

## ★ President's Piece

Ivan Hodgetts makes his last report as our CDANZ President, as he steps down at the AGM in October.



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### One last time....

This is my last contribution to the Ezine as President of the Association. I find it ironic that this coincides with Sam's editorial on happiness.

My time as President began with the challenge of fraud within the Association, and has progressed through to advocating for our collective contribution to the community, on to finding practical ways for the Association to operate in a smooth and efficient manner.

The rewards of this role are found in the collaboration with other people of the Executive. I feel it is our duty to ensure that CDANZ functions as well possible for the benefit of our members. This is no easy task, with limited resources and a volunteer team. Knowing the effort that is put in by all in our Association, the results we manage to achieve are excellent.

When I came in to this position, I was conscious that taking an Executive role – and a President's role – is about keeping a seat warm. There will be someone else taking over in what seems like a very short time. Because of that, I have put a lot of thought into how to develop the Association in a way that does not place a burden on the next person coming in to the role of President or to serving on the Executive in general. To that end we have worked hard to revise our financial systems so that we have a clear picture of our fiscal position and can plan accordingly. We are also in the process of revising the website (to be re-launched at the AGM) to make access to information and its use, easier for members. It is these practical, if mundane activities, that provide a robust and resilient Association.

My hope for the next few years is that the Association can continue to focus on developing its voice. We have been active in advocating on your behalf with government regarding the importance of well trained professionals providing career development related services. This can, at times, be frustrating. However, the international scene is shifting with greater recognition that systemic initiatives may provide some logic in policy circles, but it is the skills of practitioners', much like in teaching, that make a difference to people's lives.

My experience as President has confirmed for me that happiness is about process, not arriving at some destination. Working on tasks that matter and finding the small wins and progress are what bring satisfaction.

I wish you all the best for the remainder of the year. It would be great to see as many of you as possible at our Symposium and AGM in Christchurch.

★ Ivan Hodgetts – Career and Organisational Development specialist and CDANZ President.