**2024 NZIIA Auckland Branch AGM Minutes**

**Thursday 21st March 2024 | 05:30-06:00pm | Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade Auckland office (in-person)**

***Present:*** 19 branch members (no online option)

***Apologies (3):*** Peter Hamilton, Catherine Grant, Nicholas Albrecht

1. **Minute of previous AGM**

No queries or additional comments.

2023’s AGM Minutes have been moved and adopted by Boguslaw Nowak and Gary Russell.

1. **Chair’s report**

Chairperson Rouben Azizian shared highlights of his chair’s report and gave thanks to committee members for contributions to the branch.

* Our branch has hosted 14 different events throughout 2023.
* Membership numbers for both paid members and student members have increased since last year, and as of the end of 2023 stood at 124 members.
* 2023’s executive committee was comprised of 10 members (7 males, 3 females including a Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade representative)
* Rouben has expressed that Chairpersons of different NZIIA branches would like to cooperate and work more together in the upcoming year.

Chair’s report moved by Jodi Johnston and seconded by Gary Russell

Please see Appendix A for Chair’s report and further details.

Please see Appendix B for a detailed list of 2023 branch events

Please see Appendix C for report of each committee members’ contribution

1. **Treasurer’s report**

Treasurer Jodi Johnston shared key points of our branch’s financial activity for the last financial year.

* There is a lag between membership fee amounts and the increase in membership numbers. However, the new amount for membership fees paid will be shown in the next round of financial report
* Main expenses for 2023’s financial year included expenses for events and for catering, Chair’s travel to Wellington’s AGM in 2023
* Liabilities include a payment that had been made into our branch account instead of the National Office, however this has been transferred and solved

Treasurer’s report moved by Boguslaw Nowak and seconded by Alex Murray

Please see Appendix D for full Treasurer’s report

1. **Election of New Committee**

A new Committee has been elected with no objections for 2024. And all previous committee members will continue their role on the new committee.

We welcome Sunil Kaushal who is new to the committee.

Those who have shown interest to serve on the committee but were not present at the AGM have not been included into the new committee. However, a motion has been second for the possibility for future co-opt by the new committee if members are still interested.

**NZIIA Auckland Branch Executive Committee 2024 (14 members):**

Rouben Azizian- Chairperson

Francesca Long- Deputy Chairperson & Administrator

Jodi Johnston- Treasurer

Alan Siu Lun Chan- Events Coordinator

Maria Batista- Public Relations Coordinator

Kathy Errington- Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade Representative

Gary Russell

Alexander Murrary

Boguslaw Nowak

Jose Miguel

Tim Carter

Sunil Kaushal

1. **AOB**

New events coming up include- Michela Wrong- British Author on Rwandan Genocide, UK High Commissioner, Chinese Ambassador, ASEAN Roundtable (collaboration with ANZF), Polish ex-President

1. **Closing remarks by Executive Director of NZIIA**

Hamish McDougall thanked Rouben Azizian and the rest of the committee for their ongoing contributions to the branch and wishes the best for the upcoming new committee.

**Appendix A**

**NZIIA Auckland Branch Report 2023**

**Branch Office Holders:**

Co-Chairs: Gary Russell and Rouben Azizian (March-August)

Chair: Rouben Azizian (from August)

Treasurer: Jodi Johnston

Administrator: Francesca Long

Events Coordinator: Alan Chan

Public relations: Maria Batista

The Branch had a very successful year marked by a considerable number of innovative activities. It experienced a significant increase in membership from 68 (36 paid and 32 students) to 124 (58 paid and 68 students) by the end of 2023. The Branch committee, which included 7 new and 3 previous members, worked as a tight and motivated team. The committee included experienced practitioners and academics as well as several students. It had 7 male and 3 female members. While five members of the committee held office positions, the other members had specific responsibilities or coordinated special projects.

Jose Miguel Trabanco, for example, initiated a very productive webinar with Ukraine’s Foreign Policy Association which was attended by more than 100 participants from New Zealand and Ukraine. Gary Russell organised and hosted several events at the Kinder House. Kathy Errington regularly provided useful MFAT updates and assisted with the use of MFAT’s facilities for the Branch events. Boguslaw Nowak facilitated the Branch interaction with the consular corps and the use of the Europe House at AUT. Maria Batista enhanced social media promotion efforts by opening a LinkedIn page which has been attracting a good number of viewers. The committee provided strong support to the NZIIA conference in Auckland in June 2023.

