



IRMTNZ Annual President's Report 2025

It is with much pleasure that I present the 45th Annual Report of the Institute of Registered Music Teachers of New Zealand.

Ko te pae tawhiti, whāia kia tata; ko te pae tata, whakamaua kia tina

Bring the distant horizon close; hold fast to what's been achieved.

The beginning of 2025 saw a new council with full representation from all districts.

My most sincere gratitude to my predecessor, Wendy Hunt and to the previous council for the initiatives set up during their term, many of which the new council has worked to further develop over the past year.

The Education committee, under the leadership of Graham McPhail has been the committee undergoing the greatest change this year. Louise Logan was appointed to the role of Teacher Training Course Coordinator, the role previously held by Wendy Hunt, and has worked alongside Graham to update and streamline our Foundation Course. We now have two intakes per year – February and July. This has been working well and we have been receiving applications for 2026 over the past few weeks. In 2026 the Foundation Course will continue to be refined and there will be some 'toolkits' for Branch-run PD made available.

The Graduate Diploma has been brewing for nearly 10 years now, with many obstacles along the way. We now have an MoU with Open Polytech, and I would like to thank Graham McPhail and Patrick Shepherd for their tenacity in facilitating this. There are still a number of stages to be passed before any work on the actual diploma begins - a business case, general design, approval from NZQA and approval from Teachers Council, so it is likely to be slow going for a while yet but we will keep you updated. One important clarification I would like to make to members is that this will not be an IRMTNZ Course as we had hoped it would be, as we do not have NZQA approval to host a course. This is why we require partnership with a tertiary institution to enable the development of a course specifically for studio music teachers.

A major focus this year has been to build stronger relationships within the Institute, and our two online initiatives – the Branch/Council Hui and the Zoom PD sessions, have proved invaluable. The Branches/Council Hui idea was set up by Robert Ibell, for Council members and 1-2 representatives from each branch to meet regularly in order to improve communication between Council and branch committees. Each discussion has a clear focus, such as questions on a new initiative or current aspect of Council work, alongside opportunities for branches to share both challenges and successes. Many suggestions originating from the Hui have been implemented and I sincerely thank all the branch committees for supporting this important venture.

The One Subscription is another initiative which has been on our minds for some time. Since we began looking at the logistics of implementing this and created a model of various scenarios, as well as consulting with our lawyer, we have decided that now is not the right time to proceed with this. We are all in agreement that while the idea of having a national subscription encompassing all of the branch subscriptions is a good one, the set-up costs and possible consequences are too risky for the Institute at this stage.

A topic consistently being raised at our Branches/Council Hui and one that council has also acknowledged as our most important goal, is the need to increase our membership. To this end, we are planning to focus our energies on revitalising our membership through a new, more functional and vibrant website, plus a rebrand. We have received a comprehensive report from a marketing consultant and are currently seeking quotes from potential website and logo designers. Our goal is to complete this process over the coming year.

We are very aware that an important aspect of increasing membership is to look after the members we currently have. Our new **Zoom in for Free PD** sessions have been very well received and these will be continued in 2026. They are open to all members and offer the opportunity to share ideas and ask questions, either on general PD topics or a specific topic which will be notified in advance. Special thanks to Graham for his work in this area. We continue to look for ways to improve our Council/member connections and online PD, and are looking forward to the greater possibilities a new website will bring.

Our Comms committee has continued to support the work of our Communications Coordinator, Cathy Martin, with regular publications and newsletters. *Ritmico Online* and *Ritmico* are always very well received and the positive comments we receive from members are a very real encouragement to us all. Thanks also to Cathy for keeping members informed through the newsletters from council; they contain information for members about any changes following council meetings, as well as important dates to remember.

Our 2026 Conference, **Kotahitanga – Creativity in Collaboration**, will be held in Nelson at the Nelson Centre of Musical Arts (NCMA), 8-10 April. I don't think there is any better way than our biennial national Conference to come together with colleagues from across the country, reconnect, and enjoy truly enriching Professional Development. Early Bird registrations finish on 15 February and we would love to see as many of our members together as possible. See our website for details.

As a Council, our role is to serve our members and provide stable, central oversight for our branches across Aotearoa, New Zealand. Please be assured that all feedback from you is genuinely valued and remember that your Council representatives are always willing to speak with you if you have ideas or concerns you wish to share with Council.

My first year as President has been a very full one but I must give special acknowledgement to my vice-president, Communications co-ordinator, and Comms Chair, Cathy Martin. Her work ethic and output is formidable and her guidance invaluable. Also, thanks as always to our Registrar, Elene Anderson, whose knowledge of the Institute is second to none and whose wisdom and guidance is always so very much appreciated.

I would also like to acknowledge and thank all the extremely hard-working members of the 2025 - 2028 Council – the voluntary work done behind the scenes demonstrates incredible dedication to the IRMTNZ and I am truly grateful to you all.

Noho ora mai



Katherine Jones

President IRMTNZ

29.12.25