



# THE NEW ZEALAND ELECTRONICS INSTITUTE

(Incorporated)

Charities Commission Registration Number 39965

3A Willis St

Torbay

AUCKLAND 0630

Email: [secretary@nzelectronics.org.nz](mailto:secretary@nzelectronics.org.nz)

Web site: <http://www.nzelectronics.org.nz/>

## 2018 Secretary's Report

### **General**

Last year, I wrote on the transformation the electronics industry has undergone in New Zealand. From manufacturing to a consumer of cloud based applications accessed via open APIs in a collaborative value fabric business model.

However, there are some constants through the transformation – the Kiwi “can do” approach and the use of good old common sense. As a country, it is the application of these traits that allow us to retain our place on the world stage. Not too long ago it was Rakon with their GPS oscillators whilst today it is RocketLab sending satellites into orbit.

The challenge we face is how to nurture “can do” and common sense traits in the new generation picking up the electronic mantle. We need an environment where the norm is to ask why and why not. The next generation have all the knowledge required to bring innovative change to solve the problems of today. They just need the encouragement to step outside the box.

So what is your role? Grasp every opportunity to share your experiences and foster the Kiwi traits of “can do” and common sense.

The Institute continued its sponsorship program by awarding a further two grants to promising electronics students. Ross Muir has continued as the driving force behind the program. It is only through his contacts into the education world that the program exists at all. The two recipients of the 2019 \$500 Ross Muir Award are Luna-Rossa Lomutusi-Ape (Auckland) and Billy Hibberd (Christchurch).

The Institute extends its appreciation to the Spark Foundation for making the video conference facilities available free of charge.

Once more, my thanks to Ross Muir and the late Ralph Boshier for their continuing assistance and wisdom, throughout the year.

### **Financial**

This year 2019, the Institute returned to reporting an operating surplus. The surplus rides on the back of Ross Muir's generous donation of \$1 000, last year. The underlying trend of costs exceeding revenue continues and would have seen the Institute eating into reserves without Ross's contribution. Ross has made a further donation of \$1 000 for the 2020, so we keep the wolf from the door for a little longer. Thank you, Ross.

The underlying financial viability of the Institute is dire! Declining membership, lowering subscription income, and the new normal of low interest rates has led to a loss making situation. It is only the generosity of Ross Muir that is keeping us on the right side of the ledger. Unless we can find a way to increase our appeal to the electronics community, the future is gloomy.

A tight rein continues to be held on our expenditure. Donations were made to the Auckland VHF Group and the Spark Foundation to acknowledge their support over 2019. However, I have failed to make payment. Payment will be made in the 2020 financial year. Web site payments have returned to normal following the catch payments in 2019.

## Correspondence

	Inward	Outward
E-mail	270	224
Post	14	3

## Membership

	2017	2018	2019
Members as at 01 January	97	91	82
New	0	2	2
Gone No Address	-1	-5	0
Resignations	-4	-5	-1
Deceased	-1	-1	-2
Members as 31 December	91	82	81

Comprising:

Life Fellow	2
Fellow	3
Senior Member	55
Member	11
Associate Member	10

Auckland	33
Waikato/BoP	6
Palmerston North	7
Wellington	8
Christchurch	13
Dunedin	9
Overseas	4

## Website

The Institute's website remains the principle way of communicating with the members. All electronically themed meetings I am advised of are posted along with articles of interest that cross my desk.

Members are always welcome to submit relevant items for uploading to the site for the benefit of the wider membership.