

ROMANCE WRITERS OF NEW ZEALAND INC.
EIGHTEENTH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
Saturday, 11th August 2018
NOVOTEL ELLERSLIE, AUCKLAND, at 4:40pm

PRESENT: Bronwen Evans, Catherine Robertson, Tania Roberts, Kate O'Keeffe, Fiona Simpson, Anne Smith, Julie McKeachie, Karina Bliss, Jane Madison Jones, Virginia Suckling, Louise Williams, Pamela Gervai, Lynette Leong, Shelagh Merlin, Bob von Oort, Kris Pearson, Kellie Watkinson, Iona Goulton, Vivienne Matthews, Tania Roberts, Debbie Williams, Dorothy Fletcher, Lyssa Randolph, Christy Menzies, Marija Jukick, Leah Bromilow, Maggie Mundy, Delwyn Jenkins, Sarah Williams, Suzanne Hamilton, Linda Hills, Erin Moira Ottaru, Joanne Dannon, Kendra Delugar, Kelly Lyndon, Michele Boston, Stephanie Ruth, Merren Tait, Ann Neville, Caroline Bagshaw, Matthew Mole, Karen van Geelen, Kristina O'Grady, Maria King, Grant Bayley, Lisa Matthews, Smantha Burton, Holly McCloy, Tracey Alvarez, Samantha Douglas, Robyn Donald, Leeann Morgan, Imogene Nix, Jo Harris, Mel Climo, Teresa Shischka, Nalini Singh, Peta Mobberley, Yvonne Lindsay, Janet Kortlever, Carol Tate, Jaci Petherick, Gaylene Atkins, Jan Yates, Bronwyn McEroy, Giovanna Lee, Jennifer Raines, Ruth bell, Lucille Henry, Gillian St. Kevern, Anne Barwell, Emma Cameron, Joan Wright, Rachel Collins, Grace Stanners, Ada Soto, Annie Featherstone, Sue MacKay, Michelle Burt, Louise Groarke, Toni Kenyon, Jenny Wheeler, Frances Housden, Susan Sims, Steff Green, Marie Hodgkinson, Anna Klein, Sara Dawn Johnson, Juliet Adams.

APOLOGIES: Nil.

PROXIES: Nil.

MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING: Confirmation of the minutes of the seventeenth Annual General Meeting, held on 19th August 2017 at 5:30pm.

Moved: Susan Simms

Seconded: Kris Pearson

BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES: Nil.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT: RWNZ President, Bronwen Evans advised 2017-18 had been a great year for RWNZ, and the 2018 conference committee had done a spectacular job.

President advised the Executive has submitted two grants to Creative New Zealand in the past year, but that both had been rejected.

President advised that the Koru Contest has been our biggest ever, with a total of 68 entries. She congratulated Lisa on a successful first competition coordination, and advised that due to its

popularity and the sheer work involved to adjudicate, the Koru will move to a three-month judging period next year.

President advised the website is running well and we have run a total of 7 webinars in the last year, with 2 more remaining for the calendar year. The President requested member input in the webinars, and asked anyone interested in contributing to speak with a member of the Executive.

President advised we have a large number of new members, which is great.

President expressed a wish for RWNZ to purchase a course for beginner writers.

Moved: Catherine Robertson

Seconded: Sue Mackay

FINANCIAL REPORT: RWNZ Treasurer, Tania Roberts, advised the RWNZ annual accounts have been submitted and are available on the website. She advised that RWNZ is in a strong financial position, and that back tax has been confirmed as \$800 and addressed.

The President directed all questions to the Treasurer.

Moved: Jenny Wheeler

Seconded: Rachel Collins

MEMBERSHIP REPORT: RWNZ President, Bronwen Evans, advised that the previous Membership Secretary, Angela Bissell, had stepped down due to ill health. Consequently, the President delivered the report. She advised RWNZ currently has 356 members as of today. She expressed confidence in this number as accurate as it was taken directly from the RWNZ website. She welcomed Australian members. She advised Auckland is still the biggest group of members, but the lowest centre represented at Conference.

Membership is broken down as follows:

Auckland: 97 members, or 27%

Overseas: 52 members, or 15%

Wellington: 51 members, or 14%

Central: 45 members, or 13%

Christchurch: 37 members, or 10%

Other areas: 74 members, or 21%

Membership changes since 1st October 2017:

New Members: 88

Expired Members: 51

This represents a net gain of 37, or 12%

The regions with the largest changes are as follows:

Overseas: 29, or 33% (Australia)

Auckland: 16, or 18%

Christchurch: 12, or 14%
Wellington: 10, or 11%
Rest: 20, or 23%

Of our members, the breakdown of 342 members show the following splits in publishing status:

Unpublished: 164, or 46%
Self-Published: 73, or 21%
Traditionally published: 58, or 16%
Hybrid traditional/ self-published: 47, or 13%

In terms of the education level of our members, the President noted we are a well-educated group. The breakdown of 292 members is:

High School: 30, or 8%
Some tertiary study: 50, or 14%
Other professional qualification: 29, or 8%
Bachelor's degree: 82, or 23%
Post-graduate qualification: 59, or 17%
Master's degree: 42, or 12%

In terms of the ages of our members, the breakdown of the 296 members who responded is:

Ages 22-30: 10, or 3%
Ages 31-40: 50, or 14%
Ages 41-50: 96, or 27%
Ages 51-60: 84, or 24%
Ages 61-70: 56, or 16%

President advised there is no plan to change the fees in the coming year.

Moved: Kris Pearson

Seconded: Sheila Merlin

GENERAL REMITS: There are no remits.

OTHER BUSINESS:

- 1. Executive Succession:** President advised we struggled to get a president for the coming year. She believes there is a perception that the position is a lot of work, but she assured members that this is inaccurate, particularly due to the fact the conference is handled by others in the organization. The President encouraged members to give their input to the Executive.

The 2018-19 Executive is announced as:

President:	Vivienne Matthews
Vice-President:	Zoe Sojourner
Treasurer:	Tania Roberts (no change)
Membership Secretary:	Kendra Delugar

Publicity Officer:	TBA
Secretary:	Kate O'Keeffe (no change)
Past-President:	Bronwen Evans

President advised we need a publicity officer for 2018-19. She advised the role is primarily working on the conference and working with the editor of Heart to Heart. She welcomed applications.

2. **Heart to Heart:** President advised Gillian St. Kevern, Heart to heart Editor, is currently looking at how our members want the publication delivered, such as PDFs, or utilising software to deliver it to members' phones.
3. **Contests:** President advised the dates for ALL the contests have changed. She advised part of the reason for this is that it has proven difficult to find readers for competitions, particularly the Pacific Hearts, which had only 13 entries this year. She advised the organization needs to look at what to do with this competition, and this can be a focus for the 2018-19 Executive. President noted that the quality of entries and entry numbers for the Koru was outstanding this year.
4. **2019 Conference:** The RWNZ Conference for 2019 will be held in Christchurch, the first time an RWNZ conference has been held in the South Island.

The Vice-President formally thanked the outgoing President, Bronwen Evans, for her wonderful leadership, drive, and energy over the past 2 years in the role.

Closure: Meeting Closed at 5:01pm