



January 2020

HAPPY NEW YEAR and I hope that your Christmas and New Year celebrations were lots of fun, food, family, friends and altogether FANTASTIC. Now that the 'holiday' season is over the 'Marching' season is here again, we fast approach the biggest event in your Association calendar – the Association Championships.

The Island Championships were successfully hosted by Marching Hawke's Bay and Marching Marlborough, and sincere thanks for providing a great experience for the participants and the spectators.

Are you ready for the new interest created by your Teams and Associations appearance in the Santa Parades? A back to marching BBQ or get-together picnic in the park would be a great opportunity to introduce those interested into the sport. Even though we are mid-season, there is always room for a new marcher or interested parent and they can be kept kept ready for the new season by being involved now, so find some simple tasks on competition day to get them involved.

In January, we have a few tasks to bring us back into marching mode

- ◆ **Get-together** all members and families for a fun event BYO BBQ or Picnic in the Park with marching demonstrations from Teams as well as summer games and activities.
- ◆ **Entry forms** for the NZ Championships are available on the marching website events page www.marching.co.nz/events Closing date for entries is 31st January 2020. When entry forms are forwarded to the Association please check that all details are completed on the form and that all members are registered and remember to send a copy to the Host Association, Marching Auckland. You are also required to verify that the team has complied with
 - NZC3-1a/b – all members are registered, the Team has competed in the phases they are entering in at least two days of championships and/or competition in their association, have competed in their own Island Championships
 - RAC5-1/2 – they have been granted permission to travel by the Association and can satisfy the Association that the team has sufficient funds in order to meet such commitments.
- ◆ **Association Championships** are the next major event on our Marching calendar and then the New Zealand Championships. Add the final arrangements to the planning for your Championships that raises the bar for your participants and spectators. Make the Championships something special, add some finesse and make it enjoyable for all.
- ◆ **Life Members** have still to registered by two Associations. Remind your Membership /Privacy Officer to get this form sent through asap. Copy from the Association file copy sent through last year, adding any new Life Members and removing names of those who are no longer with us. There is no fee for Life Members.
- ◆ **Congratulations** to Marching Marlborough and Marching Canterbury who have increased their Membership numbers this season, an excellent result. Overall membership is down on last season and as reported last month Team numbers are also down. Thank you to the Associations who have already reviewed their numbers and are now establishing strategies to address this. For your next Committee Meeting, be sure to add to the agenda some allocated time to continue the discussion on strategies.
- ◆ **Volunteer of the Month** ... every Association have them so please pen a few sentences of their input for inclusion in the MNZ Newsletter. Look around at the next competition and that Volunteer of the Month could well be a helper on the day. As Secretary you could delegate this task to a Committee Member.

Have a good month and enjoy another BBQ or two before you are committed to the remainder of the marching season.

Diane

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