

## IYNZ Executive Report to the AGM 2020

*Sunday 23 August 2020 at 3pm*

The membership of IYNZ has grown quite significantly from 240 to 270 over the last financial year with the number of teachers and trainees remaining at 106. Unfortunately, due to COVID-19 the two planned Introductory assessments were disrupted along with teacher training being disrupted. One of the planned Introductory assessments will go ahead later this year.

During the 2019 financial year IYNZ has continued to draw on its financial reserves at a rate of a few thousand a year. The reserves have been used mainly for administration of the website, covering assessments costs, event costs and books for sale (including Geeta Iyengar's European Teachers Convention 2009 book).

Late last year we started planning Abhijata's May 2020 visit. We had the venue, accommodation, flights and visas booked for Abhijata and her family. That planned event had to be cancelled because of to the COVID-19 pandemic.

A group of four of IYNZ members travelled to Pune in December to attend the launch of the draft *Certification and Assessment Guidelines*. Over 300 delegates from around the world attended meetings, discussions and classes over a week. The draft was then circulated to all Iyengar Yoga association members worldwide for consultation and feedback. These new *Certification and Assessment Guidelines* signify a new phase in Iyengar Yoga as new levels of certification, syllabi and assessment procedures are adopted. This brings some uncertainty and will require effort to implement. However, the Executive is optimistic it also represents a real opportunity for our community to grow.

IYNZ invited Abhijata Iyengar to teach over the four Sundays in June. We had around 240 participants. We were extremely pleased with this community event and see this is a good model for the future. IYNZ also hosted Jake Clennell's movie 'Iyengar, the man, yoga and the student's journey' in Auckland. It was well received and enjoyed by two sets of audiences.

We have continued to regularly send out our IYNZ Yoga Link. IYNZ also launched its' 'Today my Yoga is ....' campaign at the beginning of this year to grow our presence on social media.

In March, COVID-19 required all of New Zealand to go into lockdown for six weeks. Some of us decided to teach live on-line classes and it was an opportunity to attend live on-line classes with teachers from all around the world, including Prashant Iyengar and many senior Iyengar Yoga teachers. The financial impact of COVID-19 continues to present a threat to our community as classes or student numbers are restricted.

Thank you to the Executive team: Eira Kramer, Jyoteeka Cummings (Financial Officer), Renee Roos and Erica Viedma (Promotions) for their support over the past year. We have met monthly via the internet. Also, a huge thank you to Kathleen Powell for her work on the website, *The Link* and registrations. Erica Viedma is now standing down from the Executive Committee. IYNZ is grateful for all the hard work from these people.

Jo Peden, Chair, IYNZ