NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Notice is hereby given that the 35th Annual General Meeting of the New Zealand Ecological Society (Inc) will be held at the Senior Citizens Clubrooms, Turangi, on Thursday 27 August 1987.

The agenda for this meeting is set out below.

AGENDA

1. Apologies
2. Confirmation of the Minutes of the 34th Annual General Meeting
3. Matters arising from the Minutes
4. Receive balance sheet and statement of accounts
5. Receive Annual Report
6. Rule changes
7. Election of officers
8. Election of Council
9. General Business

J.G. INNES,
FOREST RESEARCH INSTITUTE
PRIVATE BAG
ROTORUA

* West
* Hay
* Fossey
* Norton
* Lee
* Dickinson
* Williams
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Receipts</th>
<th>Payments</th>
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<tr>
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<td>Conference, 1986</td>
<td>Balances at 31 March 1987:</td>
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<td>Bank interest</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Balances at 1 April 1986:</td>
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<tr>
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<td>Conference fund</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Term Deposit, 1986</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sundry</td>
<td>104-68</td>
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NEW ZEALAND ECOLOGICAL SOCIETY INCORPORATED

STATEMENTS OF RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED
31 MARCH 1987
## INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 1987

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<tr>
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<td>Excess expenditure over income: 4,264-47</td>
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<td>'Econuke' expenses</td>
<td>165-71</td>
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<td><strong>Conference Comm. Dep. Fund</strong></td>
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<td><strong>$ 1,927-28</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Westpac Conference Term Deposit, 1987</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>No expenditure; no interest received yet.</td>
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### BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31 MARCH 1987

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<tr>
<th>Liabilities</th>
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<td>Journal in advance</td>
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<td>plus excess income/exp.</td>
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<tr>
<td>BNZ Investment A/C</td>
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<td></td>
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<td>Less excess exp./income</td>
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<tr>
<td>General Fund</td>
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<td>4,264-47</td>
<td>21,905-12</td>
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<td>$26,606-65</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>$26,606-65</td>
</tr>
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</table>
STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTING POLICIES

General Policy

These accounts have been prepared according to the NZ Society of Accountants general accounting principles appropriate for the measurement and reporting of earnings and financial position on a historical basis.

Particular Policies

(a) Stock of Journals has been valued at an estimated realisable value.

(b) Subscriptions in arrears and Journal in arrears have been included at the amount it is thought will be collected.

(c) Depreciation – the filing cabinets have been depreciated at 10% of 27 March 1986 value.

(d) These accounts are for a one-year period ending 31 March 1987.

(e) These policies are unchanged compared to previous years.

Audit Report

I have examined the books and records of the New Zealand Ecological Society and have received satisfactory explanations wherever required. I consider that the attached accounts show a true and correct position of the Society's results for the twelve months ended 31 March 1987 and its position at that date.

H.M. Kirschberg, FCA (Rotorua)

Date

22 July 1987
OVERVIEW

It has been a difficult year for many ecologists in New Zealand. Most of us are directly or indirectly funded by government and if not disrupted by departmental restructuring, then we are upset by the continuing unintelligent application of the user-pays principle to research.

The restructuring has resulted in a Department of Conservation which is to manage and protect all of the nation's natural and historic heritage from the mountain tops to the 12-mile offshore limit, and a Ministry for the Environment that is to ensure a "balance" between conservation and development. The DOC has been given a research arm strong in wildlife and archaeological expertise but with insufficient personnel in botanical, earth science and marine biological fields to fulfil the department's responsibilities. More serious is the physical separation at central office, of DOC's natural resource managers from research staff which our Society, in its submission to the Hon. Russell Marshall (14 August 1985), saw as essential to avoid if wise and scientifically sound management was to be achieved.

