

## **Annual Report of the New Zealand Esperanto Association (NZEA) for 2008**

### **NZEA Executive**

The following Executive members were elected at the AGM in Auckland on 20 January 2008 and held office during the entire year:

President	David Ryan
Vice-President	Chris Krägeloh
Treasurer	Don Rogers
Secretary	Bradley McDonald
Executive Member	Erin McGifford

Howard Gravatt was co-opted onto the Executive as Assistant Secretary in June 2008. Howard had previously served as an Executive member for several years.

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 six times, the first four times by telephone conference, the following two times over the Internet through Skype.

### **NZEA membership**

Membership at the end of the financial year (30 September 2008) was 37. This compares with 41 at the same time in 2007. This change reflects six members from 2007 who did not renew their membership and five new members. While this number is small, it is a very pleasing result given a lack of new members in previous years. Nine other new members have also joined NZEA since the end of the financial year (30 September 2008) to the end of the calendar year. The fact that NZEA has attracted new members was due partly to a free magazine promotion offered for new members joining in 2008/09.

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

During the Oceania Congress in January 2008, Jackie Fox was made an honorary life member of NZEA in recognition of her 18-year contribution to NZEA, during most of that time as treasurer.

We were sad to learn of the death of life members, Betty Wyatt and Beryl Evans. Lucia Bruce, a member of the Christchurch Esperanto Society, also passed away during the year.

## **Communication and Publicity**

### ***NZEA website***

Don Rogers continued to post new content on the NZEA website ([www.esperanto.org.nz](http://www.esperanto.org.nz)) and also restyled the website. The website remains an important means of communication and NZEA often receives information requests through the e-mail address posted on the website.

### ***Arĝenta Filiko***

*Arĝenta Filiko*, edited by Chris Krägeloh, was issued to members twice during the year. This remains a high-quality publication and an important means of communication to our members to supplement more general articles in *Esperanto sub la Suda Kruco*.

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

*ESK* was sent to members of NZEA and the Australian Esperanto Association (AEA). Early in 2008 Chris Krägeloh from Auckland and Ŝandor Monostori from Australia took over the co-editorship of *ESK* and significantly changed its style to make it a highly attractive and readable publication and suitable to send out to people enquiring about Esperanto. NZEA bought an iMac computer for Chris to use for editing the magazine.

### ***Television items***

A two-minute item on the Oceania Congress appeared on TVNZ's main news programme on TV1 at 6pm on the first day of the Congress. This was a very positive article about Esperanto and would have been seen by hundreds of thousands of New Zealanders.

Bradley McDonald and Chris Krägeloh were interviewed twice on ALT TV in April and May 2008.

### ***Letters to the editor***

A letter to the editor written by the President appeared in Wellington's *Dominion Post* on 7 January 2008. A letter appeared in the same newspaper on 28 June 2008 from a Welsh Esperantist. The President sent in a follow-up supporting letter which was not printed.

### ***Advertising in Grey Power magazine***

The Executive resolved to place four advertisements in the nationwide Grey Power magazine. This decision recognised that, while Esperanto is attractive to almost all people, elderly people may be more ready to learn Esperanto as they may be seeking a hobby, they generally have more free time, and it is likely that many of them would have heard about Esperanto or maybe learnt it at school in previous decades.

Three advertisements appeared in the last six months of 2008, prompting approximately 30 information requests to NZEA (through the 0800 number, e-mail, and mail).

### ***Posters***

AEA prepared a number of eye-catching posters which NZEA distributed around libraries in Auckland and at Victoria University of Wellington.

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

The 0800 number (advertised on our website) remained redirected to the home of the President. At the same time, the [nzea@esperanto.org.nz](mailto:nzea@esperanto.org.nz) e-mail address directs any e-mails received to the President and Treasurer. These two means of contact were useful for non-members/interested parties and generated a number of contacts during the year, which included the following:

- enquiries about membership in NZEA and resources for learning Esperanto
- a request from a schoolgirl at Whangaparaoa College (near Auckland) interested in establishing an Esperanto club
- requests for contact details of local clubs from overseas Esperantists wanting to visit New Zealand.

### ***Esperanto resources***

NZEA bought a further supply of copies of *Poŝamiko* and a supply of *Esperanto by Direct Method* by Stano Marček. These items, along with a membership application form, copies of *Esperanto sub la Suda Kruco*, *Arĝenta Filiko* and other magazines, a copy of the AEA correspondence course (with New Zealand contact details), and a two-page 'Getting Started in Esperanto' guide were sent to people requesting information on Esperanto (in response to the Grey Power advertisements or enquiries in general).

### **Financial matters**

In October 2007, NZEA applied to the Charities Commission to be recognised as a charitable organisation under the new Charities Act 2005. The Commission finally advised of the success of this application in June 2008. This means that NZEA retains its charitable status and does not pay tax on its income.

Investments that came up for renewal during 2008 were reinvested at generally higher rates and across financial organisations, to reduce reliance on a small number of organisations. Interest rates have since dropped, which will likely affect our income for the 2008/09 financial year. Please refer the Treasurer's separate financial report.

### **2008 Oceania Congress**

NZEA's major event during the year was the Oceania Congress in Auckland from 14 to 23 January 2008. In total, 59 people attended the Congress from throughout New Zealand, Australia, Japan, Slovakia, France, Italy, Sweden, Malaysia, and New Caledonia.

On the ground in Auckland, the Local Congress Committee did an exceptional job in organising the programme, logistical arrangements, excursions, and special editions of the *Arĝenta Filiko*. Even the weather was warm and sunny throughout most of the congress.

The event was a success as it generated publicity on TVNZ (refer above), and it was an opportunity for new and existing Esperantists in New Zealand to brush up on their Esperanto through the classes offered at three levels and, most importantly, to use Esperanto by simply getting to know the overseas participants.

### **2009 Summer School in Sydney**

The Executive decided not to hold a congress in New Zealand in 2009 but, rather, to support AEA's summer school in Sydney in January 2009. At the time of writing, it appears that there will be a good delegation of New Zealanders to the summer school and a sufficient number to hold the 2009 AGM.

### **UNANZ**

NZEA renewed its membership in UNANZ (United Nations Association of New Zealand). Bradley McDonald attended the UNANZ annual conference in Auckland in May 2008 at which he handed out information brochures about NZEA. Bradley was also elected to the UNANZ National Council as an affiliate representative.