

The Executive Committee in 2022:

Richard Northey (President from May 2022), Janet Copsey (Vice-President from May 2022), Amy Malcolm (President from November 2020 until May 2022), Karen Thompson (Treasurer), David Abbott, Paul Gilberd, Eva Tollemache, Rachael Yang and ex-officio member Jody Clarke as the Executive Officer. Five Executive Committee meetings were held over the year.

Membership

The current membership stands at 415. Because of the ongoing uncertainty relating to Covid-19, the decision was made not to seek membership renewals for this financial year or to solicit donations in the same period. The pandemic meant the Society's event programme could not be delivered except for the 2021 AGM although members were invited to events run by the University. All memberships were extended without extra charge by a year.

Membership Feedback

Last year the Society Executive surveyed members to learn more about what they valued. Sixty-two responses were received. The most prominent reasons for joining the Society were to keep in touch with what was happening at the University and to stay connected to, and support, the University community. Members valued being invited to events and receiving communications. Ingenio was the most valued, followed by the @auckland and Society e-newsletters.

The Executive has analysed the survey results and discussed possible future roles for the Society. These discussions within the Executive and with the University will continue through to mid-2023, with the aim of the Executive making recommendations to our membership about the best way forward by the 2023 AGM. All members are invited to be part of these discussions and make their interest known to an Executive Committee member so they can be included. Some of the options to be considered are: continuing much as in the past but not duplicating the activities of Alumni Relations or; a more informal "Friends of the University type group that we would advocate and provide feedback to Alumni Relations and other sections of the University; or even winding up the Society.

Supporting the University Community

The Society contributed \$500 towards the cash prize for the Doctoral winner of the 2022 Three Minute Thesis competition. This year's winner was Trevyn Toone, a Marine Science PhD candidate, with his thesis title '*Restoration and Recovery of Green-lipped Mussels*'.

Support from the University

As in previous years, the Alumni Relations team has provided considerable support to the Society through the Executive Officer, Jody Clarke and the Treasurer, Karen Thompson, who holds the position of Associate Director, Alumni Relations and Engagement.

Events

Highlights included:

- Winners of the Three Minute Thesis online event in March
- Taumata: Distinguished Alumni Award celebration in June
- Mayoral Candidates Debate in September

- Golden Graduates lunch in October

No Society Salon events took place this year, but members may have specific ideas for next year.

Thanks to Retiring Executive Committee President

In May this year Amy Malcolm took up a new position at AUT and elected to stand down as President of the Society. Amy was President from November 2020 and continues to be an Executive Committee Member, and we are very grateful for her past and continuing work.

My thanks also to Vice-President Janet and the other Committee Members David, Paul, Eva, and Rachel and to our support staff, Jody and Karen.