



February 2021

Hope you are enjoying your summer season, spending some family time out n about cycling or walking even swimming. Add some summer BBQ's and we can make this summer unstoppable, as long as everyone continues with good hygiene behaviours, scanning QR codes and stay home if sick, and get advice on whether to take a test we will be without the interruption of Covid-19.

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 your competition is not hosted 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 and succession planning for the Association Committee as well as the tasks this month –

- ◆ **Covid-19** is still with us and has sneaked out into the community also. To avoid a repeat interruption like last year we need to remain vigilant with our behaviours. Everyone can make a difference by continuing with good hygiene and reinforcing the basics, wash or sanitise hands, scan QR codes, turn on Bluetooth tracing on the NZ COVID Tracer app and stay home if sick and get advice on whether to take a test. Relook at your Covid Plan just in case it is needed with any move in Alert Level.
- ◆ **Sponsors** are being sort for new NZ Championships Trophies for the Plate March. Thank you to the Associations and Members who have indicated interest in being a trophy sponsor. The MNZ Trophy Custodian, Mrs Sherryn Wells will contact you direct for the details required for the new trophies, she is doing an amazing job of upgrading our trophy table and we look forward to seeing them all at the NZ Championships in Dunedin in March.
- ◆ **NZ Championships** are fast approaching, entries closed with 49 teams entering. Many thanks to the Secretaries who did diligently check that the entries were complete and correct. Thank you all.

All the planning by Marching Otago is coming together now and a very BIG THANK YOU to them for hosting this prestigious event on our marching calendar. The Championships will be held indoors on a carpet tile floor at the More FM Arena, Dunedin. Information updates, including the Draw and Timetable will be forwarded to Associations and will also be available from the MNZ website. Pre-orders for Souvenirs close on 14th February and pre-ordering will avoid any disappointment of missing out.

- ◆ **Hertz Rental NZ** are offering great deals for Teams (and spectators also) who are heading to Dunedin for the NZ Championships. Remind Teams of this and provide them with the special code # to take advantage of this and save.
- ◆ **Association Publicity Officer** may need some assistance with media reports of your Teams and Judges attending the NZ Championships in Dunedin – 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, sisters marching in all grades or a brother and sister in the same team, these are the stories that will create headlines.
- ◆ **2023 NZ Championships** will be allocated by the Board at the May Board Meeting. Has your Association considered applying to host the 2023 Championships? Add the topic on the next Association meeting agenda to be discussed. 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 2021.

- ◆ **MNZ Annual Meeting** will be held at the Brentwood Hotel in Wellington on Saturday/Sunday 26/27th June 2021. Start the discussion at your next meeting about changes needed to our Constitution, Policies and Rules of Participation. Notice of Motions and Remits for changes and items for General Business must be received by 30th April 2021.
- ◆ **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 the CEO no later than 30 April 2021 for consideration by the Board at the May Board Meeting.
- ◆ **Admin Workshop** (advance notice) for President/Secretary/Treasurer will be held on Sunday 8th August at the Brentwood Hotel in Wellington. A one-day workshop for the key officers of your Association.
- ◆ **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 then 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 as the end of the season is looming. 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' for invited guests at the conclusion or a 'games tent' for the younger siblings of the marchers.

Diane

Diane Gardiner
Chief Executive Officer, Marching New Zealand
Telephone 03 5463330,



www.marching.co.nz