Meanwhile our financial managers, and others who believe that the benefits of ecological science can be marketed like butterfat or wallboard, continue to insist on unrealistic charge-out rates for clients who are often not easily identified or cannot pay. Competition is replacing co-operation, information exchange is being stifled, the revenue-earning potential of projects is taking precedence over their scientific merit, and first-rate scientists fritter their time becoming second-rate commercial managers. An avalanche of paper buries productive work at depths that make such work look like an interesting archaeological horizon, and the question of what ecological work needs to be done in the national interest is decided by "market forces". When will somebody convince treasury officials and politicians that solutions to environmental problems cannot be commissioned in the way one can commission a painting, a sculpture or a piece of music? When will they realise that all we can sell are data based on our current (often inadequate) understanding, an information asset that was built from decades of work and which is only renewable in circumstances that foster basic ecological investigation?

All this is made worse by the fact that the report of the Ministerial Working Party on Science and Technology ("Beattie report"), by far the most significant statement on research in New Zealand during the past 50 years, appears to have been largely ignored by Government. The harmful effects of applying the user-pays principle to research that should be done for the good of the country are well documented in Europe and America, and are addressed in this report. Sir David Beattie's committee also specifically asked for an extension of time to address such matters as the research capabilities of the new environmental organisations. Government's failure to respond in any comprehensive manner give a clear message: science counts for little in New Zealand.
On a happier note our Society completed its list of what we see as the important national priorities for ecological research in this country during the next 10 years. It was a nationwide co-operative effort and I thank again all those who contributed. The fact that so far nobody appears to have taken any notice of the list should not deter us - there will be plenty of opportunities to remind those who should know, that there is a consensus of informed opinion that considers certain things need to be done, and the sooner the better.

We should not be afraid of having our work scrutinised and having pressure put upon us to become more accountable. The challenge is to convince our politicians that there is more to research than cost-effectiveness if we are to advance understanding of our environmental problems. We must remind them that serious ecological mistakes are usually more costly to society than either doing the necessary research to avoid such mistakes, or taking notice of information that already exists. We must draw their attention to ecological research that we think has positively influenced human affairs or attitudes in the past and we must reiterate that the continued use of natural resources in a non-sustainable manner will permanently reduce the quality of the environment in which we and our children will live. How can you contribute to this endeavour?

Ian Atkinson
President

MEMBERSHIP

The Society membership at 31 March 1987 was 436. There were 17 new members (11 full, 5 student, 1 introductory) and 27 resignations during the year. There were 162 subscribers to the Journal (68 in New Zealand and 94 overseas).

COUNCIL ACTIVITY

The council met 6 times during the year. All meetings were held in Wellington with the exception of that prior to the AGM which was held at Lincoln. The following appointments were made by Council: Dr Nigel Barlow, Editor; Dr Murray Williams, representative to the Member Bodies' Committee of the Royal Society; Dr Janet Ward, representative to the New Zealand Committee for Water Pollution Research; Dr Matt McGlone and Dr Judith Roper-Lindsay as Newsletter Compilers. Convenors of subcommittees were: AGM and Conference organiser, Dr Mike Butcher; Awards, Dr Carol West; Conservation, Dr Rod Hay; Education, Mrs Pam Williams; Nuclear Issues, Dr Ian Atkinson; Society Records, Mrs Margaret Leslie.

EDITOR'S REPORT (Nigel Barlow)

The transition to new printers, "Swift Print" in Palmerston North, was smooth although the journal was still a little late. Twenty five papers were received, rather more than in previous years. Ten were rejected or returned for major rewriting and four of these were resubmitted for the next volume.
I thank the sub-editors John Gibb, Peter Johnson and Dave Towns, and the referees, for their heroic efforts in keeping the work flowing in such chaotic times.

**NEWSLETTER COMPILERS' REPORT** (Matt McGlone, Judith Roper-Lindsay)

In looking back over the last year's issues, the Newsletter Team takes some quiet satisfaction from the fact that members of the society are providing more items for the Newsletter. As we have repeatedly stressed, the primary function of the Newsletter is communication between members. We thank our correspondents for their efforts.

Our set target of 4 issues a year, on time, has yet to be achieved but we will get there. In the coming year we hope to have a special issue devoted to the impact and implications of the environmental organisation upheaval.

Other changes affect the cost of the Newsletter. It is unlikely that free typing will continue to be provided, but on the other hand, we could start to charge for advertisements of a commercial or fund-raising nature. Ah! the double-edged sword of user-pays....

