

New Zealand Electronics Institute Christchurch Branch Chairman's report for 2018

Bruce Jensen

Colleague, friend and NZEI stalwart Bruce Jensen passed away mid year. I cannot do more justice than quote the tribute by fellow Christchurch NZEI member and secretary/treasurer Levi Martin:

"It's with great anguish and sadness that I advise of the passing of one of our long serving and most giving member Bruce Jensen.

Bruce passed away on July 23 2018, after a long fight with cancer.

Bruce tirelessly attended meetings and wrote most interesting and insightful accounts of the visits and learnings, and attended to so much of the less-lauded but essential administrative work – he's sorely missed.

For those of you who didn't know Bruce, he was at the Papanui Depot between 1964 and 1970 when he transferred up north for a short time before returning to the Engineers Office in Christchurch where he was the Radio Engineering associate. He was there for about 15 years until he joined the then new Telecom Mobile Radio company around 1989/90. After about 10 years with TMR, Bruce went to Taits and remained there for the remainder of his working life.

Although he left the Depot in 1970, Bruce remained in close contact with the Depot and all the staff from there who went their separate ways with the breakup of Telecom into separate companies. In consequence, he is well known in professional and amateur radio circles both in Christchurch and around the country.

For many years Bruce was the glue that held the Christchurch Branch together and played a large part in Christchurch being Institute's only truly functioning Branch in the modern era.

Bruce Hurley recalls: Back in the Post Office days I was Bruce's oppo in Dunedin and interacted with him on a regular basis. Over this period I became aware of Bruce's great technical competence and professional approach. After the Post Office Bruce moved to Taits and again contributed significantly to their success."

NZEI National AGM

The NZEI AGM was attended by delegates from the Auckland, Wellington and Christchurch branches, Thanks to video conferencing kindly hosted by Spark (as arranged by Bruce Hurley). We are grateful for the contribution and broader representation at the national AGM that this enabled. At the AGM Ross Muir, in flagging this as his last year, was re-elected National President and Bruce Hurley, National Secretary Treasurer.

NZEI Christchurch Administration

Prior to his passing, Bruce Jensen passed responsibility for administration and preparing newsletters to Levi. On the one hand I would like to thank Bruce for his work over the years, and now thank Levi for taking on the tasks and executing so well.

We regularly receive positive and apparently envious comments from the Auckland branch about the frequency and interest of our visits. The decision to link with the Canterbury Electrical Association for these visits, taken prior to my time on the committee, was inspired.

Arranging industry visits has been more challenging in 2018, but there remain many opportunities. Nevertheless we as a branch need to remain relevant, to change, align with the high tech electronics industry, and remain connected to educational institutions. Achieving this alignment is important to ensuring a viable future for NZEI.

Ian Woodhead, Chairman