

New Zealand Computer Society Annual General Meeting

at 158 The Terrace, 5.30 pm Friday 3 October, 2008

1. Meeting opening:

The Chairman welcomed those present, including non-members.

Present:

Don Robertson (President - Chair), Dave Cowman (Deputy President), Paul Matthews (CEO), Evan Simon, Ann McKenzie, Ian Mitchell, Steve Davis, Dave Eggers, Alan McKinnon, Sally Jo Cunningham, Nick Wempe, Chris Gooch, David Hallett, Paul McKittrick, John Fisher, Liz Eastwood, Jo Komisarczuk, Alisdair McKenzie, Graeme Ruthven, Rodney Grindey, Peter Komisarczuk, Jim Whitman, Carl Klitscher, Perce Harpham

2. Apologies:

Ralph Green, John Beatson, Murray Wills, Clare Bowe, Rick Shera, Max George, Darryl Smith, Jim Higgins, Peter Young, Andrew Mason, Richard Donaldson

3. Proxies:

To Don Robertson: Peter Macauley, Bruce McLean, Miles Trent

To Paul Matthews: Alvin Clement, Taufil Omar, David Wood, Mike Harte

To Jo Komisarczuk: David Jukes

Motion: That the apologies be sustained. [Jo Komisarczuk/Ian Mitchell] CARRIED

4. Confirmation of 2007 AGM Minutes:

Dave Cowman asked that his name be added to the list of apologies.

Jo Komisarczuk's name was mis-spelt in item 7.

Motion: That subject to the above two amendments, the minutes of the 2007 AGM as circulated be adopted as a true and correct record of that meeting.

[Elizabeth Eastwood/ Jo Komisarczuk] CARRIED

5. Matters arising from AGM Minutes:

Item 9 General Business: No PowerPoint slides were attached to the minutes. The CEO undertook to make these available to members.

It had also been recommended at the previous AGM that some membership statistics and Key Success Indication statistics be included in the written reports to the AGM in future. The CEO said there were some statistics in the report but not a detailed breakdown.

6. President's Report:

The President's report discussed the following topics regarding the 2007 year:

- Delayed AGM.
- ICT-NZ.
- Representative Structures Working Group for the ICT sector (which resulted in the Digital Development Council and Digital Development Forum).
- Digital Futures Summit attendance.
- Financial, administration and system issues: Sincere thanks were expressed to the CEO and to Diane Cain for their wonderful efforts in working through these difficult issues.
- Resignation of auditors.
- Computer systems and membership/website issues.
- Bylaws review and update.
- IFIP and SEARCC.
- New Chief Executive.
- Central office staff.
- Certification Working Group.
- Computing New Zealand Ltd.
- Scholarships programme.
- Submissions.
- Council electronic voting.
- Unsolicited Electronic Messages Act.

Motion: That the President's report for the year ended 2007 be accepted.

[Dave Cowman/Ian Mitchell]

CARRIED

7. Financial Report for Year 2007:

The CEO gave a presentation overview of the financial situation. During the 2007 year there was a bottom line loss of \$26,784. Much of the financial information reported to the Council during the year had been incorrect. Membership numbers were found to have been dropping significantly and fast, but not being reported accurately. These issues occurred largely because of a systematic failure due to design faults in the core computing system.

The database cleanup was now almost complete with new procedures in place and NZCS were pleased to report that membership is now rising rapidly, including an increasing number of corporate partners. The financial situation was now under control with a positive outlook.

Diane Cain, employed as Finance Manager and now Office Manager, was significantly responsible for identifying what turned out to be the “tip of the iceberg” initially, then working extremely hard to help clean up the issues. The Society owes her a debt of gratitude.

In response to a question from the floor, NZCS no longer offers invigilation of exams.

From a branch level, getting accurate statistics and information on membership is a high priority.

The CEO was able to give members an almost 100% assurance that there was no evidence of defalcation or misappropriation of funds within the NZCS parent entity that could have caused the financial loss.

Motion: That the financial report be accepted.
[Sally Jo Cunningham/Alisdair McKenzie]

CARRIED

Work Programme:

The CEO gave an outline of the current work programme. It could be broken down into five broad areas: intermediate/secondary schools, tertiary education, ICT industry, ICT profession and the wider community. There is a severe shortage of IT skills not just in New Zealand but around the world. He identified some of the factors causing “blockages in the [career] pipeline”, and the large range of measures NZCS was undertaking to address this.

8. Appointment of Auditor:

Motion: That BDO Spicers be appointed as the auditors for 2008.

[Paul Matthews /Steve Davis]

CARRIED

9. General Business:

Motion: That a vote of thanks be extended on behalf of the Society to Paul Matthews as Acting CEO at the end of 2007 for the huge amount of work done by him to resolve the financial, administration and system issues facing the Society at the time.

[Jo Komisarczuk/Nick Wempe]

CARRIED WITH ACCLAMATION

Ian Mitchell drew the attention of members to ICT TOP100, a non-partisan document setting out the views of a group of Auckland IT professionals on policy matters that could lead to growth of the ICT sector. Members were encouraged to download the document from the website www.icctop100.co.nz and lobby election candidates with their views.

There being no further items of general business the meeting was declared closed at 6.44 pm.