

## **31 July 2016: Minutes of the AGM of the Iyengar Yoga Association of New Zealand**

Venue: Herne Bay Yoga.

Present: Melodie Bachelor (Executive Committee Chair), Roger Brown (Executive Committee Secretary), Jyoteeka Cummings (Treasurer), Anna Timms, Eira Kramer, Kathleen Powel, Neil Mackay, Joy Sanders, Sue Lever, Glenn McBeth, Paul Gillick, Jane von Roy, Monica Haar, Brian McIndoe, Lee McGarver

Apologies: Jude Folkard, Sally Nauta, Duncan Catanach, Jo Peden, Michelle Robinson, Suzi Carson, Alison Salmons, Dai Jupiter, Lesley Young, Corry Regnier.

Meeting Opened 2.05pm

Chairpersons welcome: Melodie

Last year's minutes: Minutes of the AGM 16 August 2016 approved. Proposed by Anna, Eira seconded.

### **REPORTS:**

Treasurer: Report presented by Jyoteeka. It appears Association funds are in a healthy state with approximately \$100,000 in credit. Treasurer's report accepted.

Chairperson: Melodie's report attached.

Monica Haar said that all reports should have been presented to the membership before the AGM along with the notice of AGM. Members of the Exec assured her they will consult the Constitution for clarity. (Exec response attached) Relevant section of the Constitution copied below.

A&TT Report: Presented by Sue Lever. Report attached. Discussion about newly formed Moderator's Advisory Group. MAG has been formed to support A&TT. MAG will only meet when needed.

Bookshop report: Presented by Glenn.

Discussion about VHS cassettes in library. This is valuable archive material, but the cassettes are starting to deteriorate. Jyoteeka said it was an expensive operation to convert all material to DVD, but the meeting felt that this material does need to be digitally archived otherwise this resource will be lost – the conversion to digital format or DVD could be done incrementally in order to spread cost. Quotes will be sought for this.

Link report: Presented by Eira (outgoing editor, and attached below). Kathleen has now taken over. On-line version of Link has been well received. Kathleen is using Mailchimp, and this also works well. There has been a positive response to the 'on-line' link, and we will continue to publish one hard copy of the Link in December each year.

Election of officers: The current Exec officers and committee members have agreed to remain with the exception of Eira who has reached the end of two three year terms. Kathleen Powell will be the new committee member, and was nominated by Eira, seconded by Anna. Melodie thanked Eira for her dedication to the committee. Monica Harr stated that she considered there to be 'overstayers' on the Executive Committee.

Anna informed her that the Constitution allows for two consecutive three year terms, and the tenure of present sitting and honorary members is fully compliant. Relevant section of Constitution copied below.

Events Committee: Jyoteeka stepping down.

PR Committee: Seems to have disappeared after several attempts to initiate. Further discussion in Any Other Business.

Any other Business:

AGM thinks we should be more proactively marketing the Iyengar name. We have funds for this. Stephanie Quirk has suggested we use the 'trademark' more. It is part of our Association's mandate to actively promote Iyengar Yoga. Glenn suggested getting some quotes from PR firms. North Shore Yoga has gallantly agreed to take on the responsibility for PR. Brian also agreed to assist the newly formed PR Forum. Discussion followed about how to put the Iyengar name forward and present it as a 'point of difference'. Accessible for any age or physical condition. Safety record etc. Branding is first priority.

Glenn talked about tee shirts for Association workshops. Glenn suggested that anyone wishing to purchase a tee shirt should give their size and intention to purchase on application for the workshop. PR will take responsibility for this. Good quality cotton and good design and style called for.

Monica discussed the work of All Assessors. All Assessors is a forum of senior teachers who have attained minimum of JI3 certification. Monica said that Exec has not been communicating efficiently enough with All Assessors, and a recent request had not received a reply. Roger pointed out that the matter in question was discussed and minuted at the 20 June 2016 Exec meeting, and the minutes of all Exec meetings are published on the IYANZ website.

Meeting closed 4.06pm

Thanks to Melodie for hosting the AGM, and for facilitating the morning group practise and catering lunch.

**Exec's response to issues raised by Monica Haar:** (relevant sections of Constitution pertaining to points one and two copied below)

1 'Overstaying' of members of the Executive committee. The constitution allows for two consecutive three year terms. Eira has now reached the end of her second three year term and is stepping down from Exec. Roger will be in his final year. This assures continuity, and allows for all members of Exec comply with Constitution rules.

2. Financial and Committee reports: Exec has checked our Constitution and committee reports (including the financial report) only need to be presented at the AGM and not published prior to the AGM.

3. Exec's communication with All Assessors: The matter referred to was a highly sensitive issue regarding the repeated demands by Paul Barton for mediation. Exec had initially decided to ignore these demands because there appeared to be no terms of reference, and the repeated obsession with mediation was difficult to justify for financial reason. It was also felt that this would make unreasonable time demands on Exec members. Paul Barton had claimed personal grievances against members of Exec in many historical emails, and these were aired publicly in emails to All Assessors (many of whom do not sit on committees). Exec issued a comprehensive response to the A&TT and asked A&TT for assistance in responding to Paul Barton. A&TT chose not to be involved, but instead Anne-Marie Tweedie (a member of A&TT) informed All Assessors that Exec had not responded. Members of the All Assessors can request Exec's response from A&TT, but Exec feels that it would be inappropriate to make this dispute public. The Executive Committee does not support personal grievances being aired publicly, and asks that Association members refer to the Constitution in relation to disputes. Exec minutes therefore will not always document details of discussion of personal issues, but in this instance due to repeated pressure placed on the committee this issue has been recorded, and the minutes of the 20 June 2016 Exec meeting can be viewed on the Association website.

