



## Auckland Region



### AGM report (2015/16) - Extraordinary normalcy made possible by volunteers

This report is a celebration to the selfless individuals around our Region who have channelled their efforts through volunteerism – devoted to the cause of Road Safety and Advanced Riding & Driving, far bigger than themselves. This year stands out in terms of widespread effort from an increasing circle of volunteers in the Auckland region, working in collaboration with other regional groups and National Committee members.

Our goal of coaching associates to pass their advanced tests involves dedicated time from our 15+ observers outside the month-end and social rides. We overlook the personal expense incurred by observers in terms of lost earnings, wear and tear on bikes, fuel and phone calls. The co-ordination to set up checks, cross checks and test rides is hidden behind the scenes – many members just see the announcement via email and Facebook of another test pass. That coffee purchased for the observer by the associate is welcome but obviously can really only be a small token of appreciation.

Our goal of delivering regular month-end observed rides was achieved consistently with 15-20 attendees regardless of weather. Behind the variety of photos posted on our Facebook page was an invisible co-ordination involving the National Secretary (Keith Bishop), Regional Membership Secretaries in Auckland (Stephen McCormick) and in Central North Island (Geoff James) plus a significant number of Auckland observers working consistency and collaboratively. They don't seek out publicity for their dedication.

Our goal of delivering regular mid-month social rides was achieved to an array of local places from Muriwai to Mangawhai to Raglan. The scheduling of those rides, leading those rides and acting as Tail-end Charlie, was possible through a similar collaboration between our Social Secretary (Richard Turnbull) and a staggering number of full members. It shows unbridled support for the Region.

Our goal to raise the profile of IAM NZ in the Region and assisting the Car Division is progressing. The marshalling of the Pink Ribbon ride in October 2015, the Blue September ride, the February 2016 day out at Hampton Downs and, most recently, the stand at National Motorcycle Show in August took place. Several members, beyond those in our Auckland Committee, put their heads, hearts and wallets together to prepare for these events. Beyond the time on the day, an incredible amount of work went into preparing safety guidelines and brochures, liaising with police, race officials and show organisers. And with John Heebink joining the Regional Committee to represent the Car Division, we are definitely heading on the right track.

**The big question “Is this sustainable?”** Personally, when I see our members so dedicated to furthering our charitable aims in the Auckland region, it personally drives me to commit more effort as Chair. I can only hope it inspires others to start volunteering or continuing to volunteer.

Tessa Christmas - Chairperson

*Volunteers do not necessarily have the time; they just have the heart. ~Elizabeth Andrew*



Institute of Advanced Motorists (NZ) Inc