

# New Zealand Machine Knitters' Society Inc.

<b>President</b> Mrs Gaye Hall 12 Blackman St Te Kuiti 3910  Tel: (07) 878 5969  Email: gmh2@xtra.co.nz	<b>Secretary</b> Mrs Ann Banks 71 Mt Marua Way Timberlea Upper Hutt 5018  Tel: (04) 526 9993 022 342 0049 Email: banksma66@gmail.com	<b>Treasurer</b> Mrs Dianna Fenerty 178 Salisbury Street Ashhurst 4810  Tel: 0274 360 642  Email: lawrencefenerty@xtra.co.nz
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18 March 2020

Dear NZMKS Inc Members,

Regarding Covid 19 and the threat it poses to our members, your Executive together with the SteamKnit 2020 committee have decided to cancel SteamKnit 2020.

However, as our NZMKS Inc rules state we must have a Council Meeting and AGM, even if Festival does not go ahead in any year, the Council meeting and AGM will go ahead on Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> June at the Racecourse in Rotorua.

As you can imagine this was a very difficult decision to make considering some of our members have already registered and made bookings, and we were not all in agreement at the beginning of the decision making. However, on reflection and further discussion, we all now feel it is the right decision. Nearly all our members, for varied age and health reasons, fall into the 4% high risk category and we don't want to see any of you ill. Although NZ has only 10 confirmed cases of Covid 19 at the moment, we don't know whether this will escalate or how long it will take to get through this – it could be months. Therefore, we felt it better to err on the side of caution and cancel sooner rather than later. It would have been very unfair on members to leave the decision another week or so when more members could have registered.

Regarding Council Meeting and AGM, our rules state that we must have 60% of Councillors at the Council Meeting and 60% of Councillors plus 5 financial members at the AGM. This is doable by holding the meetings in Rotorua, which is the most central place in the North Island for Councillors to get to and I would imagine most of the North Island Councillors were going to drive to Festival anyway. And the South Island Councillors have either already made their reservations – so it won't impact them too much – or were going to come to Rotorua anyway. Almost 60% of Councillors live in the North island, hence retaining Rotorua as the venue for these 2 meetings. Regarding the 5 financial members for the AGM – we already have 3 living in Rotorua and at least 3 others I know of who can be there so the AGM is definitely doable.

There is very little business for Council Meeting/AGM this year apart from the usual reports, Election of Officers and Financial Report. And, of course, the Discussion Paper.

As far as Seminar and the Seminar Book is concerned, Seminar will be cancelled but we would still like Areas to send their contributions to the book in so that we can get it printed and your Delegates can work from it through the year. It was going to be sent out to Delegates before Festival anyway so this is not that much of a change. If Delegates are not sure of something and want it explained all they have to do is contact the Area concerned for an explanation. Anne Squire will be in contact with Delegates about this.

Once again, we are extremely sorry that we have had to make this very difficult decision, but we feel the welfare of our members is far more important than holding a Festival.

On behalf of the NZMKS Inc Executive and the SteamKnit 2020 committee

*Ann*

Ann Banks  
National Secretary.