

President Report – AGM May 2023

It is with pleasure that I present the 40th Annual Report to members of the NZ Amateur Rock'n' Roll Association

At long last we managed to finally hold our two National competitions, be it in differing years. The planning leading up to the competition weekends was intense for the clubs and your executive, who worked closely with the teams from River Rockers Whanganui and Drifters in the leadup to the weekends with monthly and fortnightly meetings.

The national competitions ran like clockwork thanks to the expertise of the officials who gave their time freely for the love of our sport but also so they can give back to assist others grow and enjoy.

Senior Nationals were held at Whanganui, the Friday night atmosphere was electric, and it was heartwarming to see everyone so happy and keen to get back on the dance floor.

Junior Nationals held in Hamilton were just as exciting, all our junior members, competing or not, did themselves proud as did the clubs supporting all dancers throughout the weekend.

To the two host clubs River Rockers Whanganui and Drifters your enthusiasm was contagious, and you all worked extremely hard to ensure the weekends were a success. On behalf of your executive and fellow clubs we thank you for your commitment to Rock N Roll.

The Executive held so many meetings via zoom we have lost count, we did manage to get together as a team on four occasions in Auckland, Wellington, Whanganui and Hamilton with the latter being prior to the National competitions.

It has been yet another challenging year for us all, with many clubs reporting a drop in numbers as result of the Covid pandemic. It has always been the executives aim to assist our members through this and any other challenging situation and we have tried our very best.

Moving forward we all need to find ways to assist our clubs to rebuild and to attract and hold new members, but to do this we need your ideas, energy and support. The executive have increased our use of social media however, not everyone uses these forums. The BIG question of how we can grow our sport will be one of the topics we hope to discuss at the Promotion Group zoom meetings planned to re start in mid-June.

One thought is to open the Promotion meetings to all members and not just club representatives. We encourage every member to express their views and ideas but do ask that it is done in a respectful way. The negative comments keep coming via social media, and we welcome them to join us and allow us the courtesy to discuss their ideas in an open forum, among members who are also passionate about Rock N Roll and where we can all debate, agree or disagree on how we can all move forward and best grow our sport.

The AGM is the place to put forward your remits for suggested changes along with your reasonings for the change. The clubs attending will discuss, may or not move the remit and vote, again majority rules. We are all bound by the rules agreed to by those attending the AGM.

While Zoom and Teams are the quickest and cheaper options for meetings, there is nothing better than a true face to face meeting which we will have for the first time in 3 years on the 27th of May and we are looking forward to meeting up with you all and some robust discussion.

We continue to encourage all clubs to share information they receive from our wonderful Secretary Neva, this way all members will know what is happening in our Rock N Roll community.

The Music group has been established, had several meetings and have made suggestions which the executive have taken on board such as: correcting song titles, BPM and updating the quality of the current recordings, the latter is still work in progress. We look forward to their upcoming ideas and new music suggestions, which will be forward to all clubs for discussion and comments. A special thank you to the Music group members for your contribution thus far.

On behalf of all members, I would like to thank Tyree Connor for her dedication and commitment in the role of Head Judge. Tyree, while you are retiring as Head Judge, you will no doubt remain a very active part of our Rock N Roll community and we wish you all the best for the future.

I have said previously it is my belief that we, the executive are here for our members, we work for you and as such we need to be honest, open and communicate freely with each other, but also, we need to ensure that we are transparent in what we do and what we say especially when it comes to matters regarding the Association's rules, guidelines, our members and processes. Your executive work behind the scenes tirelessly and without complaint but there is a huge amount of work, effort and time involved with what we do. We are all volunteers who give our time freely, we all love Rock n Roll and have put our best efforts into supporting our members and promoting our love of dance.

On closing my heartfelt thanks to the executive for their support and dedication to their specialist roles within the team, their fearless determination to ensure that our national competitions would go ahead was unbelievable, as was the teamwork to ensure we managed whatever crossed our paths in the past 12 months.

Looking forward, I hope the incoming executive will continue to work as a team to ensure our Association develops in its journey of new and exciting ideas that will grow our sport and benefit all members and our clubs

I look forward to seeing you all in Wellington on 27th May 2023

Kind regards



Karen Birch
NZARRA President