

## **NZRCA PRESIDENTS REPORT 2008/9**

The past year has been a pretty good one for the Association. In a year when many are experiencing a downturn our Membership numbers have remained steady. Our Financial accounts show a similar profit to last year also. We welcomed a new R/C Club from Dargaville and a late change to this report tells that the Eastern Club will not now stay in recess.

While some Events such as the Racing Lines International and Electric Off Road Nationals showed a drop in numbers I am pleased to report that the 1/8<sup>th</sup> Gas Off Road events have been very impressive. Starting with Hamilton Clubs promotion at the International Rally in 2008 when a band of members built a track at Mystery Creek and had a very good event in a short space of time. Taranaki built a completely new track for the I/C North Is and Wellington a new track for the Windy Event spoilt only by the weather. Dunedin has a new track and is hoping to stage the next seasons South Is Champs. When one looks at these plus the effort put in by Auckland for the nationals and Harwood for the South Is Champs this class of racing here in New Zealand is World Class and the members who do all the work needed to achieve this are to be congratulated. For me one thing stands out and that is the amount of support this class of racing has and the amount of travelling Drivers are prepared to do to support it.

I am aware that travelling costs is an issue but think it is important that Events move around the country where possible to give all members a chance to compete. Gentlemens agreement need to be retained.

While some clubs are struggling to maintain numbers in Electric participation others have done very well. Manawatu held a great Electric on road Nationals with a very large entry. I would be remiss in this report if I did not mention Hamiltons success .Over 150 licenced Members and with the great facilities they are getting over 100 entries to Electric Club nights with a full Drivers stand of youngsters

During this past year some of our Members have competed in International Events overseas and been a credit to our Association not only with their efforts on the track but as ambassadors to our Country.

One area I think we need to watch is Forums on the Internet. New Zealand has some excellent forums run by very good moderators but Members need to be aware that some of the personal or negative posts are viewed around the world and they are not always a credit to us or the sport. The good work done by our drivers racing overseas raises the interest in racing here and we need to give a positive outlook on our forums which is often the first place people go to find out more about us.

It has been a privilege to have been your President and I would like to thank everyone for their support especially my fellow members on the Executive. All of them this year have done an excellent job. Remember the rules they have had to enforce are the rules the membership endorse or put into place today. Particular mention to Scott for a job well done. Also Trevor Reid and Sandy for their work for FEMCA. We are very well represented in the world bodies with them.

I wish the Association all the very best for the future. Next month marks 30 years involvement in R/C cars for me. I have enjoyed every one of them Thank you

Murray Macdonald