**President’s Report AGM 2020**

Last year, the CILT NZ strategy was focussed on infrastructure; improving the membership database, moving onto Xero to give great stability and transparency and generally reducing costs. The creation of a new admin and financial team (thanks Chris and John) has added to this new robust platform.

This year was meant to be around building membership by providing a growing number of events nationally ….. but then COVID-19 arrived !

Along with the intended Awards Dinner that was due in Auckland on the 14th October 2020, two other major CILT events were cancelled – and many planned local meetings and visits could not be run.

We changed the communication process for the CILT Council from having quarterly meetings of several hours to monthly Zoom meetings lasting one hour. This has enabled better communication and quicker decision making.

To provide more value to members, we started the “Friday Factsheets”. We only sent it out to members when we had something of interest to share – not just for the sake of it because it was Friday. We turned on the Factsheets quickly with the first one going out on the 20th March 2020. We sent out 13 of these communications (last one being on the 6th August) and we received many positive comments.

We improved the CILT NZ website - and the “Membership” section has dramatically enlarged.

Webinars were spear-headed by the Northern Section and we received several links to webinars from CILT International which we provided to NZ members. The magazine and mentoring services continued as usual.

Due to redundancies, we have lost a few members, but these have largely been replaced as new members have come on board. Our tight control on spending has enabled us to add to our very depleted reserves.

Some organisations have been very negatively impacted by COVID-19 – and others the opposite. CILT NZ has come out stronger than we were before.

**So, where to from here?**

* Two “local” awards events are being planned to present the awards to those who should have had them presented at the formal dinner in Auckland on the 14th October. Christchurch has theirs planned for the 6th November and the joint event between Northern / BOP / Waikato is still being planned.
* Local events are starting again - the Central Section’s new breakfast format attracted 30 attendees recently.
* The CILT International event that was to be in Perth in October 2020 has been moved to June 2021.
* The CILT Awards 2021 event is being planned for Wellington – probably in October.
* We are continuing to build our magazine, mentoring, corporate memberships and website – and are working on the implementation of a CPD programme. We would like to see more grading applications coming through.

As much a cliché as it sounds, I do want to thank the sectional committees and national council members who volunteer on behalf of our organisation and industry. It has not been an easy year.

A special thank you note for Ashu Kedia who has picked up the updating of our website – the whole time being unable to return to NZ from India due to COVID. Thanks Ashu.

We are all busy but if you would like to help with anything, we would love to have you on board. Please get in touch.

All the best for the coming year !

**Keith Robinson**

President CILT NZ