**REPORT OF THE ROYAL SOCIETY MEMBER BODIES' COMMITTEE REPRESENTATIVE** (Murray Williams)

Perhaps the major contribution of the Royal Society to the welfare of science in New Zealand during the past 12 months was its support of and submissions to the Ministerial Working Party on Science and Technology (The Beattie Report). The role of science within New Zealand is seen by many to be at a crossroads; the application of government's user-pays principle to and revenue earning requirements of state-funded science have raised many questions about the perceived role of science and technology in the future development of our nation. Both the N.Z. Ecological Society and the Royal Society, in the submissions to the Ministerial Working Party highlighted the problems for strategic research within these new economic restraints and the Ministerial Working Party has also seen fit to voice its concern. But what is of even more concern has been the total lack, until now, of any government response to the Ministerial Working Party's report. The message that science and technology has a fundamental role to play in the future development of New Zealand seems not yet to be appreciated by politicians, even despite the title of the Ministerial Working Party's report - "Key to prosperity".

Given this, it is perhaps very timely that the Member Bodies' Committee should have recommended to the Royal Society Council that it sets up a standing committee on public understanding of science. Its role should be to seek ways and means of raising the public's perception of science. Clearly, without a greater public appreciation and support of science and scientists, the funding base, for science in New Zealand could become critical.
We now face the arrival of freshwater marron crayfish, brought into the country against the advice of the Government's own experts. The need to take heed of an ecological perspective on such problems is nowhere better illustrated than the debate about whether or not myxamatosis should be introduced to control rabbits. It is to be hoped that proper assessment procedures cover proposed importations of exotic biota and become part of the law as soon as possible. Related to this is an examination of pest control and administration at a seminar in July at which the Society was represented.

Submissions on protected areas did not form such a large proportion of our activity as in previous years. Nevertheless, we contributed to the volume of material considered by the Secretary for the Environment's working party on West Coast forests in support of important new reserves in that area.

Work was also done on a number of other issues including packaging in the New Zealand environment, nuclear impacts and the spread of possums into Northland.

NEW ZEALAND COMMITTEE FOR WATER POLLUTION RESEARCH AND CONTROL
(Jonet Ward)

In August, 1986, the 20th annual conference of the New Zealand Branch of the Australasian Institute of Mining and Metallurgy was held in Rotorua. NZCEPRC sponsored the session on 'Effect of Mining on Water Quality' chaired by Mrs Helen Hughes, Commissioner for the Environment.

NZCWPRC will sponsor the Water Microbiology section of the combined Australian/New Zealand Microbiology Society meeting in Auckland in May, 1987.

There are plans by Professor Earle, Biotechnology Department, Massey University, to hold a mini international conference on Oxidation Ponds in Palmerston North to coincide with the Water in Society, Water Conference to be held in Dunedin in August 1988.

SOCIETY RECORDS (Margaret Leslie)

The sorting of the various records and other material stored in the Ecological Society's cupboards at Ecology Division, DSIR Lower Hutt was completed. From now on it should only be necessary to maintain the system established. There are three sections of material.

The first section comprises stocks of published material: (i) Proceedings - remaining stocks 1954-1977 (in process of being reduced to a maximum to ten copies per year) and (ii) Journals - all remaining stocks from 1978 to present.

The second section, the Records, are stored in 12 different files: Administration; Books; Conservation and Correspondence; Education and Public Relations; Finance; General Matters - not dealt with by sub-committees; Journal; Meetings - e.g. Conferences; Newsletter; Proceedings; Royal Society Member Bodies; and Sub-committee - which contains those not warranting a permanent category of their own. Lists of material in each category are available.
The Royal Society continues to maintain its role of advising government on matters of science and science policy and it continues to support scientists by means of its award schemes.

NUCLEAR ISSUES (Ian Atkinson)

Earlier in the year the society distributed over 1500 copies of its publication "The environmental consequences to New Zealand of nuclear warfare in the northern hemisphere" to schools at a nominal price per copy.

