PRESIDENT’S REPORT

I took over the role of president from Judy Gardner at the beginning of August 2019. We were in the process of working through the changes to the Teaching Diploma Course to present it in a new format. With an enormous amount of input from the TDC working party, in the first instance the Tasman part of our Canterbury/Tasman branch, and latterly previous tutors and our previous co-ordinator John Guthrie, we were able to put together the new format which split into separate roles, several tasks which had previously all been done by the course tutors.

Our first task after this format was approved was to select a Course Co-ordinator, and we interviewed and selected Jo Bringins Chandler who comes with 20 years or so experience in education and event organisation.

We had a productive annual face to face National Executive meeting in Christchurch in November last year, and it was pleasing to be surrounded by so much energy and enthusiasm as we look forward as an organisation.

Unfortunately, we had some mishaps with our emails for quite a while, without being aware of it, and it seems likely that many people did not receive communication from us about enrolling for the TDC. However, the National Executive voted to continue with the course with a reduced number of students, and a reduction in the numbers of personnel as well. To maintain quality of delivery and diversity of teaching, there are monthly Zoom sessions with various people presenting, and whilst Jeanette Ida is the only full time tutor, there is one extra volunteer tutor at each workshop, and our Wellington branch has been wonderful at offering to fill guest tutor slots.

January saw our 50th anniversary celebrations in Nelson at “The Gathering” which was organised also by the Tasman part of our Canterbury/Tasman branch. The atmosphere was festive, and so many nourishing practices, and enthusiasm from our members. Much gratitude to everyone who was involved in such a wonderful event.

A global pandemic required some re-organisation of the first workshop for the TDC, and Jo has adeptly continued to adjust to what we’ve come to call a “moveable feast”, and IYTA NZ is very grateful for her ability to deal with the many and varied changes/obstacles she has faced since stepping into the role.

We have had a few changes in the line-up of our national executive, and I’d like to express my gratitude to those who have been in these roles, and also to those who have stepped into the roles. We do still have one vacancy for a branch rep in our Canterbury/Tasman branch, should anyone feel like they would like to contribute a little time to IYTA.

We are also beginning to look at phase two of changes to the TDC so that we can offer even more to our trainees, and also looking at the ways we can practically offer more to our members – in the way of online, and post-graduate studies.

We have recently found a new treasurer, and therefore can finally relieve Mark Bloomberg of this role, which he has graciously continued with, even though he tendered his resignation three years ago. Much gratitude to Mark for keeping things ticking along, and gratitude to Kim Lewis for stepping into the role.

We are also looking ahead to our next convention around February 2022.

So, there is a lot of activity behind the scenes, and if there is the support I would very much like to continue in the role of president for the coming year, so I can continue to be a part of, and guide, the proposed changes.

Warmest regards.

Nicole Busbridge.