



Helping our Nation to communicate

Chairman's Report
Speech New Zealand AGM
Year ended 31 December 2015

Overview of 2015

This is my first Annual Report as Chairman of Speech New Zealand.

I have been supported in this challenging role by a dedicated board that has been firmly committed to the aims and objectives of Speech New Zealand. All members of the board give of their time so willingly to promote, grow and fulfill our vision.

To Maureen Gray our manager and her team at National Office I extend on behalf of my fellow board members, our sincere thanks and appreciation for your professionalism and ongoing sterling support to the governance of the organisation.

The year has seen the board and national office focused on addressing the ongoing financial challenges that we continue to confront. I have every confidence that with our collective wisdom and experience we will build a strong foundation for the organisation in the years ahead.

2015 saw the organisation moving forward. We have been focused on growth, creativity in the programs we deliver and creating new business opportunities. All this has been achieved in a financially constrained economy. At all times we have been realistic, aware of the competitive market we operate in and acknowledging our services and qualifications are at the mercy of the discretionary dollar for many clients and candidates.

2015 began with our Examiners Seminar. The 2015 seminar concentrated on the theme '*Value in Evaluating*'. As an organisation we strive to give added value to our candidates. In meeting this key objective we ensure we are not only regularly standardised as examiners but we continue professional development so as to up skill and improve the feedback given to candidates.

Your board has a wealth of firsthand experience, wisdom, a wide range of professional skills with an excellent balance of youth and experience. At all times we continue to look at new ways of promotion and marketing so as to fulfill the expectations of our clients and candidates. As an organisation we are committed to introducing new technology and fully embrace the power and influence of social media.

As an organisation we are always open to change and continue to adjust to the trends and changes in schools, tertiary education, business and communities. In 2015 the Board provided business courses travelling to their location in both Christchurch and Auckland. The course topics were: *Giving and Receiving Feedback for Managers* and *Supervisors and Presentation and Communication Skills Workshops*. Both were successful and we intend to follow this path in 2016.

Our greatest promoters in the community continue to be are those who have benefitted from our examinations and services.

Speech New Zealand is a dynamic ever improving entity.

Gabrielle Thurston

Chairman