In the latter part of the year the New Zealand Planning Council instigated a study on the impacts to New Zealand of a major nuclear war. The study has obtained interesting and useful information from many sectors such as health, energy, agriculture, transport and communications and consulted nearly 300 people and organisations. The Council intends to present its report to the Minister for the Environment and publish it in September 1987.

AWARDS (Carol West)

The 1986 student award was won by Wayne Fraser.

A nomination was forwarded for Fellowship of the Royal Society of New Zealand.

The Marsden Medal, Scientists Research Medal, and Hamilton Award were considered but no suitable nominees were available.

CONSERVATION (Rod Hay, convenor, Colin Ogle, Janet Owen)

A year of great change in the "environmental" arena has provided plenty of scope for activities for the conservation sub-committee. Unfortunately, so beset were most members by the effects of such change it was not always possible to do justice to every issue which came to our attention. We concentrated on three main areas; government policy and procedures, exotic biota, and protected areas.

In submissions to the Environment Bill, Conservation Bill and proposed Environmental Assessment Procedures, the Society made a strong plea for recognition of the intrinsic value of New Zealand's natural environment. Our attitude, combined with that of like-minded agencies and individuals, has brought about much needed changes to drafts of these documents. Our submission to the Working Party on Science and Technology and a submission to the Minister of Finance on the likely environmental implications of the new State-owned Enterprises carried what we felt were important messages on behalf of the natural environment and on our understanding and use of it.

A series of submissions and some publicity about proposed and actual introductions of new species of plant and animal has illustrated the need for more work to ensure that full consideration is made of the potential hazards of such introductions. It seems that little has been learnt from past disasters or from recent episodes such as that with chinchilla.
The third section consists of a card index to matters in the Category Files and in the Minutes of Council and General Meetings.

In addition a handbook for use of President and Secretary has been compiled which gives quick reference to Rules and practices and precedents established by previous Councils.

ANNUAL CONFERENCE 1986

The 34th Annual Conference was held at Lincoln College from 2-5 September 1986. There was an above average number of registrants, 210. The conference began for many on Monday 1 September with a new-look, muddy boot field trip; a one day survey of Kowhai-Lords Bush led by Dr Colin Meurk. This was an interesting and enjoyable way to begin the week's conference activities and a style of field trip worth repeating. The symposium on Moas, Mammals and Climate was very successful integrating a diverse range of scientific fields. Contemporary thinking on the subject of the symposium was summarised in a thought provoking two day programme expertly introduced by Graeme Caughley's initial review.

The general conference programme was as follows:

Tuesday  
Symposium  
Wine and cheese evening including a debate

Wednesday  
Symposium  
Poster session  
Workshops  
Symposium synthesis  
Annual Dinner

Thursday  
Contributed papers  
Excursion to Canterbury Museum  
AGM

Friday  
Contributed papers.

Papers presented at the symposium, were:

G Caughley  
Introductory review

McGlone  
Vegetation and climatic change over the past three millennia.

Grant  
A model for the late Holocene histories and interactions of climate, erosion, alluvial sedimentation, vegetation, polynesians and animals.
McFadgen

Depositional episodes in late Holocene coastal deposits in New Zealand

McSaveney & Whitehouse

Anthropic erosion in the Canterbury mountain lands.

Basher, Tonkin & Daley

Erosion and plant succession in a high rainfall area of Central Westland

Holdaway & Braithwaite

New Zealand's prehuman avian ecology: A scenario

Luckens

Habitat preferences of Dinorniformes deduced from gastrolithic evidence

Atkinson & Greenwood

Moa-plant relationships

Duncan & Holdaway

Footprint pressures of moas and ungulates

Clout & Hay

The importance of avian herbivores in New Zealand forests

Braithwaite & Holdaway

A reconstruction of Harpagornis moorei, top predator in the moa world

Bathgate

Downturn in rimu (Dacrydium, cupressinum) recruitment and diameter growth between 1700-1900 AD

Stewart & Rose

Age structure and regeneration dynamics of Libocedrus bidwilli stands, Camp Creek, Westland, New Zealand

Norton & Ogden

Review of NZ dendrochronology in relation to past climates

Payton

The role of possums in rata-kamahi forest mortality in Westland

Rose, Harrison & Platt

Composition and distribution of alpine grassland communities of Wapiti Lake, Fiordland, N.Z.

