
PRESIDENT'S REPORT TO THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING FOR THE YEAR 2016-17

I have much pleasure in reporting on the progress and activities of the Taranaki Property Investor's Association over the past year.

Monthly Members Program

Over the last twelve months our monthly meeting program has again offered members a wide range of relevant topics delivered by competent and some high-profile speakers. The Executive is always striving to ensure TPIA members have access to a high calibre program of speakers' equal to anywhere in the country.

Meetings are generally well supported by members, relative to the size of our membership base.

Membership

Our membership has remained steady and in the 50-60 memberships range over the past 12 months. By comparison to other PIA's in NZ the TPIA has a good core retention rate with approx. 80% of our members renewing over the past 12 months.

Member Communications

Communications with members and friends by email, thanks to the efforts of our Vice-President, Lew Sarten is now well embedded and accepted by members. Lew has also been instrumental in developing our social media presence using Facebook. All members are encouraged to 'like' TPIA on Facebook and more importantly, to 'share' postings. It is the 'sharing' through individual networks that increased our exposure and builds our profile exponentially.

National Communications Meetings

Two members of the executive attended the NZPIF National Communications meetings held in Wellington in June 2016 and April this year. Your executive places priority on the TPIA being represented at these meetings. The NZPIF pays for the airfares of one representative from each PIA.

Annual NZPIF Conference

Last year's conference was held in New Plymouth on 14-16 October 2016. An organising committee, comprising executive committee members Helen Marriott as convenor, Claire Anderson, Bruce Wallis, Lew Sarten, Natasha Viliamu and myself, established October 2015 applied itself with enthusiasm, commitment to the delivery of the conference on behalf of the Federation. The Conference Committee was supported by Jan Hains, NZPIF

Communications Officer, Wellington, who attended to arranging sponsorship, providing admin support and was the floor manager at the event.

The conference organising team met on average, at least fortnightly, (for 12 months) to attend to the detail that is necessary to ensure the delivery of a successful conference that attracted over 200 delegates from throughout New Zealand. A special thanks to those members who acted as 'crew' throughout the conference to assist with its smooth-running, helping to make it a memorial experience for our delegates. A special, special thanks to Helen Marriott and partner Neville Gardner who both went the extra mile in contributing to the success of the conference.

Post-conference we received much positive feedback from delegates, with many commenting on the warm hospitality, the beer and matching food 'mix and mingle' social on the Friday night, the 'hop on, hop off' bus tour and the quality of the speakers and the informative content.

As reported in the financials for 2016/17, the Conference delivered a significant surplus.

Financial

As reported by our Treasurer, Natasha Viliamu, the TPIA is in very good financial heart. The Financials for 2016/17 show that costs have been well controlled over the past year and that we have very healthy reserves. The conference surplus has placed the Association in its strongest ever financial position. The challenge for future executives will be to be good stewards of the reserves. It is my hope that we hold the reserves long-term, allowing dividends to compound and in time use the interest earned to support the Associations activities.

TPIA Executive

I would like to thank members of the 2016/2017 Executive for their respective contributions during the past year. Another great year working with a dedicated and enthusiastic team.

To mention all by name: Vice President, Helen Marriott (until Dec 2016) then Lew Sarten; Secretary, Claire Anderson; Treasurer, Natasha Viliamu; Committee Members Tony Johns, Stephanie Murray, Jayne Skelton, Natasha Viliamu, Bruce Wallis and Richard Woodd.

A special mention for our retiring committee member and former Vice-President Bruce Wallis. Bruce has served on the executive for 17 years. Bruce has given outstanding service in securing speakers and sponsorship for meetings over many years, is a loyal member and a great champion of the Association. In addition to arranging the transport, Bruce has been our bus driver for many years on our annual investors bus trips.

Concluding Comments

As President of TPIA my personal aims have been to see that TPIA delivers a quality program for members' that is relevant and educational; that we continue to identify opportunities to add value for members and to ensure the Executive collectively manages the financial resources of TPIA in a prudent and responsible manner.

Over the past year I believe the Executive has again done well on all three counts. The TPIA is in good shape for the year ahead. The incoming Executive will have the challenges of continuing to look for ways to add value, hold costs, and grow membership numbers.

This AGM sees me completing 6 years as TPIA President. I have decided not to put my name forward this year, and instead pass the reins over to a new President. I will continue on the Executive as Immediate Past President for the next 12 months.

I regard it as a privilege to have acted in the capacity of President, and on the executive in various roles in earlier years. I am particularly appreciative of having the support of successive executives, the hall mark of which has been the enthusiasm of each executive member for property investment and the best interests of the Taranaki Property Investors Association and its members.

Colin Comber
President
20 June 2017