



## **IRMTNZ Annual President's Report 2023**

It is with much pleasure I present the 43<sup>rd</sup> Annual Report of the Institute of Registered Music Teachers of New Zealand.

### ***Matatū tū Mataora - Stand tall, Shape the future***

It has been another year of hard work for your Council, extreme weather events presenting challenges to navigate all the while trying to serve the interests of the Institute and the music teaching profession.

I am in awe of the calibre of the Council, their drive and commitment and generous gift of time. As always, we are indebted to our Registrar, Elene Anderson, for her tireless and patient work, adhering to and promoting the values and goals of the Institute. We are delighted to welcome Dr Patrick Shepherd as our Government Nominee. Patrick brings a wealth of experience in the music education sector, an honest perspective, and a warm sense of humour.

Much of the work this year has been focused on re-igniting energy at Branch and individual level following the string of challenges we all faced over the past three years.

A Branch support group has maintained regular contact which is engaging our members with a greater sense of collegiality, ownership of the historic and current difficulties of the Institute, and helping inform our way forward from 2024.

The various Committees of the Council have continued to work through the current Strategic Plan at the same time as working towards shaping new, sustainable, and relevant paths for the future.

I draw your attention again to the composition and roles of Council. [Council - Learn Music NZ](#)

Council elections are due every three years – is there an area you feel you could be of service? Please seek nomination!

The Registration Board (Chair Margaret Maw) has welcomed 17 new Associate Members; 1 Provisional to Associate member and 2 Provisional Members this year. The application forms are regularly updated to ensure ease of completion, accessibility for those for whom English is not the first language, and diversity of instrument and genre categories.

### **IRMTNZ Membership numbers**

- 716 Financial members
- 4 Life members
- 2 Honorary Fellows
- 4 Honorary Members
- 21 Affiliate Organisation Members
- 6 Affiliate Individual Members

The recent Charities Amendment Bill, which has made changes to the Charities Act, require charities to review their rules within the next 3 years, and the Council of IRMTNZ is proposing two rule changes regarding Life Membership and a new category of unregistered member, Affiliate Teacher. These will be discussed at the Annual General Meeting.

The Education Committee (Chair Margaret Maw) Continues to exhibit tenacity as we move closer to the implementation of our Graduate Diploma in Instrumental and Vocal Teaching. Triangulation with strong education partnerships is required for a qualification to be robust, and negotiations are making promising progress.

IRMTNZ continues to enjoy a strong professional relationship with Teaching Council of Aotearoa NZ and is able to annually offer 5 funded places in our *Teacher Education Refresh Course* - specifically for those whose full classroom teaching practising certificate has lapsed. This course has reinstated over 20 music specialists into schools since its inception. We aim, of course, to have this number grow. The Teacher Training Courses, particularly the *Foundation Course*, continue to develop basic teaching and studio practice skills in newer teachers. 2023 saw over 20 candidates working on this Course. Mentors are assigned to work alongside Course Participants to support them through to Course Completion and ultimately Associate Membership of IRMTNZ. We are grateful to all mentors who share their time and experience with our newer teachers. There are still some areas of the country without mentors – please consider applying to be one, as although distance support is quite successful, face-to-face support is preferred.

Disappointingly, the *Upskill Course* has had very few participants, although those who have benefited have written inspiring comments.

[IRMTNZ Teacher Upskill Course for Members - Learn Music NZ](#)

Members are reminded of the Teacher Training library, which is available to all, via the Members' Area of the website for professional reading or video-viewing.

A One-day Refresh and Recharge Workshop is being held in Nelson in late January 2024. This may be offered around other Branches.

The Finance Committee (Chair Margaret Maw) continues to aim to sustain a professional and vital organisation, aware that the Institute is in need of more funds. We are extremely grateful to all the organisations who are able to sponsor our events and activities in various ways, including: The Nikau Foundation which administers the Judith Clark Memorial Trust; New Zealand Music Examinations Board; Trinity College London; ABRSM; MusicWorks; KBB Music; Piano Traders New Zealand and have some proposals to be discussed at the AGM.

The Cultural Diversity Committee (Chair Robert Ibell) has been formed to help develop processes for honouring Te Tiriti o Waitangi and extend the Institute's inclusivity. Perspectives, thoughts and practical help have been sought from various sources, and members are invited to keep abreast of ideas via our website.

The Communications Committee (Chair Katherine Jones) works tirelessly to spread news to our members via the website and *Ritmico Online* (RO). RO was one of our first answers to reducing expenses for the Institute, as well as increasing regularity of communication. However, it is only as successful as the number of people who 'read and heed' it so we plead with Branches to make sure all members are doing so. The Members' Area of the website is undergoing significant restructure with more emphasis on teaching resources and easier navigation around the site. Check later in 2024 for developments. Special thanks must go to the Communications Coordinator ("Coco"), Cathy Martin, for her sterling work in this area.

Professional Development is not yet compulsory for members, but highly recommended, not only for learning new methods but for maintaining enthusiasm for this profession. The recording of your own Professional Development (PD) is now a simple online process alongside your member profile.

Council offers Professional Development Scholarships annually and are delighted to hear that the recipients of these scholarships are enjoying the benefits.

[SCHOLARSHIP-FOR-IRMTNZ-MEMBERS.pdf \(learnmusicnz.org.nz\)](https://www.learnmusicnz.org.nz/SCHOLARSHIP-FOR-IRMTNZ-MEMBERS.pdf)

Please make every effort to attend National, Regional and Branch events so that you stay refreshed and full of vitality as possible so your energy can spread out into the community. Events are advertised on the website and Branch Events page.

[Branch Events - Learn Music NZ](#)

## IGNITE!

April 15-16 2024 sees our return to a face-to-face national gathering - **IGNITE** - the first in 4 years!



[Forthcoming - Learn Music NZ](#)

And February 14th 2025, **Renaissance '25**, invites members to refresh and revitalise in the Hawke's Bay with a myriad of professional and personal wellness workshops, running alongside the National Art Deco Festival. We hope to see you there.



Carbon neutrality has been achieved, with most Council meetings held via Zoom. Like you, Council keenly feels the need to meet face-to-face, and are looking forward to meeting with each other and with our members at Ignite in Wellington, April 14-16.

Ethics Please be sure to read the Code of Ethics to be cognisant of our standards and expectations.

I trust that, from this report, you realise the Institute is in good hands and the Council are doing their best to address the needs of all members. Please do support events as much as you can, so that the voluntary hours spent are of encouragement and benefit to us all.

May 2024 see IRMTNZ, and you personally, gain traction and enthusiasm.

***Matatū tū Mataora - Stand tall, Shape the future***

Nga mihinui, kia pai to whā whākata

Warmest regards, have a great holiday

**Wendy Hunt**

President, Teacher Training Coordinator IRMTNZ

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