

## **Annual Report of the New Zealand Esperanto Association (NZEA) for 2007**

### **NZEA Executive**

The following Executive members were elected at the AGM in Christchurch on 4 February 2007 and held office during the entire year:

President	David Ryan
Vice-President	Chris Krageloh
Treasurer	Don Rogers
Secretary	Bradley McDonald
Assistant Secretary	Howard Gravatt
Executive Member	Erin McGifford

The geographical spread of Executive members was pleasing, which meant that Executive members were able to report back and discuss issues with local club members in Auckland, Wellington, and Christchurch.

Throughout the year there was a vacancy for the second Executive Member. No person was found to fill this vacancy.

### **Executive meetings**

The Executive met eight times by telephone conference connecting members in Auckland, Wellington, and Christchurch. This proved to be an efficient and inexpensive means of communication.

### **NZEA membership**

Membership at the end of the year was 41. This compares with 46 in 2006. This change represents five members from 2006 who did not renew their membership. During the year there were no new members.

Local clubs remained active in Auckland, Masterton, Wellington, and Christchurch.

We were sad to learn of the death of two life members: Frank Swift from Christchurch and Audrey Wood from Auckland. Both were active in NZEA, and their contribution will be missed.

### **NZEA Vision and Mission Statement**

Work commenced on NZEA's Vision and Mission Statement at the February 2007 congress in Christchurch. Final changes were made in following months, and the Vision and Mission Statement were posted onto NZEA's website.

## **Communication and Publicity**

### ***NZEA website***

Don Rogers continued to update the NZEA website ([www.esperanto.org.nz](http://www.esperanto.org.nz)) with frequent information posted on the Oceania Congress. Updates on the Oceania Congress were also posted on the Australian Esperanto Association on-line forum.

### ***Arĝenta Filiko***

*Arĝenta Filiko*, edited by Chris Krageloh, was issued to members twice during the year. This remains a high-quality publication with a variety of articles covering different Esperanto and non-Esperanto topics.

### ***Esperanto sub la Suda Kruco (ESK)***

*ESK* was sent to members six times during the year and contained articles on the NZEA congress in February 2007, the Oceania Congress, and articles by Brian Fox on the arrival of Māori in New Zealand and Scouting by Gwenda Sutton. The script of a play written by Howard Gravatt and performed during the Christchurch congress also appeared in *ESK*.

### ***Television New Zealand (TVNZ)***

A journalist from TVNZ contacted NZEA interested in producing an item on Esperanto. He was curious as to whether Esperanto was still alive. He explained that he was interested in a 'personal interest' angle, eg a marriage between local Esperantists of different nationalities etc. Unfortunately, we were unable to provide him with a suitable theme but noted that the Oceania Congress would be a good opportunity for an interesting item during a slow news month.

### ***0800 number and e-mail address***

At the beginning of the year, the 0800 number (advertised on our website) was changed to be redirected to the home of the President. At the same time, the [nzea@esperanto.org.nz](mailto:nzea@esperanto.org.nz) e-mail address was also introduced with any e-mails received directed to the President and Treasurer. These two means of contact were useful for non-members/interested parties and generated the following contacts and responses.

- a Russian Esperantist now living in Auckland: details of Auckland Esperantists were provided
- a 16-year-old in Auckland learning Esperanto: the President regularly sent books and magazines and the young man has since enrolled in the Oceania Congress
- a mother in Papamoa wanting a correspondence course for herself and child: the President supplied books and magazines and suitable website addresses
- a journalism student in Auckland writing an article on 'civicness': the President answered questions about the activities of NZEA, eg membership, fundraising etc

- a person in Upper Hutt asking if there is a local group: an invitation was extended to attend Rondo meetings in Wellington but there was no outcome
- a member of ELNA (Esperanto League of North America) visiting family in Palmerston North: a coffee was arranged with two Rondo members in Wellington
- an American student in Christchurch wanting to contact the local group: contact details of Christchurch Esperantists were provided
- an organiser of home schooling in Lyttelton: the President sent regular books and magazines
- an Esperantist in Christchurch (not previously known to us) intending to visit Auckland and wanting local contact details: contact details were provided
- a Malaysian non-Esperantist intending to spend six months in New Zealand and wanting to know about Esperanto courses: information on the Oceania Congress was sent
- a Polish Esperantist spending six months in Wellington: contact was made and he attended the Rondo
- a reporter from *The Dominion Post* contacted us and asked us for information on Esperanto for an article on languages.

