

# SPIRITUALISM NEW ZEALAND

1<sup>st</sup> Annual General Meeting

Held at Silverstream Retreat, Upper Hutt

3 August 2018

Meeting opened by the National President, Joanne Duncan, 7.12pm.

**Opening prayer:** Karena Dixon.

**Present:** Alethea Wilkin, Amy Stott, Anne Pedersen, Anne Roughton (Treasurer), Annette Brodie, Arthur Plumpton, Barbara Hand (Registrar), Brenda Laursen, Darlene Nicholls, Diane Thomson, Gaeila Wester, Jane Stephens, Janette Powell, Janice Feutz, Jennifer Unwin, Joanne Duncan (Chair), Karena Dixon, Kate Winters, Liz Finlay, Lyn Herriot, Lynette O'Connor, Matariki Maaka, Richard Parker, Sally Cruse, Stephen Hyde, Sue Boyle, Suzanne Gibbs, Tonni Pedersen (Secretary), Val Johnstone, Valerie Wilkin

Organisations represented at the AGM were: Christchurch Spiritualist Church, Hastings Spiritualist Church, Oasis Centre, Petone Spiritualist Church, South Auckland Spiritualist Church, Spirit Wings, Upper Spiritualist Church, Wings of Light Spiritual Sanctuary.

**Apologies:** Rosamund Holcroft (Kapiti Spiritual Awareness Centre), Val Game (Healing the Journey of the Soul), Sharon Jose (Morrinsville Spiritualist Church), Sabena Roberts, Jenny Kearns

*Moved to accept: Tonni Pedersen                      Seconded: Arthur Plumpton                      Unanimous*

Joanne Duncan introduced the Officers of the Board to the participants, and thanked the former Vice-President (Suzanne Gibbs), and Mike Thorn for their contribution to the Board work.

**Minutes of SCNZ™ 41<sup>st</sup> National Council:** Joanne Duncan proposed that the minutes from the SCNZ™ 41<sup>st</sup> National Council be accepted as a true and correct record.

*Moved to accept: Barbara Hand                      Seconded: Suzanne Gibbs                      Unanimous*

**Matters arising:** None.

## **Reports:**

Joanne Duncan read her President's Report (copy attached).

*Moved to accept: Tonni Pedersen                      Seconded: Lyn Herriot                      Unanimous*

Anne Roughton explained various parts of her Financial Report (copy attached).

*Moved to accept: Tonni Pedersen                      Seconded: Barbara Hand                      Unanimous*

Anne Roughton moved to leave the subscriptions un-changed, except remove the initial discount applied to individual members, transitioning from SCNZ™.

*Moved to accept: Anne Roughton                      Seconded: Tonni Pedersen                      Unanimous*

Anne Roughton proposed that Rob Foster be re-appointed as our auditor.

*Moved: Anne Roughton                      Seconded: Suzanne Gibbs                      Unanimous*

Barbara Hand spoke to her Registrar's Report (copy attached), mentioning that it has been a year of learning and challenges and emphasising that:

- the people who do the "road-trips" operate on a cost-recovery basis rather than money-making, and it is about promoting Spiritualism New Zealand
- a focus for the coming year will be to promote ourselves to organisations and to offer webinars (with a member's discount)
- volunteers to help with Spiritualism New Zealand, eg in relation to Facebook, Word-press, etc, are welcome, you don't have to be on the Board to help.

*Moved to accept: Barbara Hand*

*Seconded: Tonni Pedersen*

*Unanimous*

Anne Roughton spoke to her Healing Report (copy attached).

*Moved to accept: Tonni Pedersen*

*Seconded: Diane Thomson*

*Unanimous*

### **Board Nominations:**

<b>Position</b>	<b>Nominee</b>	<b>Nominator</b>	<b>Secunder</b>
President*	Joanne Duncan	Anne Roughton	Barbara Hand
Vice President	Susan Diana Boyle	Barbara Hand	Joanne Duncan
Secretary	Tonni Bent Pedersen	Anne Pedersen	Richard Parker
Treasurer*	Anne Roughton	Barbara Hand	Joanne Duncan
Registrar*	Barbara Hand	Joanne Duncan	Anne Roughton
Board Member	Anne Pedersen	Tonni Bent Pedersen	Richard Parker
Board Member	Sabena Roberts	Joanne Duncan	Barbara Hand
Board Member	Richard Parker	Gail Payne	Suzanne Gibbs
Board Member	Karena W Dixon	Susan Louise Kirker	Joanne Duncan

\*Financial signatory

*Moved to elect all nominees: Joanne Duncan*

*Seconded: Jenny Unwin*

*Unanimous*

Arthur Plumpton sought clarification about the 3-year term of office and expressed concern that there is not a "staggered replacement" of officers. Joanne, Barbara, and Tonni advised that this was a deliberate decision and that further information could be provided about the reasoning. Arthur asked that rather than hold up the meeting, an explanation be added to the minutes.

### **General Business:**

Suzanne Gibbs asked how many of the "old" SCNZ churches are now paid up members of Spiritualism New Zealand. Joanne Duncan confirmed that each of the "old" SCNZ churches are organisational members of Spiritualism New Zealand except for South Napier.

Sally Cruse asked how the change from SCNZ to SNZ came about, and what happened to the SCNZ. Joanne Duncan and Barbara Hand explained that the SCNZ Act is unchanged and still applies. What we did was to review our constitution to enable us to open up to individuals as well as a range of spiritually-aligned organisations in order to expand our membership base and secure a more stable future. A key part of that process was to re-brand ourselves as Spiritualism New Zealand. As a legal entity we are still the Spiritualist Church of New Zealand, trading as Spiritualism New Zealand.

Meeting closed 8.02pm

**Closing Prayer:** Karena Dixon

## **Explanation for term of Board membership**

The Board policy states that:

Board members shall serve for a three-year term and may be re-elected for a further two (2) terms. No Board member may serve for more than three consecutive terms. Any Board member completing three consecutive terms must stand down for at least one (1) year before becoming eligible for re-election to the Board.

When formulating the Board policy, including the length of Board membership, we were very much aware of the risks associated with having the same people running the organisation on an open-ended basis. We looked at the constitutions of many other registered charities to see how they managed length of service, etc. There were a number of different ways of managing this aspect of committee membership and we considered all of them. In the end, we decided to set a maximum length of consecutive service (nine years) for any one Board member. This was due to the need for stability during our early 'start-up' years. Having the term of Board membership in a policy rather than the constitution makes it easier to change to a staggered replacement clause once we have had the opportunity to further develop our membership base and are sure of our ability to attract depth in Board membership.