

President's Report – AGM, 11 August 2021

This year we have focused on four particular projects:

1. Ongoing development of new content and resources for our website, as well as giving it a fresh look and feel - Barbara will talk more about that in her report.
2. Progressing content of our Healing Manual. This forms the basis of our training programme for spiritual healers and has been a labour of love for Anne Roughton and others on the healing subcommittee.
3. Preparing for our upcoming retreat at the Vaughan Park Retreat Centre in Auckland. As you may recall, thanks to Covid we had to cancel last year's retreat so the September 2021 retreat will be even more special.
4. A code of ethics / standards of practice for mediums. This needs a little more work before we will be in a position to share it more widely.

Although we haven't been out and about as much over the past year, we did manage to squeeze in two weekends of workshops, at the South Auckland and Nelson Spiritualist Churches. In addition, Sue Boyle and I were invited to work on platform at the Hastings and Napier Spiritualist Churches. These were all good opportunities to connect in person with beautiful, like-minded people. Zoom has provided us with the means to reach out to a wide range of people across the country for our weekly meditation session and webinars, (and our AGMs) but nothing matches getting together face to face. Looking forward to next year, there is a strong possibility we will be able to hold the 2022 retreat in Christchurch which hopefully would make it easier for those in the South Island to participate.

Our newsletter subscriber list continues to grow as do our Facebook followers and Individual Members. In relation to our Organisation Members we provide support in various ways ranging from advice and guidance for committees through to events that help to attract new members and/or help with the development of existing members. We would like to encourage all members to make increased use of the Events Page on the SNZ website and to also share your local events to the SNZ Facebook page.

As you will see when we look at the financial accounts, this year we have a surplus of income over expenditure of \$2,576. This is due to the fact that our activities over the year were at a lower level than would normally have been the case.

With regard to Board members, this year is the end of the first 3-year term for a number of us. We are all willing to put ourselves forward for a second 3-year term so once we have worked through the various reports, we will be confirming those nominations. This is also the year that Karena Dixon is stepping down from the Board. Karena has a long history with the South Auckland Spiritualist Church as well as the national body. Very simply, we will miss her greatly. Thank you, Karena, for your steady, calming presence and your wise counsel.

A new nominee for the Board is Pauline Bliss. Pauline lives rurally, ten minutes out of Tapawera in Tasman District. She has attended the Nelson Spiritualist Church for a number of years, sat in circle, developed as a medium/platform worker and is a financial member of both the Nelson Church and SNZ. Some of you will know Pauline from the weekly meditations and/or previous retreats.

I am immensely grateful that the other existing Board members are staying in place. They are all amazing people, generous in sharing their knowledge and time, and they make it easy to be President. They keep me on track and are an inspiring group of people to work with.

Thank you for attending our fourth AGM as Spiritualism New Zealand.

Joanne Duncan, President

