

AUCKLAND BRANCH
CHAIRMAN'S REPORT
2018

Whilst I have traditionally reviewed the Branch's activity over the past year, this year I want to focus on the future of your Branch.

There are clear signs that we are in an organisation going off into the sunset. The challenge is to adapt to what is a very foreseeable future.

The signs are that Branch meetings are shrinking, we are unable to get people to join the committee, our over 80's group is growing at an alarming rate and the group in the 60+ bracket to do the work seems to have vanished.

We may try a different approach to meet with our members to overcome the traffic and mobility issues that greatly contribute to the decline.

The other area of immediate concern is the fact that our National Office appears to be incapable of operating within its budget. They have used the production of the 'Futures' paper from the Waikato branch as an excuse to promote their wish to increase the subs and take capital from the Branches.

In the Committee's view, this is a very counterproductive approach. Any organisation in our situation needs to adapt by DOWNSIZING its operation and size to match its reducing membership. We simply cannot operate as at present and expect the remaining membership to pick up a larger share of the running costs. The approach taken to-date and proposed for the future can only lead to one outcome. An accelerated decline in the organisation.

The Branch for many years has managed its affairs with great care and prudence so when the situation arose we could administer an orderly decline.

If last year's Council decision remains both unchallenged and unchanged, National Office will effectively take \$45,000 from Auckland's reserves. It will destroy our ability to retain paid staff to perform the work they have traditionally performed.

In our view it is unreasonable for National Office, who already take 60% of our membership subs, to now take any surpluses that we have made or will make in the future, just because they have no ability to stick within their own budget.

It is our responsibility to administer the Branch within the 40% and their responsibility to operate the National Function within the 60%.

Their proposed model punishes any Branch that fails to spend every dollar in the year it is generated and to cover future deficits with increased subs.

If Council's decision is not reversed, I for one, will be heading for the door. I want no part as an office holder, let alone a member, of an organisation that operates in such a fashion.

Mark Leys
Auckland Chairman