

## Wellington Region AGM report (2015/16)

### Foreword by the Chair

I am pleased to report another successful and progressive year culminating with an increase in membership and an active car division. I am heartened to see that the momentum we started with the inaugural National Conference and AGM last year has led us to being here in Christchurch today. A personal target of mine was to set up the car division and I am very pleased with the progress made so far. I give my sincere thanks to the committed and skilled individuals in the region; those on the management team and our observers who are passionate about what they do and give a significant amount of time to the Institute.

*Peter Hookham - Chairman*

### Membership

It has been another successful year for the motorcycle observing team. We have continued our focus on developing new observers for the Wellington region and we now have a team of five qualified and active observers, although some of those are currently on reduced duties due to injury, health issues or other commitments. Sometimes it's two steps forward and one step back; but that's life!

We have another intake of trainee observers in October, when we hope to have a further six begin their training, including one from the Manawatu-Wanganui region, which begins to open the possibility of expanding the IAM reach and growing a new regional group. By the end of 2017, I hope to have increased the team to at least 10 qualified and active observers.

We currently have 7 associate members allocated to observers and a further 11 associate members waiting to be allocated to observers.

We also have a further 6 prospects, all of whom have either had an initial assessment or have one scheduled over the next few weeks. By the end of October this year, I expect us to be in the position where all of our prospects have had an initial assessment. This will be a massive milestone for the Wellington motorcycle group, being the first time we have not only have been able to catch up on our backlog, but can now keep our waiting list open to new enquiries.

This year we have also significantly improved the systems that we use to maintain and track progress of our members, which has allowed us to improve the service that we offer. We acknowledge that many of our prospects have had a long wait and we thank them for their patience.



For the coming year, I would like to see us capturing and reporting key metrics such as the number of days between initial contact and initial assessment for prospects, and number of days between joining and allocation to an observer for associate members. Measuring and reporting is a good start and we can then watch the results as we work to improve those metrics.

I would like to thank all the volunteer observers who have given their time to help improve the safety and enjoyment of other motorcyclists, and I look forward to continuing the journey with them in the coming year.

*Neil Stodart – Chief Observer*

## **Car Division**

I think the highlight for this year has been the fact that eight car members and associates from the great Wellington area have surfaced after several years of languishing in the doldrums. One or two have taken leadership positions, one or two are Associates and want to become full members and there's interest in one becoming an observer and one re-qualifying as an examiner, which can only be good for the region.

*Wendy Betteridge – Car division lead*

## **Activities**

We continue to work across key stakeholders to encourage road safety and good riding and driving habits. We have excellent links with ACC and the NZTA, and our officers work across other groups when the opportunity arises.

We spent the first couple of months of the year tidying up the conference details, writing to thank speakers and finalising the accounts. We were pleased to note that a significant surplus remained when taking into account the fees paid and the ACC sponsorship. It was proposed to Council to set aside this surplus to help Christchurch with the next conference (2016).

In November we started planning a joint training / observing weekend with the Nelson group who were going through the same growing pains as we were the previous year.

In December Cat, Peter, Neil and Carey travelled to Nelson and assisted with an observer training session. The weekend was a total success and both groups found it extremely rewarding and worthwhile. We were also joined by Duncan Seed and Phil McDaid who was keen to ensure national consistency in Observer training delivery.



February saw the IAM represented at the “Shiny side up” motorcycle event at Southwards car museum. Over 1200 bikes attended the event and we had a good level of interest, working closely with the ACC rideforever team.



In April we were sad to lose Ross Gratton from the management team. His motorcycle training business (twobaldbikers) had really taken off and he felt that he could no longer spare the time. We also published our first regional newsletter with contributions from Cat, Carey, Neil and Peter.

In May, we hosted Council discussions on strategy development at Wellington airport. This full day session gave Council a good opportunity for discussion and to set strategy for the group to take us forwards into the future. We welcomed Wendy Betteridge to the management team as the car division leader. Wendy has made significant progress with identifying members past and present and getting relationships set up across the region to grow the division.

In June we developed a draft budget which allowed for another joint training session with our colleagues in Nelson and costs to allow one of our car examiners to come to Wellington to assess our trainee observers. Cat Merrick decided to step down from regional management team activities. We hope she will return sometime in the future.

In July we welcomed two new members to the management team. Heather Kinsey will be taking up the role of Secretary and Andy Sparrow has taken up the membership secretary role. Peter and Neil attended the Auckland Observer training weekend.



## Social riding

We continue with our end of month social rides giving opportunities for non-members to see what we are about, and for associates to have an additional observing opportunity.



## The Future

Our plan for the 16/17 year will be to continue increasing membership at all levels as well as undertake observer training and development across both the motorcycle and car divisions. We have prepared a budget for the year in which we propose to attend events to promote the IAM and to develop our observers. We will continue to work with government and sector partners in the promotion of road safety in NZ.

