGuinness
Dr A H McIlraith
Dr W L McLea
Ms A Milburn
Mr D C Mildenhall
Dr I J Miller
Ms B Mitcalfe
Dr Alex Mitchell
Mr Owen M Moore
Dr Syd Moore
Mr V R Moore
Dr E I F Pearce
Ms Suzi Penny
Mr R Persse*
Mr Chris Peterson
Dr E M Poulter*
Dr W L Power
Dr G F Preddey
Dr J I Raine*
Mr C B Rampton
Dr M E Reyners
Dr G F Risk
Mr C J R Robertson
Prof. M K Savage
Dr R I Skinner
Mr Cam Smart
Ms J R Smith
Prof E G C Smith

Dr M J Smith
Dr David D Spurr
Dr M Staines
Dr M K Stewart
Dr R P Suggate
Dr C M Sutton
Dr L D Swindale
Dr J L Tallon
Dr S.C Thompson
Mrs H M Tobin
Dr P Tortell
Prof. Matt Visser
Prof R I Walcott
Ms M Watson*
Mr O Watson*
Mr G J Weir
Prof J B C Wells
Mr Ian F West*
Dr G V M Williams
Mr P R Wood
Dr David Wratt

Emeritus members

Dr K R Allen
Mr K W Cory-Wright
Mr Paul Cotton
Dr J W Dawson
Dr R R Dibble

Dr G W Gibbs
Dr G W Grindley
Dr J R Hulston
Dr D E Hurley
Mr C E Ingham
Mr D Lovatt
Mr W J P Macdonald
Mr R J Munster
Mrs Sheila Natusch
Dr J J Reed
Dr E I Robertson
Mr L J Rollo
Dr T M Skerman
Dr I G Speden
Dr G R Stevens
Dr W A Watters

Honorary members

Mr P C Alve
Dr O Bauer
Dr G G Claridge
Dr R B Miller

Life Members

Mrs H R Hughes
Dr B G McFadgen
Dr D Spiller
Dr G W Yeates

EVENTS

THE HUDSON LECTURE 2011

Fifty Years of Soil Science in Antarctica

Dr Graeme Claridge

Graeme Claridge reviewed his 50 years of involvement in Antarctic Soil research. He discussed the reasons for the directive that led to his first visit to the Antarctic and what was achieved in that and subsequent visits. The soils span an enormous range of ages, from less than 50,000 years to possibly as old as 15 million years. Study of the salts within the soils has shed light on the origin of salt deposits, especially nitrates in other desert areas of the world. The place of Antarctic soils

in the classification of world soils was also discussed.

The lecture, held on 20th July, was attended by 49 people and was followed by a lively discussion and many questions. It was a rare privilege to hear such an elegant synoptical view of a lifetime of work in a single field.

The Hudson Lecture is the RSNZ Wellington Branch's premier annual lecture. It recognises the achievements of the lecturer in the advancement or promotion of science and technology. It honours George Vernon Hudson (1867 - 1946) who was a distinguished amateur naturalist and scientist. An original Fellow of what is now Royal Society of NZ, he was on its Council from 1923 to 1946. He was President of this branch (then Wellington Philosophical Society) in 1900-01 and 1911-12. A formal obituary and photograph appear in the Transactions and Proceedings of the RSNZ **76**: 264 - 266.

RSNZ SIR CHARLES FLEMING LECTURE

Mountain tops to ocean depths: involvement with a range of ecological/environmental issues, mainly in the south .

Emeritus Professor Sir Alan Mark

This lecture was given on the 25th of May and was attended by 90 people. Professor Mark described a lifetime involvement with pure and applied ecological studies of the indigenous upland snow tussock grasslands. This work was aimed at understanding the grassland ecology: its sustainable management and ecosystem services, the impacts of burning and mammalian grazing, and the unpredictably high water yields. This research has been interspersed with shorter-term opportunistic indulgences in ecopolitics including the conservation of indigenous grasslands and associated mountain lands, sustainable lake management (Lakes Manapouri, Monowai and Te Anau), conservation organisations, National Park ecological surveys and long-term monitoring.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Speaker: Dr Graeme Stevens FRSNZ

The AGM of the Branch was held on 27th October, 2010 following the usual dinner. The speaker for this event was Dr Graeme Stevens FRSNZ, formerly Chief Palaeontologist serving with the NZ Geological Survey of DSIR (later Geology Division of DSIR and now GNS Science). His talk was titled: **"Snakestones and Devil's Toenails" - being the life and times of ammonites and belemnites.**

CAFÉ SCIENTIFIQUE

There are two Café Scientifique meeting series organised, one at Te Papa (Wellington) and one at Wholly Bagels (Lower Hutt).

SCIENCE EXPRESS @ TE PAPA

The Science Express discussion group in the Café Scientifique format is held at the Espresso Café on level 4 at Te Papa on the first Thursday evening of the month, proudly supported by GNS Science and the Royal Society of New Zealand, Wellington Branch.

