

Newsletter June/July 2010



Recently we were shocked to hear about the sad loss suffered by Brian, Rowena and Richard Marshall. Brian and Rowena's daughter, Christine, tragically passed away after a motor vehicle accident in Grahamstown. The Society, friends and colleagues wish them strength in these difficult times and want to ensure then that they are in our prayers and thoughts.

Secondly, our thoughts and prayers are with Rodney Owen and his family. Rodney, we wish you a speedy recovery.

Conference – 13 – 16 June 2010

("Aquatic biodiversity and climate change – an arid region perspective")

The conference at Augrabies National Park (13 – 16 June 2010) was well attended and the level of presentations was of the highest standard. We want to congratulate all presenters and urge the young scientists to keep up the wonderful work. The supervisors of the students are recognised for their inputs. The feeling during the conference was unanimous – aquatic sciences and its research is strong and doing well.

We want to thank the plenary presenters for their stimulating and in-depth reviews of the topics they discussed. It was wonderful to have such an esteemed group present at the conference – Prof Paul Skelton, Prof Janine Adams, Dr Jackie King, Dr Carin van Ginkel and Dr Ndeke Musee.

The "Committee of three" had a difficult task in awarding the prizes for the best student presentations. In the end, the first prize went to Tarryn Botha with Michelle

Soekoe and James McCafferty in second and third spots in a closely contested race. In the poster presentation, Nina Woods was awarded a well-deserved first prize.

Journal

I want refer you to Mike Coke's report in the minutes of the AGM. We are confident that the journal is growing and urge society members to publish at least once a year in the journal. We eagerly await the first impact factor to be released – Mike will inform us as soon as it is known. We further hope that NISC's publishing collaboration with Taylor and Francis will enhance the profile of the journal. The promised electronic manuscript-handling system is not in place yet, but when this happens, it is likely to improve both the speed and visibility of the refereeing and publishing process, and thereby should put our journal on a better footing.

Our thanks and gratitude is extended to Mike for the excellent work as Honorary Editor of the journal.

Finances and membership

A total of 179 invoices have been issued in early 2010 and this include invoices to the 102 paid up members of 2009, 15 new members and 62 people who were members at different stages from 2003-2008. Of all the invoices to date, 94 have been paid comprising of 68 current members, 2 life members, 8 previous members that rejoined the society and 15 new members. Our finances look very healthy (refer to report in the minutes) and it was mentioned that we have already paid almost all the major expenses of the 2010 conference.

We want to thank our paid up members, and we are looking forward to receive the payments of those who are not. For queries contact Nico (nicos@uj.ac.za).

We want to thank Nico for his hard work at keeping the finances and books in order.

Conference 2011

As you are well aware, the conference for 2011 will be hosted in the Phongola region. The suggested theme for the conference is "Sustainable utilisation of southern African aquatic resources". As no dates are available yet, it was decided to keep it during the

winter holidays. Nico will look at the conference venue and send the dates as soon as it is finalised.

“Change of the guard”

It is the end of my term as President of the Society. I want to take the opportunity to thank all members for their support and loyalty during the past three years. With your positive contributions and the help from the Exco, it was a pleasant experience. My wishes are that the Society will grow in stature and that members will use the structures to engage in debates and discussions to the benefit of all.

I want to thank Prof Johan van Vuren (University of Johannesburg) for housing the secretariat of the Society in his Department. All office space, time from staff and student and IT facilities was used to run the day-to-day administration of the society and for that, we are grateful.

Dr Jan Roos will resume his duties as President at the end of July. To the new Exco, have a great time. I am sure that the members will keep on supporting the Society.

The Exco for the next term:

President:	Dr Jan Roos
Vice President:	Prof Janine Adams
Honorary Secretary:	Dr Paul Fouché
Honorary Treasurer:	Prof Nico Smit
Honorary Editor:	Mr Mike Coke
Webmaster:	Mr Mike Silberbauer
Additional Member:	Prof Victor Wepener