Throughout the year the Branch committee consistently worked on developing partnership relationships and diversification of events and speakers. The Branch partnered with Ukraine’s Foreign Policy Association, Asia New Zealand Foundation, Pacific Cooperation Foundation, New Zealand Asia Institute of Auckland university, the Centre for Defence and Security Studies of Massey university, Beca company, Auckland Business Chamber, and MinterEllison law firm. The speakers’ list included senior diplomats, international and local academics, strategic analysts, business representatives and members of NGOs.

The Branch was in regular contact with the National office and received valuable support from the Executive Director Hamish McDougall and Administrator Ivonne Palmer. The Branch exchanged information and coordinated events with the Wellington Branch. The Chairs of the two branches met several times and attempted to establish an online group of branch chairs. The successful year was a result of joint efforts by all Branch committee members with administrator Francesca Long making a particularly valuable contribution.

**Appendix B**

**List of Auckland Branch NZIIA Events 2023**

1-Mar *Auckland Branch AGM and The good bad and ugly of Washington politics* – Jodi Johnston, Deputy Chair of NZIIA Auckland Branch (2022)

12-Apr *Why Ukraine matters- a NATO perspective –* Dr. Benedette Berti, Head of Policy Planning, Office of the Secretary General at NATO

14-Apr *Navigating a Stormy Ocean: New Zealand Regional Politics in the Pacific* – David Vaeafe, Pacific Cooperation Foundation, and Associate Professor Sandra Tarte, University of the South Pacific

9-Jun *Roundtable: Experts from Malaysia and Indonesia -* Professor Cheng-Chwee Kuik, Head of the Centre for Asian Studies at Malaysia's National University, and Dr Luqman-nul Hakim, Department of International Relations at Universitas Gadjah Mada of Indonesia.

25-Jul *Countries and international organisations in times of turmoil –* HE Dr Zsolt Hetesy, Ambassador of Hungary

10-Aug *Post-Ukraine War World Order –* Professor Ramesh Thakur, Crawford School of Public Policy Australian National University

14-Sep *Collaborative Meeting: Potential partnership with Ukraine Foreign Policy Association –* Ukraine Foreign Policy Association

26-Oct *Address by US ambassador –* Ambassador Thomas Stewart Udall, Ambassador of United States of America

27-Oct *Roundtable: France in the Indo-Pacific* – Dr. Antoine Bondaz, Director of the Indo-Pacific Observatory in Paris and Research Fellow at the Foundation for Strategic Research

31-Oct *An address by the AIIB President –* Jin Liqun, President of Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB)

02-Nov *A journey into Ukraine –* Peter Macky, Author and retired lawyer

14-Nov *What you need to know about Ukraine: the past, present and future –* Professor Natalia Chaban, University of Canterbury, and Dr. Olga Dodd, Auckland University of Technology, and Mr. Kyrylo Cyril Kutcher, Massey University

30-Nov *State of Threat: The Challenges to New Zealand National Security: Meet the Contributors* – Rouben Azizian, Chair of NZIIA Auckland Branch (2023), Massey University, and William Hoverd, Director of the Centre for Defence and Security Studies of Massey University, and Damien Rogers, Associate Professor at Massey University, and Dr. Germana Nicklin, Massey University, and Jose Miguel Alonso-Trabanco, Massey University

15-Dec *Roundtable: Experts from Institute of World Economics at the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences –* Zou Zhibo, Deputy Director-General and Senior Research Fellow, and Song Jin, Division Head and Senior Research Fellow, and Xiao He, Deputy Division Head and Associate Research Fellow, and Jiang Fanggei, Deputy Division Head

