

## Presidents Report for the Year Ending December 2012

As NZMPTA President, I have the pleasure of reporting the year's activities and tasks undertaken on your behalf by your elected committee.

As this is my final year as MPTA President, I would like to take the opportunity to thank the Council Committee Members past and present for their efforts over the past year and over the past 8-9 years that I have been on the MPTA Council. It has been a particularly busy three years with plenty of challenges put in front of these volunteers to work through. I am proud of the work and effort put in by my team and I retire with confidence that progress will go on and the NZMPTA is in good hands. Thanks team for all the help and support, good luck in the years ahead.

A very special thanks to Maria Scott, our Executive Officer, for her efforts over the past year and for the assistance she has given me for the past three years. Maria's efforts go without saying, she is a fantastic asset to this organisation and quite frankly without her we would not be making the progress we have to date. Maria, many thanks, your support, focus, and determination really made my life easier.

I would also like to thank Gary Reilly, our South Island representative, for finding the time to travel from the South Island not only for our regular meetings but also attending special interest meetings as well.

Before I go further into my report, I would like to thank you, our Members, for your continued support. The economic situation of the last few years has put pressure on a lot of businesses, times have been tough. We appreciate your continued support through Membership subs, sending staff along to the courses available, attending special events such as the Doug Reinemann presentation and your participation at this AGM. This shows us that you value this industry, and this organisation - Thank You.

Once again this year our team have been putting together strategies working with Dairy NZ, Electrical and Plumbing Governing Boards and Competenz on our proposed apprenticeship.

This year, Competenz gave our apprenticeship the best boost it's had so far in the form of Sue Williams. A Godsend who was hired to formulate the backbone of the apprenticeship qualification so we could present the proposed qualification for approval to NZQA. This involved additional outside help with regard to undertaking stakeholder consultation and gaining their support of the development of the qualification. This does not come without cost, which you will note the expenditure from the financial statements, however, with the progress made and the Application for Approval to Develop the Qualification now on the desk of NZQA, this is money well spent. Thanks Sue and Competenz, we await the outcome with excitement.

Maria has also recently met with Electrical and Plumbing Board representatives, expressing our desire to align with them to ensure our Members and their employees are working within legislation in these respective fields. Maria was met with welcoming responses from both parties, each offering pathways to getting on the right side of respective legislations and working to a mutual common ground. Sue Williams was also a great help here having contacts in the right places. Progress we hope.

The apprenticeship project is starting to get exciting, although the real work is yet to come - once the Approval to Develop has been given by NZQA. I hope you will all support this fully and that when the first year for enrolments rolls around that the classes are overflowing. In time, we anticipate that there will be the opportunity for those already experienced in the trade to have their expertise recognised and have the qualification cross-credited and awarded.

The Technology Training Centre continues to be a successful arm of MPTA with 222 participants receiving valuable industry training in 2012 and bringing in income of \$207K. We need your continued support throughout 2013 by taking advantage of the training opportunities offered.

Member's Equity has decreased from \$219k, to \$188k in 2012. I am not overly concerned about this as it reflects the capital and unrecoverable expenses with regard to writing new courses, updating existing ones and outwork costs of lobbying the powers that be around the Apprenticeship, Effluent and Plumbing issues. Also remembering that in 2011 Member's Equity increased from \$189k to \$219K, so we are remaining stable financially.

Our membership numbers also remain stable with 168 members and 114 current Registered Machine Testers - overall our Association is in pretty good health.

Let me now give you a brief report of Council activity over the past year:

- More than 50 members took advantage of the opportunity to listen to Doug Reinemann present his no BS round up on Stray Voltage and Mastitis which was very informative and well presented. 30 companies ordered the video of his presentation for staff training purposes - copies are still available if you missed out.
- We have developed two new courses in the water sector – Farm Dairy Effluent Hydraulic Design and Farm Water Reticulation Design. These have been developed and are facilitated by Dr Jim Hargreaves, formally of Massey University. The Farm Water Reticulation course has been born from the ashes of the Massey University Certificate in Agricultural Engineering. It is great to see this development for our Members in the water sector.
- MPTA, on behalf of our Members, challenged a proposed new Code of Practice for Variable Speed Drives for which we were not initially consulted. Our objections resulted in a review of the proposed code being undertaken which brought about the structure being changed to a Public Information Bulletin released in November 2012- with many of our recommendations taken into account. This is a real case of the MPTA working as watchdog for the industry as what was previously planned was detrimental for most of us.
- An Effluent Services Industry Internship Programme has recently been completed which saw three university agricultural students gaining experience within our sector of the Effluent Industry. Hopefully there will be a base of these qualified people for companies to draw from in the near future.
- Changes are being made to our dearly beloved Milking Machine testing practices; aligning a little closer to ISO standards but keeping it Kiwi. Vacuum in claw during Milking is of interest with 2 VaDia test units on order and milking time simulators to train the machine testers in the future.
- Improvements have been made to our website with more development proposed that will allow online access to resources such as the Milking Machine Testing Standards, AutoRep and some courses such as Introduction to Milking Machines. Some of the modules from the Milking Machine Testers course have already been placed online, which now means that the on-site components of this course can be completed in only five days as opposed to the previous nine-day course. Please use the facilities on the website such as to place an ad for a vacancy or to join in forum discussions etc.
- Projects coming out shortly:
  - Updates to our AutoRep Electronic Machine Test Reporting Programme
  - Updates for the Machine Testing Standards
  - Online Learning for some courses
  - The MPTA Industry Survey will be distributed shortly which provides useful information to Members indicating industry norms. In addition, it gives us valuable feedback on what your training needs are. I encourage all Members to participate in the Industry Survey so that the results can be collated from a wider representation of various sectors.

The list of Registered Milking Machine Testers is held on our website and updated after every Council meeting. We are aware that there are unregistered testers practising and would like to discourage this behaviour. I urge you to promote this site to your customers, so they understand what a Registered Machine Tester is and why they should contact you to use yours. Please report any Tester's you know of that are practising without a current registration.

Lastly, but by no means least, I ask that that we all take a moment in thought for Members who have passed away throughout the year; Life Member, Philip Locke in December after a courageous battle with cancer; and former Council Member, Neil Cooper in October after a short illness.

Thank you, once again, to the Members of the MPTA Council and to Maria for their work. And thank you, also, to our Members for your trusted support. I wish all our Members well and wish you success for the year ahead.

Thank you for your attention.

**Steve Bromley**  
**MPTA President**

**27<sup>th</sup> March 2013**