



# CZECH AND SLOVAK CLUB TAURANGA

8 May 2016

AGM President's Annual report

Today was another busy day, it is Sunday, but some of us were at work, some took their children to Czech School or Playgroup, and some celebrated Mothers' day, yet in the evening, here we are, at the AGM. Thank you all for coming, and the rest for reading! This is how a volunteer's time goes, always busy, giving their own time to others, without any expectations of reward, other than their own **good feeling**, that they do something meaningful, something enjoyed by many, and something enjoyed by themselves.

The typical character of Czech people is, I think, that we are perfectionists, and at time very opinionated. This in turn means we spend many hours in preparing and delivering events or running the admin part of the work. Hours, which can't be all accounted for or may not be noticed by the end user. I would like to **thank** all the committee for all those hours and efforts, without them, there would be no club, have no events, no benefit to our children.

A for me, the pressure on my role eased with increased number of committed committee members, for what I am very grateful. All falls in its tracks, as I am now able to "copy and paste", using templates from previous years for repetitive events, resources and experience collected over the 4 years of existence of our Club. I enjoy my role in the Playgroup, (biology and chemistry are my favourite subjects), it is great to be able to pass on some tricks and knowledge to the youngsters. My focus is now mainly on preparation of the Summer camp for 2017, as it is logistically our biggest and most evolving event.

I would like to remind to all, that anyone is more than welcome to **join** the committee. It is the body which is responsible for running of the club, and it is given by the rules that we have to have a committee to be a society. At the moment, we have six committee members. Although it sounds a bit stiff and political, we are just a bunch of normal people!!!. We may have different personalities, but we get on well, **without conflict**, we **respect** each other and work well together. There are many ways anyone can help. It does not have to mean that you have to attend every single monthly meeting, although it helps, to keep you in the loop of what is up, so if you can, please do pop in! There are some pieces of work, which we would like to have some help with, like a member roll, library, taking of meeting minutes, proofreading in English.... Or it can be something else, what you enjoy or you may be able to organize an event. For example, there are two children's music/folk group events coming up this winter.

We are doing very well as a club, I have counted 13 events we have organized as a club in past 12 Months, plus our Czech School and Playgroup runs regularly and smoothly, with the roll growing. We co-operate with other Czech and Slovak Clubs in New Zealand, and we welcomed a new Czech and Slovak Club in Dunedin this year. We are planning to send a representative to an international conference of Czech Schools in Sydney, this November. We managed to stand firmly on our feet, as per financial matter. We have continuous support from the Czech Government, and now also from Ministry of Education of New Zealand and of course our members. Our membership base has grown, and we now have 59 registered members.

Here is the "customer" feedback short summary, only 20% of members answered so far, so do not see too much behind the answers: "Jak se do lesa volá.."

50% read meeting minutes, 12.5% never reads meeting minutes, 25% always read meeting minutes, 62% reads email

25% never visit facebook, visit FB once a week, visit FB once a month

37.5% did not visit our web site yet, 37.5% visit once a Month.

25% prefers communication in Czech, 75% do not have preference.

*Which event you've enjoyed most and why?* :Summer camp, movie night, winter camp, because meeting new people, making new friends, and because of the Czech food.

*Ideas for new events:* youth club, sports club for adults, Christmas in winter..

*Which event need improvements:* Multicultural, summer camp, because most events need more helpers.

And my favourite question: ***The thing I like about the club most is.....***

....That there is no conflict between people, it is eventfull, events for children, mainly camps, school and playgroup, it gives Czech kids exposure to Czech culture and they learn the language, that we speak Czech and do things in Czech/Slovakian way, that we have great people I can meet, we can chat in Czech language and kids are engaged in a program.

Now it is time to celebrate, pat each other back, and thank all our members, friends and families for their continuous support.

Dana Dunford (president)