

New Zealand Society of Hong Kong

Annual General Meeting, 4 May 2010

Membership Convenor's Report

It is my pleasure to present the membership report of the New Zealand Society of Hong Kong, for the Society's 52nd year in existence.

The Society has a membership year equivalent to the calendar year. Members who pay the new year's subscription in the first half of the year, and new members who pay their subscription before the end of June and are approved by the Committee as members, pay a full year's subscription. Members are entitled to the benefits of membership from the moment the subscription is paid. Members, and new members, who pay in the latter half of the year, may have their membership subscription reduced at the discretion of the committee.

Historically, because of holidays through December and January, and the limited activities of the Society through those months, most renewing members pay their subscriptions at some time in the first three months of the year.

At the end of 2008, the Society had 245 adult members.

In 2009, only 112 members had paid their annual subscription by the end of March 2009. This number included 13 new memberships, 11 of which were families, for a total of 24 new members and 98 renewing members.

By the end of December 2009, the Society had 213 adult members, of which number 52 were new members. Thus, in 2009 our total membership was down by 32 on the previous year, and we had lost 84 adults who were members in 2008.

I have not done any analysis to determine where those 84 persons went. I hope that most of them left Hong Kong because their employment contract ceased, and that none of them dropped out because membership of the Society wasn't providing them with the experience they wanted. Perhaps later this year I shall try to contact some of them, and see if we can confirm the reason for the attrition of one-third of our members from one year to the next.

At the AGM last year, almost to the day, John Morgan reported that we had 139 paid-up members for the current year. This year I can report that we have 124 paid-up members for the 2010 membership year – a little behind last year's number, but not much.

Membership cards

Some of you may be wondering why you have not received a membership card this year. At one of the last Committee meetings of 2009 we decided not to issue the cardboard cards that we have used in the past, and instead to get a more durable, plastic card made. We also decided to try to find a sponsor for the design and manufacture of the cards. I can report that the cost of designing and printing the cards is fairly low – about \$HK10 each – but we have experienced some difficulties in the process of getting them designed. However I am confident that we shall have them by the end of this month, and that the process in future years will be very simple. In the meantime, members from 2009 who renew for 2010 can maintain their 2009 membership number, and new members are being allocated new numbers in sequence. I advise the names and numbers of paid-up members to our contact at Air New Zealand on a regular basis, so members wishing to take advantage of the extra luggage allowance offered by Air New Zealand can be assured that they don't need to show a membership card.

Membership benefits

You should be aware that the Society receives support and a certain amount of sponsorship from several organisations in Hong Kong. These are listed on the Society's web site. A few weeks ago Travis asked me to check whether these organisations are all prepared to continue with that support, and to offer the discounts and other benefits which they have done in the past. To be frank, I haven't made the time to complete this task, but I shall do so this month. I doubt if you will see any change, but if any of the arrangements have changed, notice will be published on the web site.

My own continuing role

At last year's AGM I tried to resign from the Committee, but only because I had missed over half of the Committee meetings through not being in Hong Kong on the date of the meeting. You may recall that Travis too tried to resign, after several years in the role of President. Since we were not overwhelmed with volunteers to replace us, we both remained on the Committee, and Travis continued as President.

This year, I again tender my resignation from the Committee, and as Membership Convenor, for the same reason as last year - I have again missed several Committee meetings. However if no-one wants the job, then I am happy to continue on the Committee in the same role, as long as my fellow Committee members accept that I shall be absent from time to time.

Thank you.

Peter Rae
Membership Convenor
3 May 2010