

IYNZ Executive Report to the AGM 2021

5 September 2021 via Zoom

Iyengar Yoga New Zealand's mission is to promote Iyengar Yoga within New Zealand. We do this by organising events for our community, communicating by newsletters and notices, and by holding Iyengar Yoga teacher assessments. We also have a small online presence.

The Executive committee have met on Zoom each month to manage the association. At this AGM Jyoteeka Cummings is standing down after 6 years on the Executive committee and before that 6 years on the A&TT committee. In particular, she has served several years as the association Treasurer. We thank her for her ongoing enthusiastic and diligent work. I too am standing down after serving three years as the Chair of the Executive committee and having served on the A&TT committee directly before that. I have found it really rewarding serving the community in this way. Eira Kramer, Renee Roos, Hayley Roberts, Sandra McLellan and Deborah Mann remain on the Executive committee.

Our teacher community has grown slightly over the last year to bring our association to 109 Certified Iyengar Yoga Teachers.

We sought dispensation from RIMYI (Ramamani Iyengar Memorial Yoga Institute) to hold two final Junior Intermediate Level 3 assessments earlier this year and from that we welcome five new JI3s/Level 3s. We are also delighted to report that in November 2020 seven candidates passed their Introductory Level 2 teaching assessment.

In this financial year, both the income and the outgoings of the association have decreased. The net result being our financial position has remained reasonably stable. This situation is due to not being able to hold in-person events during the COVID pandemic.

We have been so pleased with the range and depth of events we have organised for our community: from anatomy lectures with our own expert Sue Hallas to yoga philosophy and Sutras with Purnima Manghnani (July 2021). We also hosted (online) classical yoga workshops with senior Iyengar Yoga teachers from Pune: Devki Dashti (October 2020) and Raya Uma Datta (June 2021).

The association was able to hold one in-person meeting – our annual All Assessors' meeting in March which continued discussions on the new assessment system and preparations for our first Level 1 assessment in November (fingers crossed).

We regret not having our usual workshops with senior Australian teachers who usually come to NZ. These have been missed.

Exciting developments for the association are that we are in the initial phase of updating the IYNZ website. We have a team of skilled and interested members working on this project. The other thing the Executive is looking to do is increase the reach of our mailing list.

It's been another tough year for yoga teachers with the uncertainty around COVID and in and out of lockdowns, particularly in Auckland. However, I think for many of us we have continued to serve our communities and stay connected by taking classes online.

We really look forward to a time when we can physically come together as a community. On that note we do have an association event pencilled in for the last weekend in May 2021 in Raglan with an Australian teacher.

Jo Peden
Chair, IYNZ