

President's Report – AGM, 3 August 2018

What a wonderful year we have had since transitioning to a new look and feel for our amazing organisation and people. Barbara Hand, our membership registrar and promoter extraordinaire will talk about our growth in membership, and ideas for moving forward. Anne Roughton, our meticulous and money-savvy treasurer will provide detail about our financial situation. What I want to acknowledge is the journey we have all been on, the wonderful people we have met along the way who have been generous with their time, skills and enthusiasm, and the way it has all come together, culminating in this first AGM as Spiritualism New Zealand and the opportunity to come together as a community. Our thoughts go out to our members who are not able to join us in person and we look forward to future opportunities like this when they will be able to participate.

From the time we identified a desire and need to change through to this moment we have overcome a few challenges, pushed ourselves beyond our comfort zone and been held accountable by our original church members. What has held us together and given us the motivation and inspiration to keep going has been our love of Spirit, our calling to be of service to anyone seeking an understanding of what it means to be a spiritual being in a physical body and our recognition that there are so many more tools and mechanisms available today to help us make connections with like-minded people than we have had access to previously.

Before we move on to our more business-like matters, I would like to acknowledge the contribution of some individuals, without whom we wouldn't be here today. The advice and guidance from our solicitors, Johnston Lawrence, was invaluable when it came to revising our constitution and getting it accepted by Charities Services. They fully embraced our intent and the value of what we wanted to do. Our original member churches – thank you so much for your faith in our vision and the courage you showed in approving a new way of being.

To the people who put their hands up to form a transitional governing committee to steer us through to this point – your hard work and commitment is beyond measure. In particular I would like to move a vote of thanks to Tonni Pedersen for his faithful minute taking, to Anne Roughton for her careful stewardship of our finances as well as managing the sub-committee for spiritual healers and their training programme, to Barbara Hand for her tireless efforts and full-time involvement in keeping our newsletter, blogs and website going as well as the promotional tours she has organised, to Richard Parker, Anne Pedersen, Sabena Roberts and Karena Dixon for their unstinting support and commitment, not forgetting Karen Garner and Janice Feutz who recently resigned from the Board. Janice and Karen were a wonderful sounding board for many of our ideas. In particular, it was Janice's business mapping expertise that gave us the confidence to back our spiritual instincts. Finally I would like to thank Diane Thomson, Barbara's partner, who has done so much in the background to support our efforts.

Joanne Duncan, President

