

OFNZ AGM Co Chair and National Office Report to AGM 2022

Kia ora koutou

Both Barbara and I were new to the Co-Chair role, and it was a challenge for us to follow on from Jim Bennett who had been a tireless and dedicated Chair for a number of years and his experience in the role meant these were quite considerable boots to fill. However, we took the role on and have spent a lot of time together working to create an NCC culture of our own.

One of the first tasks was to take on a new Office administrator and we were able to offer a contract to Rory Fogerty. Rory is a member of the Waikato Region. Rory was able to use his skills in change management to refine and simplify some of the processes around the administration role. Rory had two 6-month contracts and has now notified us that he wishes to move on from this role. Rory has already identified someone to replace him. I have appreciated working with Rory who is visionary in his approach to change and has often challenged NCC with concepts that are beyond what NCC is ready for. One of these was a tiered membership for OFNZ with a rewards programme. This is something to visit at a later stage.

Our focus this year has been to get our organisation more fit for purpose for the future, especially considering the coming Organic Regulations. We divided the work ahead into several different working groups. These working groups were originally Constitution, Regulation, Operational and Communications and Education. Early in the process Brendan presented a proposal for a 'Refresh OFNZ' which included a plan for consultation and engagement to get valuable input from you, our members. This has become an overarching project which is providing a great amount of information for consideration for the other working groups. As at this AGM this project can be considered very much a work in progress. Brendan will present the Refresh OFNZ process to date and recommendations going forward at the AGM and Jenny will present the process of re-writing the Constitution and recommend changes based on the results of the Refresh process.

Another aim for the NCC in this term is to take a more governance role and separate off the management issues and delegate these to the Working Groups. This means that our monthly meetings are shorter and more succinct. Reports from all the working groups and regions are pre-circulated and taken as read with time for questions and discussion.

We are aware that we need to engage the membership more and have trialled different methods to keep you all up to date up to date with what is being discussed at NCC level to ensure our processes are open and transparent. This has taken some time and thought, and we have landed on a good process with the help of Waikato NCC Rep Paula Allen who has developed a comms called 'The Rundown'. This is circulated to all NCC members to be re-distributed with a local regional flavour. There is also a monthly comms from National Office which keeps you up to date with the minutes, reports national and international news of interest and a profile of one of our members.

We are happy with how the Auditors and CM Google group is working and thank Tom – (Certification Manager for Auckland and Northland, Waikato, and Otago) for using this group to answer curly questions or to clarify matters. It is great to Jim, John and Barbara in this group providing their wealth of experience over several years. Rory has developed a system to capture discussions and their outcomes to make this available to the membership. One of the issues we face is

that a lot of the discussion is opinion and NCC recognises this and has been working on developing a TOR for a formalised Technical Committee. This is still a work in progress and will be part of the early work schedule for 2022- 2023.

There have been several NCC changes to deal with over the year but now we have settled on what is a great team. We are dedicated to working to improve OFNZ and making it fit for the future.

Thanks all NCC reps to Brendan (Auckland Northland), Jenny (Bay of Plenty) , Paula (Waikato), Alvina (Canterbury and Nelson Bays) and Valda (Otago) and thanks to our National office Administrator Rory.

Nga mihi mahana

Co-Chairs

Marion Thomson - Gisborne, Hawkes Bay

Barbara Harford - Southwest North Island.

National Office Report to AGM 2022

2021-2022 saw the transition to a more streamlined digital environment with the introduction of an online certificate database, use of an invoicing and accounting package, and electronic certificates.

We successfully processed the renewals of all members who have availed of the benefits of our S40 Food Control Plan Template. Those who were awaiting their audit had it completed remotely by Auditing Solutions. Big thanks to AS flexibility and professionalism. The amended template has been reviewed and agreed by MPI so we are good to go for another couple of years.

In November we started sending a newsletter to all members and associates. It would appear this is generally well received with the number of people opening the newsletter emails and clicking thru on the links showing OFNZ is achieving excellent attention cut through. Distribution has now expanded to include our member organisations, and past members.

The website has been reorganised to group information together in preparation of the long overdue redesign.

The coming year will see the further bedding in of the digital processes and the creation of process descriptions and training surrounding their use. This on top of all the other tasks a well run and enthusiastic National Office performs.

Rory Fogerty.