



# THE NEW ZEALAND ELECTRONICS INSTITUTE

(Incorporated)

Charities Commission Registration Number 39965

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## **2023 Secretary's Report**

### **General**

Last year I wrote about the up-and-coming technologies of Artificial Intelligence, Internet of Things and Data Science. The past year has only seen these technologies go from strength to strength and become mainstream. One only needs to check out how search engines now routinely include artificial intelligence, the growth of chatbots, the availability of real-time power consumption monitoring and personally targeted marketing. Certainly, exciting times of change.

The impact of global warming and an aging population are featuring large on people's minds. The challenge for all of us is how can we harness these new technologies to our mutual benefit. Using our electronic experience, what opportunities can you see? Who do we need to partner with to turn them into reality?

The benefits of getting it right can be huge. I am aware of a small company that worked with a large hospital to remove paper documentation from the wards using i-Pads. The impact has been a reduction in hospital bed nights of over 5%. Another example is using a combination of artificial intelligence and data science to turn cellular mobile transceivers up and down depending on real-time demand. Power saving is in the order of 5% over almost 2000 sites.

Times of rapid change are not all about new benefits and opportunities. Invariably, there are those left behind from the wave of progress and those who look to exploit the opportunities for criminal intent. It is pleasing to see our Corporates stepping up to address digital literacy to help close the digital divide and raise fraud awareness. To be fair, this is not all altruistic as there are as there are benefits in improved customer loyalty and cost savings.

Just as telecommunications companies are morphing into technology companies, we need to morph too from our historical concepts of electronics to embracing the new technologies. We have done it before (remember valves before transistors) and can do it again. We have no choice!

The Institute continues its sponsorship program by looking to award another two grants to promising electronics students in the 2024 year.

The Institute extends its appreciation to the Spark Foundation for making the video conference facilities available free of charge.

My thanks to Malcolm Wheeler and Peter Over for their assistance and wisdom, throughout the year.

## Financial

Pleasingly, the Statement of Financial Position shows the Institute turned an operating profit. The three factors contributed to the improved financial position were a 250% increase in interest income, the impact of the \$5 increase in the subscription fee and the awarding of only a single Ross Muir Scholarship. However, before we get too complacent, my guess is we can expect a drop in interest rates over the coming year.

## Constitution

The new Incorporated Societies Act requires the Institute to reregister by April 2026. The first step in the process is to ensure our Constitution complies with the new Act. I have started to grind through the validation and aim to have any changes required drafted and circulated by the 2024 Annual General Meeting for approval at that meeting.

## Membership

	2021	2021	2022
Members as of 01 January	79	77	75
New	3	2	1
Gone No Address	-1	-1	0
Resignations	-3	-2	-2
Deceased	-1	-1	0
Non-Financial	0	0	-8
Members as 31 December	77	75	66

Comprising:

Life Fellow	2
Fellow	2
Senior Member	44
Member	7
Associate Member	11

Auckland	25
Waikato/BoP	5
Palmerston North	7
Wellington	6
Christchurch	14
Dunedin	6
Overseas	3

## Website

The Institute's website is the principal way of communicating with the members. All electronically themed meetings I am advised of are posted along with articles of interest that cross my desk.

Members are always welcome to submit relevant items for uploading to the site for the interest of the wider membership.