**Appendix C**

**New Zealand Institute of International Affairs (Auckland branch)**

**Report of activities and contributions**

**Committee member and Administrator: Francesca Long**

It has been a true honour and blessing to the administrator for our Auckland Branch’s committee. As the administrator, I was in charge of co-ordinating committee meetings, including setting agendas, recording minutes, and drafting reports and event plans. I have also helped plan and co-ordinate our branch’s events and attended every event ensuring everything ran smoothly. Such co-ordination includes administrative and technical co-ordination with third parties, sending event details to all Auckland Branch members, venue and recording set-up, and communicating with the National Office. I had the privilege of helping the National Office with our National Conference held in Auckland this year, such as with logistics on the day and mic-running. Additionally, I was the technician and administrative co-ordinator for our Bilateral Webinar with Ukraine Foreign Policy Association, which included setting up dress-rehearsals and training other technicians. I have also had the privilege of representing our branch at several Roundtables throughout the year learning from various experts. In addition to organising and helping at events, I have also written summaries of our branch’s activities for the Review, and I have also organised video recordings of different events and edited such recordings to be posted online.

**Committee member and Event Coordinator: Alan Siu Lun Chan**

It was an honour for me to serve as a committee member of the NZIIA Auckland Branch in 2023. The year 2023 was an extremely productive one for our branch. I am grateful to have had the opportunity to participate in organising several successful events, including:

* Countries and International Organisations in Times of Turmoil – with HE Dr Zsolt Hetesy (Hungary Ambassador to NZ) on 25 July 2023;
* Post-Ukraine War World Order – with Emeritus Professor Ramesh Thakur (Crawford School of Public Policy, Australian National University) on 10 August 2023;
* The US-NZ Partnership in a Rapidly Changing World – with HE Thomas Stewart Udall (US Ambassador to NZ) on 26 Oct 2023;
* An address by the AIIB President – with Jin Liqun (President of the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB)) on 31 Oct 2023;
* Two-Year Anniversary of Russia's Invasion of Ukraine – a joint event with the Ukrainian Foreign Policy Association on 20 February 2024.

In addition to organising the events in 2023, the branch has made significant progress in establishing connections with commercial organisations in Auckland. I was pleased to see that my commercial experience was beneficial in helping these connections be established. I look forward to continuing to serve the branch in this capacity in 2024.

**Committee Member and Treasurer: Jodi Johnston**

As Treasurer in 2023, my role has been to ensure that the limited funds we obtain are used as wisely as possible for the furtherance of the objectives of the Auckland Branch of the New Zealand Institute of International Affairs.  I have been a reasonably active committee member, attending as many branch events as possible.  With procedural improvements in 2024, a growing membership base and access to alternate resources, I plan to continue (if reelected) to ensure that the membership gets the most value possible.

**Committee Member and Public relations Coordinator: Maria Batista**

As the Public Relations Coordinator, I have been actively engaging with our invited guests post-events, drafting thank you letters to Ambassadors and special guests, and creating social media content. Additionally, I have been recording our events and summarising them for the National Office. I've also taken on the responsibility of photographing our events and sharing these images on social media. Moreover, I manage our LinkedIn page, ensuring active engagement with our followers and striving to maximise our visibility and awareness

**Committee member: José Miguel Alonso-Trabanco**

In 2023, I joined the branch as an executive committee member. Concerning the substantial activities in which I was involved in 2023, I participated as panel speaker and book chapter author in the public presentation of an edited volume on contemporary and future national security issues published by Massey University Press. In the context of such event, I addressed the roles of digital currencies in New Zealand's economic statecraft. Likewise, on behalf of the branch, I was directly responsible for preliminary bilateral negotiations to explore potential bilateral collaborative activities with the Ukrainian Foreign Policy Association (UFPA). Additionally, I wrote an analytical article for the New Zealand International Review.

**Committee member and Co-Chair (until August): Gary Russell**

Hosted several Branch committee meetings and events at John Kinder House: 2023’s AGM, Jodi Johnston’s talk regarding his USA trip, Peter MacKay on Ukraine – Russia. Partnered on NZIIA events with VSA plus Churchill Club & HP A Board.

**Committee Member: Boguslaw Nowak**

Contacted Aleksander Kwasniewski,  former President of Poland about his speech via Zoom about current European issues, including Ukraine and NATO. The President has agreed. Date and time will be arranged later.    
Has helped with organizing the venue (Europe House) for 3 NZIIA events: Hungarian, Ukrainian and the future speech by Great Britain High Commissioner in NZ. Maintained regular dialogue and exchange of ideas with Branch Chairman on current issues.

**Appendix D**