



## SECRETARY'S REPORT TO THE 2023 AGM

It is with pleasure that I provide my Secretary's Report for the past year. It's been a year of transition and adaptation among the officers and Core Group that supports the administration of the Association. Whilst I have been a member of NZAIA for over 5 yrs, my belief in our role to promote and advance impact assessment and its impacts on society, economy and our environment has led me to want to do more to support our purpose and the skills, knowledge and expertise our membership represent. I felt it time to reciprocate and participate where I could to support what we all do. Being Secretary this past year has been an honour although I sometimes feel that I have not been as fully active and competent as I could. Life and work is becoming increasingly busy for all of us and this also means we, as IA practitioners, can become increasingly disconnected when we need it the most. Being part of an NZAIA community is important to share ideas, practice and a sense of collective effort, despite our work being very much individualised and project-based.

As Secretary of NZAIA I had hoped to find my tribe in the wonderful connections with other fellow impact assessors in New Zealand and beyond, and enable that connection to be shared. Yet, as any voluntary organisation we struggle as a result of us all being time poor. This year has been a challenge. We lost the amazing administrative capacity of Kate McNab who stepped down from the Core Group after years of tremendous service to the Association and whilst she gave us guidance and process to continue, we are only just getting into our groove, and living up to her diligent and organised capacity, for me at least, this has proved challenging! Saying that, we are blessed with a Core Group of incredible people who volunteer their time to take NZAIA strongly forward into our future.

My main responsibilities have been to support NZAIA through monthly meetings of the Core Group, and management of the day-to-day administration duties. I have worked alongside our Acting Chair, Richard Morgan and Finance officer, Andrew Crosland, to coordinate meetings, write minutes and help administrate the membership and business of the Association. Since our last AGM, the Core Group have met each month, deliberating on a set agenda to manage our finances, membership, policies and procedures, relationships and participation in the field of IA in Aotearoa New Zealand and beyond. I would like to thank the Core Group for their support, time and participation in assisting the Association, in what has been a year of transition and adaptation, particularly as we continue our work to align to the requirements of legislation that governs our operations.

In reflecting on the last year and looking forward, there is plenty to improve on for our collective membership, there are many benefits to becoming a member – not in the least our very

reasonable membership rates, but we should also celebrate the fact that the Association is over 30 years old. In this time our membership has dipped and grown over the years. Today, we have a membership of some 70 practitioners from all walks of life and expertise, and we would like this to grow in the coming year (better organising our membership process will be of great help in this effort!!) and it's my mission to dedicate some more time as Secretary to making this happen. We have a great following on social media, particularly LinkedIn, of some 1,700 followers thanks to Terry Calmeyer and the Core Group's efforts and turning this into membership will be important. We produce some excellent, insightful publications via our regular eNEWS and the Impact Connector for which we have Nick Taylor and Richard Morgan largely to thank in their coordination of these publications.

We really want to make NZAIA membership beneficial to each of you individually and collectively and we will be keen to check in with you and engage on how you think the Association can work best for each of us in the next year. Active participation and collaboration, as we head into a new National-led government where shifts in policy and legislation affecting our practice will be a reality is so very important, as is a place to call home for impact assessors and those interested in our individual and collective practice.

Thank you.

Dr Gilly Stewart  
26 November 2023