



January 2021

HAPPY NEW YEAR and already almost one month gone of the year 2021. I hope that your Christmas and New Year celebrations were lots of fun, food, family, friends and forever memories. Now that the 'holiday' season is over the 'Marching' season is here again, we fast approach the biggest event on your Association calendar – the Association Championships.

The Island Championships were successfully hosted by Marching Taranaki and Marching Otago, 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 who participated in the local Santa Parades? And for Marching Taranaki and Marching Otago, are you ready for the interest created by hosting the Island events. A back to marching BBQ or 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 keen ready for the new season by being involved now, so find some simple tasks and start getting them involved.

Unfortunately, Covid-19 is still with us and 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.

In the meantime, we plan and prepare. 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 a Picnic in the Park with marching demonstrations from Teams as well as summer games and activities.
- ◆ **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, add a point of difference that raises the bar for your participants and spectators. Make the Championships something special, polish up the trophies, add some finesse, add a March Past, involve your Life Members and invite them to present the trophies and make it memorable and enjoyable for all.
- ◆ **Life Members** have still to be registered by some Associations. Check with your Membership /Privacy Officer and get the form sent through asap. Have them 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 Taranaki, Nelson and Southland who have increased their Membership numbers this season and to Marching Auckland, Taranaki, Nelson and Southland who have increased Team numbers from last year. Overall membership is slightly down on last season, but Team numbers are up two on last season. 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 to increase and retain membership.
- ◆ **Volunteer of the Month** ... every Association have them so please pen a few sentences of their voluntary input for inclusion in the MNZ Newsletter. Look around at the next event and that Volunteer of the Month could well be a helper of that event. As Secretary, why not delegate this task to a Committee Member, often they are only too keen to help out and this could be the first step in succession planning.
- ◆ **Entry forms** for the NZ Championships are available on the marching website events page [www.marching.co.nz/events](http://www.marching.co.nz/events) Closing date for entries is 31<sup>st</sup> January 2021. When entry forms are forwarded to the Association by the Team Coach 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 Otago. 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.

- ◆ **NZ Championships** planning is well underway by Marching Otago 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 will be forwarded to Associations and will also be available from the MNZ website. There are some awesome badge souvenirs for collectors and early ordering will avoid any disappointment of missing out.
- ◆ **Sponsors** are being sort for new NZ Championships Trophies for the Plate March. You would have received an email from the MNZ Trophy Custodian, Mrs Sherryn Wells seeking Association interest in sponsoring a new Trophy. Contact Sherryn direct if you are interested or have a member in your Association who is interested in sponsoring a new trophy for the Plate March for the Technical or Display phase.
- ◆ 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.

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

*Diane*

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



[www.marching.co.nz](http://www.marching.co.nz)