

IAM ROADSMART NZ

2022-2023 PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Firstly, many thanks for everyone's confidence in me to take on the role of President over the past year. It has been a privilege to lead the organisation over the last 12 months (and a bit more). It has also been a learning journey for me, and I now have a greater awareness and understanding of our national organisation.

Council has achieved a considerable amount in the last 12 months, and I sincerely thank every Council member for their part in what we have done. The achievements are:

1. Website – after lots of discussion in past years about the need for a new website, we have achieved a public website that is a big improvement on the previous one. It is a much more professional link to the general public and will hopefully stimulate further interest in IAM RoadSmart NZ. I wish to specifically thank Keith Morgan for his considerable leadership and input into the site's development – without this we would still not have a new website. Also, thanks to Fred Alvarez for agreeing to further develop and maintain the website with Council. We also acknowledge the financial input of our partner, Star Insurance, in this endeavour. No, the website is not yet perfect, but it is getting there. The vision is to continue to develop it as time passes, making it attractive, user-friendly, and dynamic into the future. Of course, we still have a new membership system to integrate as well (see later comments on this)
2. Constitution Review - After several years' discussion and debate we successfully amended our Constitution which was approved at a Special General Meeting of members. This updated our constitution to allow regions greater flexibility for leadership and reduced the size of Council which will make it easier for Council to make and enact decisions. The ex-officio members will provide advice and guidance but not vote on motions. Thanks to the team who put the work in to make the Constitution Review a success.
3. Car Brochure – This, too, had been in the planning stages for some time. This Council quickly progressed the matter and we now have a new promotional tool to attract car associates. The brochure went through many revisions and drafts before it was finalised. Thanks go especially to Colin Gates who patiently made changes to the document before its final iteration. Wendy Betteridge also played a key role in the development of the brochure. We now have a dedicated motorcycle brochure on the way under the leadership of Barry Holland. We are looking forward to that.
4. Membership System – Council has approved the purchase of Membership Works. This membership system will integrate with our website, it will enable members to make changes to their details and it will ease the workload of our National Secretary.
5. At 2022's National Strategy Meeting in Wellington, Council established a series of work groups. The intention was to enable sharing of workload and potentially speeding up progress levels. Prior to the strategy meeting we had already instigated work groups for Constitution Review, Brochures and Membership System. The strategy meeting added work streams relating to Member Benefits, Conference 2023, Website

Development, Regional/ Local Groups and Members' Ongoing Learning. These work streams are designed to be largely ongoing so that initiatives in these areas can be pursued over time. The work stream on Member Benefits has proposed, and Council has agreed, to provide both existing and new members with free IAM RoadSmart merchandise and the roll-out of this is imminent. This is exciting news.

6. Council is also proposing at this AGM that members who have achieved 20 years continuous membership be awarded life membership. It will be interesting to see if this is accepted by our membership.

7. Also, at the Special General Meeting in 2022 it was agreed membership fees remain the same for this year and that observers and examiners work be rewarded with a refund, or partial refund, of membership fees when they complete a defined number of observed rides/ drives or tests. Council is delighted to recognise the hard work of these key people who make a significant contribution to our organisation.

8. IAM RoadSmart NZ now has a monthly radio show to promote ourselves. The show broadcasts on Coast Access Radio, Waikanae, 104.7FM. It is also archived on the station's website www.coastaccessradio.org.nz and links are posted on the IAM RoadSmart NZ website, www.iamroadsmart.org.nz At the time of writing the show has had interviews with Wendy Betteridge, Paul Kane and full car member, Luca van Gorkom. The latter show is yet to be broadcast. This is an exciting initiative and another way to promote ourselves.

It was a pity that our Palmerston North Conference set for last February had to be postponed. This was because of the national state of emergency at the time, the fact that many roads in the Manawatu were closed (including those we planned to use for riding/ driving on the Saturday afternoon), and because ferry sailings were cancelled which meant that a significant number of members could not attend. The new Council will need to decide on a new date for this gathering. The conference work stream did a lot of work for this event. Particular thanks need to go to Tim Monck-Mason for his leadership and Murray Cross for his local organisation.

The promised feature of IAM RoadSmart NZ in the AA Directions magazine unfortunately did not come to fruition despite interviews held and photographs taken. However, AA editorial decisions are out of our control.

Our National Treasurer, Gordon Peel, is stepping down after seven years wonderful service to IAM RoadSmart NZ. Gordon has ensured robust financial systems exist and that the bills get paid on time. His work has been invaluable to our organisation, and we give him our sincere thanks. We wish Gordon well in his future endeavours.

Regarding money, we have quite a lot! In my view a charity organisation should not hold so much. We need to spend it. While some of the initiatives covered above will use some of these funds, Council is very open and very keen to receive applications from regions for funds to support local activity that pursues the goals of IAM RoadSmart NZ.

We have ongoing work to do to support all our regions. What we do to strengthen our presence, our activity and to promote local leadership will, in my view, need to be prominently a part of Council work moving forward. Perhaps the new National President should visit all the regions to find out what local groups would like support with and how they think it could be achieved.

Your National Council has been a very hard-working group over the past year. I thank every one of them for their input and for their commitment to our great organisation. Particular thanks are due to office holders, Treasurer Gordon and Secretary Heather Kinsey as their workloads have been particularly high. I also thank our team of observers, senior observers, chief observers, regional observer leaders, regional membership secretaries, examiners who we rely on to keep everything running. Of course, we cannot operate without our full members and our associates – they are our lifeblood – so my sincere thanks to every one of you.

You all know I am not standing for re-election. The reasons for this were made clear in my recent email to all members and I'm not going to repeat them all here. In short, I have too much on my plate and some things, including the President role, need to go from my life. This does not mean I am in any way dissatisfied with IAM RoadSmart NZ. In fact, quite the opposite. I am proud of what we have achieved and convinced we can continue to promote Roadcraft with great success. I will just be playing my part in other ways.

I thank you for the opportunity to lead our organisation over the past year – it has been an absolute pleasure. I wish the new Council and all members all the very best for the future.

Paul Nees

National President

IAM RoadSmart NZ

March 2022