

New Zealand Society of Hong Kong
Annual General Meeting
4th May 2010



NZSHK President's Report

Welcome to the 2010 Annual General Meeting of the New Zealand Society of Hong Kong. It is my pleasure to present the President's Report covering the period from May 2009 to April 2010 – the 53rd year of the Society.

Over the past year, the committee has worked extremely hard to put together a calendar of events, suitable for all types of members. These have included a luau on Cheung Chau Island, NZ wine and cheese evenings at the NZ Focus Centre, a 'Black Friday' party on board the Open-top Tram, quiz nights at Kowloon Cricket Club, a rugby party with the NZ Aliens rugby team and another successful 'Great Race' around Hong Kong. The annual NZSHK Christmas Party was held on the Jaspas' Junk.

A personal highlight for me over the last year was the evening spent with the cultural group from the St Joseph's Maori Girls College at the NZ Consul-General's Residence. The group's stunning performance of song and dance left many in the audience teary-eyed and it was wonderful to see these young ambassadors of New Zealand performing in all their glory.

To celebrate Waitangi Day we enjoyed a BBQ event at the NZ Consul-General's residence at The Peak, which was very well supported by our members and other guests. We thank the new NZ Consul-General, Adele Bryant for her hospitality and continued support for the NZSHK.

NZSHK joined forces with the Australian Association to hold the ANZAC Day Cricket Challenge and Spring Picnic at the Hong Kong Police College in Aberdeen. This day was well supported by members from each organisation and it is hoped that this will become a regular event on our calendar in the year's ahead.

Our monthly get-togethers, Konnectionz, have again proved popular with members, although we will be again looking for a new venue. We have been using Solas Bar & Lounge in Central for a number of months but a recent change in policy by the management at Solas means that we can no longer use the sponsored wine and beer at that venue. We are grateful to Wine N' Things for sponsoring the NZ beer and wine for Konnectionz and we thank Lillian Haynes for her continued support.

In addition to our own events, the NZSHK has lent its support to other events in Hong Kong with a New Zealand flavour including the Digital Entertainment Leadership Forum (DELFF) that was held at Cyberport.

As you can see, it's been another very busy twelve months!

All these events take time and effort to arrange and I wish to take this opportunity to thank the other members of the committee who also give up their time on a voluntary basis to run the Society and put the events together.

Tammy Munro inspired and entertained us with her Maori songs and waiata during events and I thank her for her many valuable contributions and hard work as Secretary on the Committee. Tammy has decided to return to New Zealand this year and we will miss her greatly.

Roger has continued to do a great job at keeping our financial records up-to-date. He has worked with the local accounting firm 'Eastrend Ltd' to keep our statutory accounting records in order. Roger and his wife Annemarie were also responsible for putting together the second editions of the 'Luau on Cheung Chau' and 'The Great Race' – two of the most popular events held in the last year. Roger has decided to step down from the Committee after three years in the job so we will be seeking a new Treasurer on the Committee.

Peter Rae took over the Membership duties this year and despite his hectic travel plan he has managed to keep all the membership registrations up-to-date. Peter is also organising a new format membership card and we hope to have these issued to members shortly.

My thanks go to Sean Purdie for continuing as Vice President. We don't see too much of Sean as he travels a lot with his work but he is always a willing participant at Society events whenever he is in town. Sean has also taken on the task of revising the Constitution and Rules of the New Zealand Society of Hong Kong and a draft of the revised Constitution is being presented to members tonight.

Allan Hughes and Margie Emery joined the Committee during the year and they have already made some important contributions to some of the recent events.

We said farewell to Kelly Richards, who returned to New Zealand in October 2009 after a number of years on the Committee. Kelly worked with great enthusiasm and was responsible for organising a number of our events and for raising money for charity.

Nikki Goodwin-Gluyas replaced Kelly on the Committee and Nikki helped introduce a new system for planning, organising and budgeting for events. Nikki was not able to continue on the Committee and we wish her well on the arrival of her first child later this year.

The NZSHK is only part of the overall New Zealand community in Hong Kong and in an effort to build our relationships with other groups of New Zealanders we've co-hosted various activities and events together with the New Zealand Chamber of Commerce in Hong Kong, the New Zealand Consul-General's Office and New Zealand Trade and Enterprise.

In line with our pledge to support charities, the NZSHK made a donation of HK\$30,000 to HOPE for Children (Hong Kong). This money will be used to fund a series of workshops for families with autistic children in Hong Kong.

We continue to keep members updated via regular emails (hopefully not too many) and through updates to the Society's website at www.nzshk.org. To aid and help promote the awareness of Kiwi themed events in Hong Kong, we started a monthly newsletter called "The Buzz..." featuring our favourite buzzy bee toy.

On the financial side, the NZSHK continues to be very sound, although our allotment of HSBC shares has lost considerable value since last year's meeting due to not taking up the HSBC rights issue.

As mentioned earlier in this report, the NZSHK is revising its Constitution and Rules. This is being done to bring the Constitution up-to-date and to provide more flexibility in terms of membership and official meetings. A draft document is now available and this will also be distributed to members via email for their review and comments. An EGM will need to be held to approve the changes to the Constitution and Rules.

It has been my pleasure serving as the President of NZSHK over the past year. Having been the President for the past four years, I feel it is now time for someone else to take up the reins and move the NZSHK forward. An injection of new people onto the Committee will help keep the ideas fresh and the enthusiasm levels high. The New Zealand Society of Hong Kong is a wonderful organisation with over fifty years of history in Hong Kong. It does however rely on the efforts of volunteers to keep it going so I implore anyone who can spare a few hours each month to step up and help out on the Committee in order to keep the tradition alive and the New Zealand flag flying in Hong Kong.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Travis Pittman', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Travis John Pittman
President, NZSHK