

## President's Report – AGM, 16 August 2019

This has been a year of growth, learning and connecting with others. Our treasurer, Anne Roughton, and Registrar, Barbara Hand, will provide detail in their reports but in the meantime there are some particular achievements I want to touch on.

**Newsletter:** We have 750 subscribers to our newsletter which is a testament to Barbara's hard work as well as the connections we make at the face-to-face workshops. The newsletter is an opportunity for our members to profile their organisation, any activities they are offering (whether as an individual or organisation), and to share any news of general interest.

**On-line webinars:** This year we set up and ran a series of webinars as a way of reaching out to our members and providing opportunities for spiritual development. This was a new initiative for us as we didn't have any previous experience running webinars but we jumped right in and had a go. Well, what a wonderful response we had and we will now look at recruiting new presenters and growing the range of topics we can offer.

**Face-to-face workshops:** We have run face-to-face workshops in Taupo, Hastings, Christchurch, Hamilton and Nelson. At each of these we have met wonderful people and have come away enthused and motivated, and wondering how we can squeeze in more weekends so that we can return as well as visit new areas.

Financially, we are in a good position having made a small surplus of income over expenditure and Anne will talk more about that in her report. What I do want to emphasise is that we make a strong effort to keep the costs of our activities as low as possible to make them accessible to people. When we travel to various areas around the country to run weekend workshops we budget for a loss. Our prime motivation is to support and promote our organisation members as well as Spiritualism New Zealand.

During a trip to Dunedin last month I learnt some interesting facts that are relevant to where we are at as an organisation today. In 1907, the National Association of Spiritualists of New Zealand was formed. Then in 1914, the NAS became the National Association of Spiritualist Churches of New Zealand. The name changed again in 1923 to the Spiritualist Church of New Zealand. In 2017 we transitioned to Spiritualism New Zealand which has just about taken us full circle to where we started from, ie a national body for all spiritualists and those aligning with our seven principles. It is clear that as an organisation we will continue to evolve and that in years to come, others will look back and see this most recent transformation as just another step in our collective spiritual journey.

At this, our second AGM as Spiritualism New Zealand, it is wonderful to be able to stand in front of a group of our members from around the country. Obviously there are other members who are not able to join us in person and over the next year we will be exploring how we can use technology to link them in. All of our current Board members are remaining in place and this is an opportunity to publicly thank them for the many hours of time they put in to keep the organisation going. The Board is a diverse group of people from around the country with a love of Spirit and desire to ensure our philosophy continues to be shared with all we come in contact with. In some ways I have the easiest job but that is only because the others are doing all the work – Sue as vice-president, Anne R as treasurer, Barbara as registrar (which encompasses so much more than just managing membership applications), all of whom are based in the Wellington region, Tonni as secretary (supported by Anne P) from Hastings, Karena as our representative in Auckland and Richard as our representative in Christchurch. You are such an inspiring group of people to work with.

Joanne Duncan, President