### ***Other publicity***

NZEA bought a supply of copies of *Poŝamiko* to be sent to people expressing interest in Esperanto. Copies were sent to some of the people listed above. The President posted for sale a copy of *Poŝamiko* on TradeMe. This was bought by a woman in Timaru who said that she had always wanted to learn Esperanto. The President made contact and sent books and magazines.

A new English-language brochure in PDF format was placed onto the NZEA website. This contains useful information about Esperanto and can be printed out in colour when required. It was decided that an electronic brochure would be more useful than a hard-copy brochure which may become out of date (eg if contact details change).

### **Financial matters**

The new Treasurer arranged for contact details and signatories for the bank account, IRD and term investments to be transferred into his name, and that of the President, and to his address in Wellington. A new auditor was found in Wellington, following the retirement of the previous Auckland-based auditor.

In October 2007, NZEA applied to the Charities Commission to be recognised as a charitable organisation under the new Charities Act 2005. Our application is supported by a letter from the IRD stating that NZEA is currently a recognised charitable organisation. The Commission has acknowledged our application and estimated that it will be 8 to 10 weeks before it will have been processed.

Investments that came up for renewal during 2007 were reinvested at higher rates and across financial organisations, to reduce reliance on a small number of organisations.

Refer the Treasurer's separate financial report.

## 2008 Oceania Congress

The Executive's main focus during the year was preparations around the Oceania Congress (joint congress with the Australian Esperanto Association) in Auckland in January 2008. While most of the logistical arrangements were the responsibility of the local organising committee (LKK) in Auckland, the Executive was responsible for the following.

- **Publicity:** News about the Oceania Congress was sent to both Esperantist and non-Esperantist publics.
  - For the former, a prominent advertisement was placed in *Esperanto* and e-mails were sent to various national organisations, Esperanto websites, and international magazines asking that they advertise the congress in their national publications or events calendars.
  - For the latter, articles were sent to Auckland suburban newspapers (at least one newspaper published a short article), the event was publicised on several Auckland events calendars, and letters and posters were sent to 78 secondary schools in Auckland. E-mails were sent to home-schooling groups and Grey Power in Auckland (identified as a potential source of interested persons) but no response was received.
- **Enrolment:** Bilingual enrolment forms were prepared and sent out with *ESK* and posted on the NZEA website. Invitation letters were sent to individuals in various countries (including the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Albania, China etc).
- **Teachers:** The Executive spent considerable time discussing suitable teachers for the Oceania Congress, bearing in mind the need for financial restraint but also the preference to have teachers from a range of countries/native languages. Contact was made to establish the interest of many high-profile Esperantists. We were fortunate that Stano Marček (Slovakia) and Trevor and Katja Steele (Australia) accepted our offer to teach at the Oceania Congress.

At the time of writing, it is pleasing to note that our publicity activities have been successful in so far as we have a good number of Esperantists from outside New Zealand intending to attend. This will give our congress a greater international feel. In terms of local attendance, NZEA resolved to subsidise the aforementioned 16-year-old from Auckland to attend the Oceania Congress. To date, he is the only known new Esperantist. Nevertheless, some of our long-standing members will attend the Oceania Congress after several years of absence from NZEA congresses.

On the ground in Auckland, the LKK did an exceptional job (despite absences because of illness and for other reasons) in organising what is poised to be a highly successful event (with, at the time of writing, 54 confirmed attendees). The LKK's tasks included liaising with the conference venue, organising the programme, making arrangements for the excursions, and other logistical details.

## UNANZ

NZEA renewed its membership in UNANZ (United Nations Association of New Zealand).

## **International affairs**

### ***Overseas conferences***

- Two Esperantists from New Zealand (Dave Dewar and Bradley McDonald) attended the Universala Kongreso (International Congress of Esperanto) in Japan.
- Erin McGifford attended a course in Japan.
- While on holiday in Montreal, David Ryan met with two members of the local club.
- Two New Zealanders also attended the AEA summer school in Hobart in January 2007.

### ***New Zealand – Australia relationship***

The President established telephone and e-mail contact with the President of the Australian Esperanto Association (AEA) and made frequent contact to discuss issues such as the Oceania Congress and raising the profile of Esperanto.