

Chairman's Report

Me akiaki tātau, kia whakapāpā a Aotearoa whānui.

Helping our Nation communicate.

I am pleased to present the annual report of Speech New Zealand in our 57th year. A warm welcome to our new Board members, Lucie Durkin, Sarah Entwistle, Nina Burchett, Sandra Bartlam, Christine Nash and Lynda Scott, who will be inducted onto the Board today.

We can celebrate that Speech New Zealand has continued to thrive and grow throughout the challenges of Covid. Teachers and examiners have been innovative in learning to use zoom to teach and examine when face to face has become impossible. The new flexi-syllabus has been very popular.

Thank you to the examination team of Pam Logan, Helen Balch and Karen Austin who have revised and updated the Theatre in Action syllabus for 2022. This is now on our website and hard copies are available from our office.

The theory exams have undergone radical change, thanks to the work of our examination committee. Students can now sit by assignment, written paper, or viva voce. It is hoped that these choices will encourage more students to enter.

Membership of the Board is voluntary. Members have worked extremely hard and committed many hours to the organisation. Thank you to you all for your support, wisdom, and creative ideas to help Speech New Zealand continue to grow and develop.

My sincere thanks to our dedicated team at NatO, Catherine, Claire, Kim, and Florence, led by our highly efficient Executive Officer, Emma. A system of exam entries online, has been installed. We have a new role of entry administrator and teacher liaison with Claire Tanner managing this from Christchurch, for the whole country. [This was the past role of local secretary in the regions]

Catherine is the tour administrator, Kim manages the theory exams, and distribution of badges and certificates. Florence is our finance officer.

Our data base continues to be updated by Stephen Holdaway. We are most appreciative of his continuing support.

The website has been revamped with a new face and content. This is attractive and inviting to the user. Thank you to Emma, Matt and Stacey for your design and creativity.

During the year several workshops relating to teaching speech and drama were held on zoom, open to all who were interested. Our thanks to Helen for organising the workshops and inviting the presenters. These have been a valuable resource for upskilling.

A new venture into teacher mentoring was established by Emma and proved to be very successful. This was a pilot programme with nine teacher mentors delivering to seven participants, over ten weeks. Several of the participants are now teaching their own students. This programme will be launched into the wider market in 2022.

Margriet Theron ran a Professional Speaking Course for ten qualified GPs from overseas. They were examined and all passed with good grades.

One of our proudest achievements was being able to create a new subcommittee under the umbrella of Speech NZ. We were delighted to welcome the SCA and establish a new group, EPC [Educators in Performance and Communication] with several different levels of membership, depending on the sub members choose to pay. A committee has been formed from new and present Board members. They are working on the aims and rules for this branch of Speech NZ. EPC, chaired by Helen Balch, will be responsible for our personal development workshops and seminars.

It is with sadness that we remember our esteemed colleagues who have died in 2021. Sister Leonie O'Neill, Janet Coote, Joyce Mowbray, and Mark Trezona. May they rest in peace.

Maria Hinton has asked for a leave of absence for a year. Examiners Colleen Bassett, Mary Burt, and Sheridan Hickey have resigned. These examiners have given generously of their time and expertise for many years. We thank them for their service and wish them well in retirement from Speech NZ. Local secretaries Sandra Collins, Sandra Schwass and Joce Butler retired at the time of the major changes to our exam administration. We thank them for their commitment to our organisation and the several years of welcoming hospitality they gave to many candidates and parents.

Our much valued and treasured Board member, Pam Logan will retire from our July Board meeting. Pam has served since 2007, as Chair and in various other roles, presently answering syllabus questions and composing the Teacher Alert. Pam has been a source of wisdom and knowledge. She will be greatly missed but only a phone call away if we need her advice or expertise.

With a solid structure and a competent team at NatO we can look forward to an exciting year ahead. We are fortunate that new members have volunteered to come onto the Board. They will bring fresh ideas and a new energy to help us to continue to grow in the future.

My heartfelt thanks to all the teachers and examiners who have supported us and helped our organisation to be a success. I commend your fortitude and resilience in coping with the huge challenges of the past year.

May this year see us moving towards some sense of normalcy.

Ehara taku tit e toa takitahi, engari he toa takitini

My strength is not as an individual but as a collective.

Pauline Prendergast
Chairman