Wardle & Stewart

Modification of pristine Fiordland forests by deer and vegetation recovery following control

Mark

Vegetation responses under opposing trends of red deer influence in two habitats in S.W. South Island

The excursion to Canterbury museum on Thursday afternoon was informative and complemented the symposium papers. A moa/man presentation was hosted by Michael Trotter, Beverly McCulloch and Colin Burrows and participants were able to handle moa bones and see reconstructions of the birds.
The poster session, formally held in the hour after lunch on Wednesday, but available for people to peruse throughout, was a valuable addition to the Conference. Many stimulating discussions started there. Posters were prepared by:

**Blaschke**  Vegetation-site relationships in inland Taranaki hill country

**Davis & Bellingham**  Mapping of estuarine vegetation in the Hokianga

**Frazer**  Reproductive biology of the rabbit in Central Otago

**Halloy, Keogh & Vides**  Divaricating shrubs: an outside perspective

**McGwen**  BRC's directory of people with knowledge about the biology of various ecological districts

**Mitchell**  A new approach to interpreting species-climate interactions

**Montegue**  Little penguin food studies

**Parkes**  The diet of feral goats from adjacent high and low density herds in the Motu River, Raukumara State Forest Park

**Simpson & Myers**  WERI (Wetlands of Ecological and Representative Importance) - The New Zealand Wetlands Inventory

**Spurr**  Effect of 1080 poisoning of possums on bird populations in Westland National Park

**Thomson**  Diet of feral pigs in Urewera National Park

**Tilley & Moller**  Honeydew

**Various**  Deer - vegetation - soils of Fiordland

**Wardle**  Divaricating shrubs

**Williams**  The dynamics of managed rabbit populations on pastoral farmland

The workshops on Wednesday afternoon run concurrently, were very well attended. The nature of some of the topics meant that we could have spent a day on each alone rather than the scheduled one and a half hours. All prompted discussion and further action. Workshop topics were:
1. The contribution of science to wild animal management. Led by Peter Logan.


3. The new high school biology syllabus. Led by Eric Scott


Papers presented in the contributed papers sections on Thursday and Friday were:

McQueen
Browsers and growth form of shrubs

Batcheler
Evidence of moa browsing from the distribution of deciduous and toxic woody plants

Horn
Moa tracks: an extant legacy from an extinct species

Collins
The relationships between landform, soils and vegetation in South Westland terrace rimu forests

Merton
The ecology of two south Westland pakihi mires

Baxter
Secondary succession following logging in West Coast terrace rimu forests

Bray & Burke
Forest regeneration dynamics in Golden Bay, New Zealand

Watt
Pine invasion in indigenous forest

Keenan
The ecology and management of *Northfagus* spp. and *Libocedrus bidwilli* on Banks Peninsula

Dzieciolowski
Wildlife research planning and coordination - A European perspective

Fraser
Rabbits in Central Otago - what is the real problem?

Challis
Are the white-tailed deer on Stewart Island controllable?

Murphy
The effect of supplementary feeding on mainland and island populations of mice in the Marlborough Sounds

Mills, Lee & Lavers
Competition and interaction between deer and tākaha for food in Fiordland
Montague

The management of black swan (*Cygnus atratus*) damage using behavioural models.

Davis

Demography of the N.Z. shore plover population on Rangatira Island.

Burrows

Seed trapping in lowland forest.

Moller & Tilley

Honeydew and its use by birds and insects.

Timmins, Atkinson & Ogle

Management of Mana Island, Wellington as a 'nature park'.

In all, a good balance of subjects was covered in the contributed papers and interest sustained to the last.

The wine and cheese evening featured a new innovation, an Oxford Union style debate which was very entertaining for all and something to be retained in future years.

