



The Hibernian Catholic Benefit Society

Dear Members

Thank you to delegates and members for their contributions to this year's annual meeting held in Palmerston North on Saturday, 16 August. The meeting was hosted by St Patrick's Branch No 400, Palmerston North. Elections for Board of Management saw sitting members Sr Jane McKee and Br Ian Bailey returned to office, with Br Mike McBride from Nelson elected along with Br Gordon Stewart and Br Jim Sweeney, both from Wellington who were also elected as trustees. It is my honour to have been elected national president.

The Board for 2008/09 is Br Robin Adair (Wellington - trustee), Br Ian Bailey (Woodville - president), Br Mike McBride (Nelson), Sr Jane McKee (Blenheim), Br Leo Neal (Auckland), Sr Colleen Petricevich (Auckland - vice president), Br Gordon Stewart (Wellington - trustee) and Br Jim Sweeney (Wellington - trustee), along with our secretary/manager Peter Gibson.



Vicar Forane, Fr Brian Walsh addressed the annual meeting before the start of the business session.



(L-R) Vice President Br Ian Bailey, President Br Philip O'Brien & Secretary/Manager Peter Gibson.

Brian Fennessy of St Joseph's Branch No 172, Hastings accepts the Past Officers Shield from President Philip O'Brien.



The shield is presented to the branch that gains the most new members for the year.



A group of spouses and partners about to set off on a visit to a local wind farm.



Dan Murphy, Jane McKee and Esme Murphy of Blenheim at the dinner.



Keith (in song) and Alma Stinson of Hastings. →



Tony and Mary Kriechbaum of Palmerston North. ←

Hibernian Credit Union - Promotion

A special promotion during July and August last year gave Hibernian Credit Union members the opportunity to increase the amount of dividend they receive on their investment shares. All the members were required to do was deposit \$500 of new money in investment shares, for a minimum period of only twelve months, to go in to a prize draw in August 2008.

The main prize was a tripling of the 8% dividend paid on that investment, paid for a maximum period of 12 months. In addition, there were ten consolation prizes of \$50 vouchers.

The prize draw took place during September under the direction of the Society's three trustees and the winners have been notified. Winners of the ten consolation prize vouchers were given a choice of voucher from one of Bunnings, Farmers, Mite 10, The Warehouse or Whitcoulls.

Membership Survey

Thank you to the 538 members who replied to the membership survey earlier this year. The results have been analysed by the review committee and formed the basis of an interim presentation to the Society's 2008 annual meeting. Once the review committee's full report has been considered by the Board, details will be advised to members.

Thank you also to Br Bill Hardiman, Br Phil Horan and Br Ray Morris for their valuable work.

Strategic Plan

The Board is embarking on the preparation of a strategic plan, with initial discussions to be guided by a facilitator from outside the Society. Much good work has been carried out previously by past boards over a number of years on the issues of the Society's future, its membership, its benefits and its marketing. The facilitator will assist the Board in bringing this information together as an ongoing strategic plan. That plan will also encompass the findings of the review committee.

Board member/trustee Br Robin Adair has accepted responsibility for steering the strategic plan through its various stages, for which we are very grateful. Robin gave a presentation to the annual meeting on the purpose of a strategic plan, that is a tool for improving the whole Society and to give it a sense of purpose and direction.

The Hibernian Catholic Benefit Society
www.hibernian.org.nz
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Members Dues

Members often suggest to us that we bill them for their dues on an annual basis. The Society's rules preclude this, and provide only for the payment of dues on a quarterly basis. In addition, while some of the sums collected from our members are small and annual billing would appear preferable, it must also be remembered that members who are contributing substantial sums to benefit funds each quarter could be caused hardship if all members were asked to pay on an annual basis.

To overcome the need to issue cheques for small amounts each quarter we suggest members pay an annual amount to national office, in advance, based on the expected quarterly dues for the ensuing year. Dues notices will still issue each quarter but the amount due will be shown as being in credit and identified by 'CR', with nothing to be paid.

Dues notices now also detail the Society's bank account for the benefit of those members who wish to pay their dues electronically. Please ensure your member number and name are shown in the payee details fields to enable national office to identify the member to whom the payment relates.

Please ensure all payments are made by the due date shown on the dues notice. We remind all members that if arrears of dues exceed the amount of two quarters contributions, membership of the Society shall cease and all claims to benefits be forfeited, in terms of the Society's rules.



Board members for 2008/09 during installation to office: (L-R) Br Ian Bailey, Br Robin Adair, Br Mike McBride, Sr Jane McKee, Br Leo Neal and Sr Colleen Petricevich. Absent overseas were Br Gordon Stewart and Br Jim Sweeney.

Yours fraternally, Ian Bailey, President

National Office: 94 Dixon Street, Wellington
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Secretary/Manager: Mr Peter Gibson