



February 2019

What a Summer we are having, it has been hot, hot, hot and here in Nelson it is dry, dry, very dry with water restrictions, fire bans and no access to walking/cycling tracks. Mind you it is too hot for those activities, for me anyway, but sometimes a nice walk along a native surrounded track is cooling. Please be mindful when scheduling your competition start times this month and ensure that there is plenty of water available and plenty of shade if not marching indoors. A great opportunity to change a day competition into a twilight event when the temperatures and sun is more tolerable.

Unlike January when we didn't have many tasks to complete, this month we do need to step up and start thinking - planning for next season as well as the tasks already in the diary for this month -

- ◆ **NZ Championships** are fast approaching, entries closed with 55 teams entering. Many thanks to the Secretaries who did diligently check that the entries were complete and correct, but again this year several entry forms arrived incomplete, some without listing Team accommodation, Team Managers, and even with un-registered marchers!! And still some Team Management Officials have to submit Conviction Checks which **MUST** be done prior to the NZ Championships. Registration for these personnel this season included providing a Conviction Check report to be sighted by the Association Membership/Privacy Officer.
- ◆ **Publicity Officer** may need some assistance with media reports of your Teams and Judges attending the NZ Championships in Christchurch – and then remember to follow up next month with the results. Do you have a 'human interest' story that would create media interest? Maybe a Mother coaching and daughter marching, or sisters marching in all grades, these are the headlines they look to create.
- ◆ **2021 NZ Championships** will be allocated by the Board at the May Board Meeting. Has your Association considered applying to host the 2021 Championships, put it on the agenda for the next Association Meeting. Consider the benefits to be gained for your Association hosting this prestigious event. Promotional opportunities abound, with the influx of 50+ Teams, marching will definitely be 'out n about' in your Association. Consider the potential outcomes if your local schools could be encouraged to be a 'Host School' where Teams could have their practice and any mass presentation would certainly attract attention and media interest as well. Consider the financial gains from selling souvenirs, raffles etc or an after event themed Party. Yes, hosting the Championships is a lot of work and requires commitment from a lot of volunteers, but you will be guided through the process and as with any event, good planning and budgeting will achieve good results. I am happy to answer questions to help with your application and the Director of Finance will offer budgeting advise. Refer to Rule of Participation NZC1-2, applications must be received no later than 30th April 2019.
- ◆ **MNZ Annual Meeting** will be held at the Brentwood Hotel in Wellington on Sunday 23rd June 2019. Start the discussion at your next meeting about changes needed to our Constitution only this year, being the alternate year there will not be remits for changes to the Polices and Rule of Participation. Notice of Motions for Constitutions changes must be received by 30th April 2019.
- ◆ **MNZ Service Awards** are awarded to members who have given 10year's of service to the sport as per Rule of Participation A23. Do you have any eligible members? Send names and a brief précis of their service to reach me no later than 30 April 2019 for consideration by the Board at the May Board Meeting.
- ◆ **Admin Workshop** to be held on Saturday 22nd June 2019 will be held at the Brentwood Hotel in Wellington. A one-day workshop and yes, it is the day prior to the Annual Meeting. Attendees will be welcome to stay on and attend the Annual Meeting if they wish. Details of the timetable and sessions will be circulated soon.
- ◆ **Life Members** are members of your Association, they may not be as active as in the past, but they are still members and need to be recorded in the membership statistics of your Association. Thank you to the Associations who have completed and submitted the Life Member Registration Form. A tip for next year - keep the completed form on file, add new Life Members elected this coming season and sadly removing the names of those who are no longer with us. Your form will be ready to submit with the Association Registration Form at the beginning of the new season.
- ◆ **School /Community Member Form** also needs to be completed especially now that the end of season is fast approaching. Any School/Community group or Leisure Teams at your competitions should be included in these numbers, and if it will save you time, just staple a copy of the entry form to your competition to the registration form and send through (or scan each and email).

- ◆ **Volunteer Form** also needs to be completed or updated. Tip for completing the form - add names after each competition or meeting, draw a line and send through to be added to the membership stats, then after the next month or two of adding more names draw another line and send through. Much easier than trying to think over an entire season of who has been a volunteer.

During the on-field season, competitions are a great opportunity to acknowledge a volunteer. It can become a focal point, and a gap filler whilst waiting for the results of the days competition. Call the volunteer forward to the circle, applaud then, acknowledge who they are to other members and what they actually do that enhances the operating of the Association or the running of the Competition Day. These comments may also be a catalyst for other members to volunteer knowing what the role is. The spiel you give for them can then be forwarded to be included in the MNZ Newsletter.

- ◆ **Forum Meeting** is outlined in Rule of Participation A19.10 and March/April is an ideal time to plan a meeting for all members now that the season end is fast approaching. It could even be held in conjunction with your Closing Day, parents/caregivers will already be in attendance and would save them a 'special trip' at a later date and time. An Open Forum Meeting is a great opportunity to get feedback from members and from parents/caregivers. Some feedback will be good, some will be bad, but all feedback will give direction and ideas for next season. You may also identify interested members who could become Committee Members for next season. They may need some persuading so start now, especially if you have some known vacancies coming up on your Committee.

Have a good month and ensure that your Association Championships are well organised and enjoyable, they are the showcase event on your calendar and the best promotional activity that is business as usual and requires little extra to organise. The date, venue is already established, its just the added value extras that will make it special, like offering afternoon tea at the conclusion or a 'games tent' for the younger siblings of the marchers.

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