The 1986 Conference was ably organised by Mike Butcher with help from other Christchurch ecologists and Lincoln College. The great success of the conference was due to the hard work and organisational abilities of these people and Mike Rudge who conceived and executed the idea of the symposium. The success was also due to the people who contributed papers, posters and workshops who put 'sufficient meat' on the 'programme bones' to generate and maintain interest.
CONSTITUTIONAL CHANGES:

1. A roll-over system for Councillors

Background

The 1985/86 Council embarked upon discussions about the size of Council, the cost of servicing Council, the distribution of the workload amongst Councillors, and the length of service of Councillors. These discussions were part of the periodic reviews which Councils undertake of their operation and efficiency.

Some of these issues were highlighted in Newsletter 45, and in case you don't recall these, that newsletter article is reproduced here.

"COUNCIL NEEDS SOME FEEDBACK!

Are our AGM's democratic enough for you? Do you ever get the feeling that the annual election of officers and councillors is a put-up job? Do you think some people have stayed on the Society Council too long? Is there a case for a maximum term for a councillor? Is our Council too large? These are some of the questions your present Council is addressing and upon which your response and opinion is sought. When it comes to the annual election of officers and councillors, our AGM fits a very common mould - one in which there is a dislike of the necessity of a ballot. Take the election of councillors as an example: nominations are called for whereupon the secretary leaps up to advise that the following list of serving councillors seek re-election. Their names are then written up on the board. "Any further nominations?" asks the President. "I nominate ....." comes the reply. "Seconded" someone yells, and another name is added to the list.

This goes on several times over until someone with limited patience screams "I move that nominations be closed". "Seconded" responds half the audience and a sigh of relief descends.

The President then advises that we have no rules that limit the size of Council, whereupon everyone agrees that all nominees should henceforth be councillors - and let's move on to general business.

This year, council comprises 22 persons, about 5% of our total membership. It meets 5-7 times a year, and there is a considerable expense in administratively servicing such a large number of people meeting as frequently. Although we don't pay travelling costs (that has, for years, been "buried" within some of our employers' budgets) there is also a lot of money being spent bringing the large executive together - and who is to say that in our more "user-pays" world we won't have to meet more of those costs ourselves?
It is not an unreasonable question to ask whether our Society needs such a large Council. Advocates of large Councils sometimes argue that they provide more opportunity for people to become councillors and so do their bit for their Society. But our Society seems to be characterised by some people doing a lot of work; Mike Rudge’s recent analysis of Society officer’s effort showed that 36% of the mere 123 people who have served the Society since its inception 35 years ago, have served for 3-5 years, and 18% for longer periods (17 years in the case of life member John Gibb). Another argument in favour of large Councils is that the workload can be widely spread.

On the other hand, small Councils I have been associated with in other organisations tend to work harder, faster and with a great esprit than do large bodies. And meeting attendance is usually better with smaller groups in my experience.

No doubt you can think of pros and cons for small and large executive bodies. The important point is what do you think our Society should have?

Mike Rudge, the Doyen of the present Council, has been giving some thought to the issues I have raised and has proposed a damned good idea. He notes that the President and Vice-President are limited by our rules to a term of no more than two years in succession. His suggestion is to apply similar rules to councillors. For example, councillors could be voted on for an initial period of, say 2 years, and they could follow that with a further 2 year term if re-nominated and re-elected. But after that they have to step aside and are ineligible for re-election for a minimum period of 2 years.

There are of course, many variations of this theme, such as varying the term of the initial election, that of the second election and the duration of ineligibility. But the salient point is that the length of service on Council is limited.

Implicit in Mike’s suggestion is that Council should be of a set size. There is no real problem with this, for the constitution of our Society allows Council to co-opt for special tasks, as it has done in the past. Furthermore, there is the possibility for the annual election of half of the Council, thus ensuring there are always a number of “old hands” on Council to ease in the new members.

The point of this communication is to ask you, the members, to give some thought to how you think the Society’s executive should be elected, and how many you think a Society of about 450 members should have on its executive. Mike Rudge’s suggestion is but one – there is certainly room for more, and Council seeks your suggestion. Please drop a line to the Secretary outlining your views – Council wants to reflect the views of the membership.”
There were no negative responses to these ideas, and accordingly, your 1986/87 Council has seen fit to promote three basic changes, and place before the 1987 AGM the necessary constitutional changes. These changes are:

(i) to limit the size of Council in direct relation to the number of Society members;
(ii) to have the elected term for Councillors extended from one year to two; and
(iii) to limit the length of continuous service of Councillors in the same way as the terms of Presidents and Vice-Presidents are restricted.