### **Relevant Sections of the Constitution of the IYANZ**

#### ***Executive Council Membership (section 7 pg 10)***

K) (Regional) Elected Representatives shall be elected for a period of **three years** and shall be eligible for re-election for **1x further term**, thereafter there must be a **gap of three years** before they can stand for further election

#### ***Honorary Officers (section 8, pg 11)***

D) Honorary Officers may hold office for **three years but can only hold that office twice**

#### ***General Meetings (section 11, pg 11-12)***

If members have any issues or questions relating to the running of AGM's, please refer to the Constitution for a complete set of rules. The IYANZ is an incorporated society registered under the rules set out in the Constitution. Rules from other organisations do not apply.

### **Chairperson Report AGM 31st July 2016**

This 2015 to 2016 year has been busy and successful with 5 assessments taking place from Introductory Level to Junior Intermediate Level 3. All committees have been busy either organising assessments or Association Events.

Soon after the very successful workshop conducted by Abhijata Shridar Iyengar in

May 2015 the Events and Executive Committee began the organisation of this year's guest teacher Manouso Manos. This workshop was held in the same venue in Auckland in May 2016. The Te Mahurehure Marae in Westmere is both central and adds a cultural component for all that gather together. Our members have given us feedback that they enjoy having everyone getting together from all the regions to catch up and enjoy and get to know Iyengar students and teachers from all over New Zealand.

Manouso also went to Christchurch, the Events committee did a fantastic job of organising this Event. Manouso was brilliant in his approach to asana and the Iyengar method. He shared openly and completely with all those in attendance, there were between 60 and 70 students and teachers attending in Christchurch and Auckland, a total of 140.

Next year we have the return of Jawahar Bangera from Mumbai India. Jawahar's teaching is true to the spirit of Iyengar Yoga. We look forward to sharing his warmth and knowledge again on the weekend of 21 to 24th of April next year. This is ANZAC weekend, so mark your calendar and join us. The venue is expected to be Bayfield Primary School in Herne Bay, Auckland.

We have some out-going committee members. Eira Kramer steps down from her position as Link Editor and Executive committee member. Eira has taken the Link from paper copy to digital and has always presented a great informative Link. As a committee member she has provided great insight and knowledge as an academic and dedicated Iyengar yoga practitioner and teacher. Thanks Eira.

Anne - Marie Tweedy steps down as Co-ordinator for the Junior Intermediate Assessments. A huge job as there are 3 assessments on most years to organise. She will stay on in the role until a replacement is found. Anne- Marie also steps down from her position on the Assessment and Teacher Training Committee. We thank her for all the years of tireless work and commitment.

Heidi Napflin held the bookshop for many years, thanks Heidi for the work you did there. The bookshop is now held by Glenn Macbeth.

Congratulations go to Monica Haar as she achieved an upgrade to Junior Advanced level 1 certification. Well done, it is inspiring and a great achievement.

We welcome Kathleen Powell back to the Link. Kathleen has already designed our new digital Link. It looks great and is easy to use. Thanks Kathleen. The executive committee decided to produce 2 digital Links and 1 paper Link per year. The paper Link will be an annual copy in December, commemorating Guruji at the time of his birthday.

The digital Link has been chosen as it cuts time for the Editor, it saves money for the association and is also the way forward. Most of us have access to a digital device and find it convenient to receive our information this way. Those that don't can still receive a paper Link once per year. We hope to have all the up-coming events advertised in this Link for the year ahead. Don't forget to send your advertising to Kathleen Powell. The next digital Link comes out in September.

The Executive Committee thank everybody for your contribution to IYANZ either on committee or as a valued member.

Namaste,  
Melodie

**BKS Iyengar Yoga Association of NZ Inc. – Treasurer’s Report 2015-16**

It has been a year of learning for myself and Demelza who has taken over a paid job of running the Subs and the financial books.

The association purchased MYOB which makes the Accounting process easier especially for the Accountants at the year end. We are able to see more easily where money is received and spent.

Demelza and I set up the on-line banking so that we no longer need to sign cheques and everything can be done by electronic transfer. This gives the added benefit that anyone who is reading the bank statements and see where the funds have been paid too.

Our main expenses over the year were the Assessments and Assessment training for Assessors. Intro 2 exam paid for itself as there were 13 candidates who sat the exam. The All Assessors meeting cost \$4216 part of which paid for moderator for the meeting. JI Assessments cost \$4630 while the income was \$2250.

The Admin costs for the year were nearly \$5000. This includes Accountants costs, Demelza's fees, Website costs and buying MYOB. This also included a permanent upgrade to the website to allow us to register for workshops online. I look forward to these costs coming down over the next year as we have put things in place that will help up save time and money.

The link cost \$3444 compared to \$5 to \$6000 over the last couple of years.

The Annual General Meeting cost \$1312.

Our profit from Manouso was approx \$8000.

We currently have a term deposit of \$32500, and on call accounts with \$69000.

We have paid out the Yoga Rashtra fee and have yet to pay the Iyengars' Cert Mark fee.

We have yet to received the accounts back from the Accountant but I believe we have just broke even over this last financial year.

The teachers who have not paid up their Cert mark are Wendy Brown, Stephanie Anderson, Patricia Crangle, Pam Crisp, Julia King, Marcia Leite, Juliet McLaine, Hillary Phillips, Tracey Roberts, Joanne Rome, Julie Sargison, Rachel Thompson, Darrel Watson, Gaynor Wilkie, vicky Williams, Modena Brown.

The following is the membership data.

as at March 31, 2016

as at July 27, 2016

as at March 31, 2015

as at March 31, 2014

Paid-up General Members

Teacher/Trainee Members

116  
99

Total

240  
221  
241  
238