

AUCKLAND BRANCH
CHAIRMAN'S REPORT
2019

Since our last AGM - at the 2018 Council Meeting, the Auckland Branch took a remit that essentially reversed the 2017 decision to centralise the resources to National Office. We succeeded in that, and continued to hold the view that National must work within their 60% of member's subscriptions as we as a Branch, must work within our 40%.

We as a Branch, must constantly review our activities and work within our budget. Over the last decade we have done this by rigorously controlling expenses:

Trade Me
Forward Buying postage
Reducing meeting frequency
Seeking more economic venues

This year we will go to Council arguing that this Association must start planning for a future of reduced membership and reduced income. We must tailor our services to our members needs so that we remain relevant and earn their subscriptions.

The Auckland Branch committee is at crisis point. We have simply run out of people who are able and willing to undertake the work required to maintain the functioning of the Branch. Those amongst you must help us find a solution.

I am indebted to Brian Lewis who has agreed to step into the Chairs role with Larry Robins agreeing to support him as Vice Chair. If the committee is in agreement I will accept being co-opted on to the committee as Immediate Past Chair to provide continuity.

I closing I thank the branch for its support and encouragement. You are very lucky to have the committee you have. They have been very active in looking after your best interests. As an example, they are the only branch committee that use Skype to cross examine the President of the organisation after each board meeting to make sure they are well informed on the associations business.

This is only possible because of the exceptional President we have, who makes himself available for these inquisitions. Do not mistake this degree of co-operation for agreement on all issues. The committee is independent in thought, as is the President, and there is a healthy contest of ideas which will hopefully produce carefully thought out decisions at a national level.

The branch has been blessed with 25 years of outstanding secretaries. Jane Greenslade who left a very sound branch when I became Chairman. She was followed by Hilary Vautier and currently Adrienne Dodge. I cannot express in words the debt this branch owes these ladies.

Mark Leys
Chairman