September: The Challenge of the Human Brain	Professor Richard Faull
October: No title given	Lloyd Gearing
November: Challenging ideas of healthy eating	Jennifer Utter
March: Understanding Autism	Professor Jeff Sigafoos
April: Electricity Futures for New Zealand	Dr. J Morgan Williams
May: The Decline of New Zealand Activism	Dr Sandra Grey
June: Geothermal - Energy beneath our feet	Brian White
July: Can Organics feed the World	Steffan Browning
August: Coal, Kyoto and Inconvenient Truths	Mike Isaac

CAFÉ SCIENTIFIQUE HUTT

These Meetings are held at Wholly Bagels, Lower Hutt, on the last Thursday evening of the month, proudly supported by GNS Science, Industrial Research Ltd, Hutt City Council, Wholly Bagels, and the Royal Society of New Zealand, Wellington Branch.

September: The Problem With Happiness	Dan Weijers
October: Hunt For The Higgs - A \$10 Billion Wild Goose Chase?	Dr Shaun Hendy
November: Complementary Cancer Therapies	Dr Shaun Holt
February: The Decline in NZ Activism - Who Cares?	Dr Sandra Grey
March: ... And Accessible Healthcare For All!	Sir Ray Avery
April: Nuclear Energy - What's Hot and What's Not?	Dr. Bernard Barry
May: The Sounds of Science	Dr Mark Poletti
June: The SKA - Could it be New Zealand's?	Dr Melanie Johnston-Hollitt
July: New Zealand's Houses of Horror	Nikki Buckett
August: 2011 International Year of Chemistry	Dr Rob Keyzers
September: World Cup Special - Rugby, Physics & Innovation	Dr Geoff Willmott

RSNZ WELLINGTON BRANCH NON-FICTION BOOK CLUBS

There are three groups operating, two in Wellington and one in Lower Hutt. Monthly meetings are held at a member's house. From January 2012 the Book Clubs will be operating, under the leadership of Marilyn Head, independently of the Wellington Branch and there will no longer be an annual set fee payable to the RSNZ Wellington Branch. The Branch will, however, provide website facilities to the Book Clubs.

THE 47th NIWA WELLINGTON REGIONAL SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY FAIR

Chairman	John Warriner
Science Fair consultants	Lorraine & Richard Warriner
Entries	Gren Higgs
NIWA Liaison	Sylvia Nichol
Programme	Michael Pallin
Accounts	Lesley Young
Royal Society Liaison	John Field
Chief Judge	Gillian Turner
Sponsors and special prizes	Sylvia Nichol, Nick Julian
Secretary	Brian Belworthy
Website coordinators	John Warriner & Gren Higgs
Website Advisor	Tim Price
Victoria University liaison	Dr Gordon Heeley, Suzanne Boniface

The 2011 NIWA Wellington Regional Science and Technology Fair was again very successful with a large number of entries with a pleasing increase in the number of entries from the last three years of high school. Entries were of a very high standard.

The top winners were:

First equal in Class 1	Imogen Graham & Emma Munro	A Hole Lot of ****!	Kelburn Normal School
First Equal in Class 1	Jessie Cartmell	What do Kiwi Kids Eat for Lunch?	Seatoun School
First in Class 2	Lachlan Sim	Treatment of Farm Effluent Using Osmosis	Wellesley College
First in Class 3	Adrina Venayagam	Breath of Life	Tawa College
First in Class 4	Georgia Hulme-Moir	Pests of Whitireia Park	Bishop Viard College
First in Class 5	Cheyaanthan Haran	The effect of Ponni Rice on blood glucose levels	Wellington College

Wellington Branch of the Royal Society of NZ Prize for Best Overall Exhibit:
Cheyaanthan Haran: The effect of Ponni Rice on blood glucose levels.
Wellington College

A full schedule of prize winners can be viewed on the Science Fair website at:
www.sciencefair.org.nz

NIWA WELLINGTON REGIONAL SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY FAIR

A section of the Royal Society of New Zealand Wellington Branch Inc
(A Regional Constituent Organisation of the Royal Society of New Zealand)

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2011

INCOME		EXPENDITURE	
NIWA sponsorship	\$6,500.00	Prizes	\$8,204.81
Other donations	\$5,308.02	Printing	\$2,110.50
<u>Interest</u>	<u>\$294.45</u>	Entertainment	\$1,251.36
		Labour	\$667.00
		Stationery	\$76.77
		Photocopying	\$95.80
		Bank fees	\$0.00
		<u>Miscellaneous</u>	<u>\$53.66</u>
Total Income	\$12,102.47	Total Expenditure	\$12,459.90
Net Income (Loss)	(\$357.43)		

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION AS AT 31 MARCH 2011

ASSETS

Bank account: general fund	\$3,440.74
Bank account HD Gordon Memorial Fund	\$2,441.64
Term Deposit	\$10,000.00

Total Assets **\$15,882.38**

LIABILITIES

Accounts payable	\$261.36
Accrued expenses – un-presented cheque	\$439.17

Total liabilities **\$700.53**

EQUITY

Retained earnings – general fund	\$13,097.64
Retained earnings HD Gordon Memorial Fund	\$2,441.64
Income for the year	<u>(\$357.43)</u>

Total equity **\$15,181.85**

TOTAL LIABILITIES AND EQUITY **\$15,882.38**

The financial accounts and corresponding work papers have been checked by an independent Chartered Accountant, Sandy Dayal and signed on 27 June 2011 as representing an accurate representation of the financial affairs of the Committee for the period.