

**Wellington Multiple Sclerosis Society**

**Annual General Meeting – 18 May 2024**

**Committee Report**

Tēnā koutou katoa and good morning,

I'm Steve McCloskey and I've been privileged to be a committee member since 2015.

I'd like to start by thanking everyone who has contributed to our mission 'To empower people with MS and their whānau to live their best lives'. From the staff-side, Suzie and Lacey will present the Operations Report to update you on the highlights of the year and the future trends. The Committee is very grateful to all the staff who show real professionalism and care in supporting clients, raising vital funds to keep us going and updating members with the latest news.

We've had some new arrivals onto the Committee during the year and unfortunately, we've also had a few departures.

I'd like to acknowledge the amazing work of Heather Davey, who resigned as our President last July. Heather led our strategic planning and gave a huge amount of her energy to supporting the operational team. I'm very pleased that she still keeps in touch with us and lends support when she can.

Alexis Mundy joined the Committee last August with hopes of taking a leading role, but sadly decided to leave us in April. Other temporary committee members were Monica Madukwe, Su Mon Win, Colin Rowsell and Oliver Burton who have all moved on but I thank them for their interest and contribution to our cause.

Chelsea Quinn, our wonderful Secretary, resigned in March, due to other commitments. She said that being our secretary for the past few years had been the best job she'd ever had – not bad considering we didn't pay her a cent – and she would like to keep in touch and hopefully return to us at a later date.

On behalf of the Committee, I'd like to give my most sincere thanks to our Patron, Anne La Flamme, and her students for generously sharing their knowledge and work. We're all really impressed that there are committed and astonishingly clever people doing such great research to improve the lives of the MS community.

Being a Committee member is not always a fun job, but I look back on some memorable highlights, including attending the Annual Conference last October, liaising with other regional societies at Cluster meetings and linking up with participants of the Bangers to Bluff rally. There have been some real achievements but the best people to share those with you are our fantastic operational staff, so I will leave that to them.

Thank you.



Steve McCloskey