

## REGION NEWS

### FOR PRESENTATION AT COUNCIL AND CLUB MEETINGS IN MARCH AND APRIL, 2018

It has certainly been a very busy time as the Region Board makes the changes necessary to take us from an international organisation to a local organisation. The Board met in person on the weekend of 24<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup> February. It was a very busy weekend with a full agenda. The Board has also met via Skype and will have an in person meeting before and after Conference in New Zealand. The Skype and Conference meetings are at no extra cost to the members.

#### MEMBERSHIP

There has been a significant increase in membership this term. So far the Region has 24 new members. That is a wonderful achievement. Congratulations to all the Clubs who have been successful in gaining new members.

#### MEET UP

Thanks goes to Mary Wong for ensuring that each Club has a presence on Meet Up. Some Clubs are yet to see the benefits. However, the Clubs that have been utilising Meet Up for a while have experienced considerable interest that has led to new members.

#### NEW TRAINING

The Region is trying to enter the 21<sup>st</sup> century as far as our training is concerned. To this end, a series of webinars is planned to deliver training via the internet. All members should have received their invitation to the first webinar held on 10<sup>th</sup> March. These webinars will become a monthly event. Many thanks to Janeen Vosper for preparing and conducting the webinars.

#### CONFERENCE

The preparation for Conference in Nelson, New Zealand is in full swing. Many members are travelling to New Zealand for this joint Conference. If you haven't already, register for Conference and have a wonderful time of fun and learning.

There may be Clubs who will be in need of a delegate to represent them who is from another Club. If you know that there is more than one member from your Club attending Conference, consider volunteering to represent another Club. Please let Vicki Lamb, Credentials Chair know if you wish to volunteer.

#### BUSINESS PAPERS

The business papers for the AGM will be sent to Club contacts in due course. There will be some proposed amendments to the constitution and standing rules. Please keep you eye open for them in your inbox and share the contents with your members.

#### NOT-FOR-PROFIT STATUS

Many of you will realise that our official "not-for-profit" status was tied to the international level. The Board has been researching how we can be official recognised as "not-for-profit". To attain this status, some changes need to be made to our constitution. These changes will be among those proposed for this AGM.

## WRITING CONTEST

The closing date for the writing contest has been extended to 31<sup>st</sup> March. The Board has also decided to drop the rule about ineligibility for members who have won in the last two years. MALs may also enter. Please send your entries to Leigh Martin.

## MASTER MANUAL

There is a need to update the Master Manual to suit our organisation's changed status. This is a mammoth task. It will be undertaken in stages. As each stage is completed, it will be released to the members. The first section that is being reworked is Level 1 Accreditation and its associated assignments. Other educational items will be updated later.

As always, if you have any suggestions, questions or if you wish to volunteer for a job, please let a member of the Board know.