

Executive Committee Report

26th AGM Iyengar Yoga New Zealand, 25 August 2019 Wellington Iyengar Yoga Centre, 6 Swan Lane, Wellington

I am very grateful to the Executive team that have served this year: Kathleen Powell (who manages the website, the memberships database and event registration), Jyoteeka Cummings (who manages the finances), Erica Viedma (who has the role of secretary) and Eira Kramer. We have met every four to five weeks over the year via the Messenger App and a couple of times in person at events. I am grateful for the time and positive energy that they all have put into Iyengar Yoga New Zealand (IYNZ).

It's been a busy year for the association but significantly last year was the centenary of the birth of BKS Iyengar. The large celebration in Pune was attended by around a dozen New Zealand association members. IYNZ also marked the BKS Iyengar's centenary with a convention in Raglan which around 100 people attended. The convention was taught by Sue Everett, Alan Goode, Melodie Batchelor and Suzi Carson. And sadly, the day after the centenary celebrations in Pune Geeta Iyengar died (16 December 2018). We mourn the loss of a great teacher.

Following the 2018 AGM our association's name was changed to 'Iyengar Yoga New Zealand', this was processed with the Companies Office. It was also time to update our logo and re-register our trademarks: name 'Iyengar' as it relates to teaching yoga and also the two images (the Hanumanasana/Temple logo and Natarajasana/Dancer logo).

In 2019 we started with a challenging and confronting time with negative media around yoga lineages and also abuse of the teacher/student relationship. This made us revisit our complaints procedures and check we have a current Ethics committee in place. We continue to be open to the discussions around these topics, and as the Executive committee of our community we continue to promote Abhijata's message of using pure intention and wise discrimination to our teachers.

Our next big challenge was Gulnaaz Dashti being turned away from Christchurch airport by Immigration New Zealand on the Wednesday before Queens' Birthday weekend. Monica Haar stepped in to teach that weekend along with Anne-Marie Tweedie and Melodie Batchelor. We are very clear all visiting teachers need to have a 'Special Event' working visa in future and also a Plan B needs to be in place for these events. We have commenced preparations for Abhijata Iyengar's visit in May 2020. Te Mahurehure Marae Point Chevalier, Auckland has been booked for this event.

Our email Link has continued to come out regularly.

Over the last couple of years IYNZ has drawn on its financial reserves. This gives us some concern for the longer-term financial sustainability of the association. We will keep an eye on this and have also taken the step to slightly increase to teacher membership fee (although they do still remain comparatively low).

Kathleen Powell continues her role of website and membership management but will step away from the meetings and other committee duties. We look forward to electing a replacement member at this AGM.

I look forward to the next year and hope to connect with as many as possible of our 240 members.

Jo Peden
Chair, IYNZ