

PRESIDENT'S REPORT 2021

NEW ZEALAND SOCIETY OF NOTARIES INC

Membership

At the date of this report the number of members of the NZ Society of Notaries is 191.

Notarial Applications

The Society is pleased to advise the completion of 4 new notarial faculties so far in 2021 with several more about to undertake tutorials and send their applications to the Master in London.

Council

The Council held a full meeting by Zoom after the AGM on 7 September 2020 and it also met face-to-face in Christchurch on 22 February 2021. Minutes of both meetings were distributed previously to all members of the Society and are available to view in the *For Notaries* section of the website. Council also holds monthly Zoom meetings to deal with an increasing number of matters, but primarily to discuss the notarial applications and keep those moving along.

Council will be holding a face-to-face meeting in Auckland on Monday 20 September 2021 immediately following the AGM.

Annual Accounts

The annual accounts cover the period from 1 April 2020 to 31 March 2021. Owen Williams as the Society's honorary auditor has reviewed the accounts of the Society for the year ended 31 March 2021 and we thank him accordingly.

The accounts confirm that the surplus as at 31 March 2021 is \$59,908.26. The increase from the previous year was \$22,995.93 which resulted from an increase of income from subscriptions, an overseas travel refund in relation to C.L.A.N. (formerly WON), and no costs of Stewart Germann as President attending overseas meetings due to COVID-19. The Society is in a healthy financial position.

Membership Fees

Subscriptions to October 2021 are all paid up and subscription invoices for the next year will be issued shortly after the AGM.

Education

Council is delighted to announce that it recently appointed Jane Montgomery, notary of Christchurch, to conduct tutorials for South Island applicants. Richard Wilson continues to conduct tutorials for North Island candidates and we thank Richard.

Council has published a selection of educational videos now available the website which I recommend you look at.

Website/Forum

The forum facility is available to members within the *For Notaries* secure area of the website and members have all been issued with usernames and passwords to access this area. Members are encouraged to sign in to access the precedents and use the forum for notarial-related discussion. You should also ensure that you have opted to receive notification of postings on the forum. If you have any issues in relation to your log in or opting-in to notifications, please contact the Secretary.

The NZ Notary booklet

You will be aware from last year's report that a digital version of a new edition of the Handbook is planned. A sub-committee of Bob Eades, Richard Wilson and Don Thomas has been delegated to this task and it remains a work in progress. Any suggestions from members as to what could be included in the Handbook should be forwarded to the Secretary.

Precedents have been made available on the website and members are encouraged to send in any examples which they may have or anything else they deem suitable for the website.

Common Law Association of Notaries

Stewart Germann is in the second year of his term as the C.L.A.N. President. Ken Lord has recently been appointed Editor of *Notary World*. We are always on the lookout for relevant articles and each of you is invited to send an article to the Secretary to be considered for publication in a future issue of *Notary World*.

Secretary

I wish to thank all members of Council for their hard work and especially our Secretary, Tracey Merlini, for her excellent work and support for the Society.

Stewart Germann

President

20 August 2021