It is intended that (ii) shall be introduced in such a way as to ensure that only half the Councillors commence their two-year term in any given year. In this way, a true roll-over system is introduced and any year's Council will contain some Councillors with at least one year's experience. This is seen as providing much needed continuity between successive Councils. If the AGM approves the constitutional changes detailed below, your President will seek the agreement of the meeting to allow four existing Councillors to be re-appointed for a one-year term, while the remaining Council vacancies would be filled for the new two-year term.

Rule Changes

1. Moved Murray Williams, Seconded Rod Hay
   'That Rule 6(a) be amended to read:
   "The Council shall consist of the following:-
   (i) The officers except the Hon. Auditor.
   (ii) The immediate past President.\[500\]
   (iii) Two financial members per 100 financial members of the Society, and pro rata, elected by the Annual General Meeting"'

   **Explanation**

   This will fix the size of the Council in direct relation to the total membership. For a membership of 395, it would allow 7 Councillors, for a 435 membership, 8 Councillors.

2. Moved Murray Williams, Seconded Rod Hay
   'That a new Rule, to be numbered 6(e), be inserted in the rules, and shall read:
   "The members of the Council shall be elected to serve a term of two years."

   **Explanation**

   To redefine the term of a Councillor and thus prepare the way for a roll-over system of Councillor representation to provide continuity between successive Councils.
3. Moved Murray Williams, Seconded Rod Hay

'That existing rule 6(e) be renumbered 6(f) and be amended to read:

"All officers and members of the Council shall be eligible for immediate re-election, PROVIDED ALWAYS that:

(i) no person having held the same office either of President, or Vice-President for two successive years shall be eligible for immediate re-election to that office; and

(ii) no person having been a member of the Council for two consecutive terms shall be eligible for re-election as a member of the Council until a further period of two years has elapsed"

Explanation

This introduces a restricted service clause for Council membership and defines a period of ineligibility for further membership. The purpose is to encourage a wide involvement of the membership in the affairs of Council and to provide more opportunities for this to take place.

4. Moved Murray Williams, Seconded Rod Hay

'That existing Rule 6(f) be renumbered Rule 6(g)
and That existing Rule 6(g) be renumbered Rule 6(h)
and That existing Rule 6(h) be renumbered Rule 6(i)
and That existing Rule 6(i) be renumbered Rule 6(j)'

Explanation

Simple renumbering of existing Rules as a consequence of the insertion of a new rule as Rule 6(e).

2. Changes related to the appointment of Auditor

At present the Auditor, who is an Officer of the Society, is supposed to be "nominated by Members of the Society at the Annual General Meeting..." (Rule 6(a)).

This is in fact impractical since if a new Treasurer is appointed, he/she must go out and find a suitable auditor in their home town. This isn't fast. It would be better if the auditor were to be appointed by Council.

Changes are required to four rules to accommodate this.

Suggested new rules:

6(d) Candidates for positions as Officers, except the Editor, Royal Society Member Bodies' Committee Representative and the Auditor, or as members of the Council, shall be nominated by members of the Society at the Annual General Meeting....etc.
6(g) (old 6(g) new 6(h)) The President, Vice-president, Secretary, Treasurer (or Secretary-Treasurer) and councillors shall take office two months after the close of the Annual General Meeting at which they are elected. The Editor, Royal Society Member Bodies' Committee Representative and Auditor shall take office immediately on appointment. These Officers and the Councillors shall have full control of the management of the Society except where otherwise provided in these rules.

7(c) Second sentence - The Hon. Auditor shall be appointed each year by the new Council and a reappointment in case of a casual vacancy can be made by Council as required.

8(a) (ii) Elect the Officers and Council for ensuing year.

Council thanks Margaret Leslie for discovering this anomaly and wording new rules to cover it.

\[ 4 \times \frac{\$250}{\text{tfr.}} = \frac{\$1000}{\text{tfr.}} \times 4 = 4000 \]