

NEW ZEALAND AMATEUR ROCK 'N' ROLL ASSOCIATION INCORPORATED

Annual General Meeting 2020

President's Report

It is with pleasure that I present the 37th Annual Report to the members of the NZ Amateur Rock 'n' Roll Association Incorporated.

I thank all my fellow executive members for their hard work this year and particularly over the last two months when the covid19 pandemic brought unprecedented challenges and changes.

This year we welcomed Neva Zainey to the executive, as secretary. It has truly been a baptism by fire for her and we are extremely thankful for the systems and templates left in place by the outgoing secretary, Brenda Neill, which made Neva's job a little easier. Our vice-president Karen continued to co-ordinate bookings for us and has dotted every 'i' and crossed every 't'. Yolanda controls our finances extremely tightly and we are grateful for her efficiency and familiarity with our rules. Colleen has completed a busy 4th year in her head judge role and is constantly working to improve the knowledge and expertise of our judges.

This year we held three meetings – in Wellington in September, Christchurch before the Seniors and in Wellington in February. Thanks to Yolanda for hosting the Wellington meetings. We have continued to keep in touch by email, messenger and phone.

For the first time we also held several zoom meetings at short notice to deal with urgent matters, such as the decision to not proceed with either the Junior or Senior Nationals due to the rapid progression of the covid19 pandemic. The decisions were not made lightly, but we were not prepared to endanger the health of our dancers, club's members or supporters, and it was supported a few days later by the Government's announcement of the level 4 lockdown. We thank Drifters and Whakatane clubs for the matter of fact way they have dealt with their hosting not proceeding, and we have provided assurance to them that they will not be financially disadvantaged by this.

We now have 34 member clubs in the Association, and welcome the addition this year of Rosetown Rockers in Te Awamutu and the return of Bush Rock 'n' Roll Club. Sadly, Taranaki Rock 'n' Roll Club has gone into recess, but we hope that we will see them again sometime in the future. From these clubs we currently have 30 National Judges, four Association Judges and 20 Trainee Judges. Colleen has conducted a meeting with judges prior to the Senior Nationals in Lincoln and in the regions, as well as zoom meetings. These meetings offer judges the opportunity to hone their skills and discuss issues common to them all.

The Senior Nationals held in the great facilities at the Lincoln Events Centre were superbly hosted by Christchurch club, who catered to our every need. We were all accorded a Maori welcome and it was a delight that the whole hall was involved in our response, albeit not in Maori. Thanks to Robert Ropiha for responding on our behalf.

Sadly the Saturday evening programme was disrupted by an error that omitted one couple from the semi-final. Possible outcomes to correct the oversight were debated at length, and in an attempt to comply with the rules, which do not explicitly cover this situation. Our primary concern was to right the wrong and be as fair as we could to all parties, and after discussion with the dancers and their respective team managers, a way forward was reached. We have extended apologies and our thanks to the dancers concerned who were gracious and understanding.

Although it was disappointing that we were unable to field a Platinum section at Seniors, it was encouraging that for the first time in a number of years, this year's Junior Nationals would have included a Cheerleaders section.

We have again this year lost members of our rock 'n' roll family, either through retirement or death. We value what they have given to our organisation over the years and know that they will be missed.

I wish you healthy constructive debate at our meeting on 9 May. It will be a different format but I have no doubt that you will all rise to the challenge and handle this meeting by technology with your usual aplomb.

Until we meet again, stay safe.

Nola Calvert
President