

ANNUAL REPORT

2025



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Mission statement and purpose

New Zealand Institute of International Affairs (NZIIA) – Whare Tawāhi-amahi i Aotearoa, is an independent, non-governmental organisation that fosters expert discussion and understanding of international affairs as they relate to Aotearoa New Zealand.

The Institute is a registered charitable society governed by an eight-person Board, seven of whom are elected by its members and an ex officio appointee from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade. It comprises a National Office and seven branches around New Zealand; in Auckland, Christchurch, Hawkes Bay, Nelson, Palmerston North, Wairarapa and Wellington.

Established in 1934, NZIIA encourages understanding of international issues so that New Zealanders are better informed, gain different perspectives and have greater connections to the outside world. It exists for the long-term political, social, economic and environmental wellbeing of New Zealand.

The Institute delivers events, research and other initiatives, including public addresses by visiting experts and dignitaries, workshops, roundtable events, Track II and 1.5 dialogues, and a flagship conference. The National Office and Branches host an active programme of more than 100 events annually around New Zealand.

NZIIA communicates through digital platforms and has a long heritage of research publications, utilising international affairs experts from New Zealand and overseas. *New Zealand International Review* is the only magazine exclusively devoted to international affairs as they affect New Zealand. It has six editions per year and has been published for 49 years. The magazine is available for members as part of their subscription and to students at universities in New Zealand.

NZIIA's Charities Commission registration number is CC24250 and the incorporation number is 210554.

www.nziia.org.nz

Office holders

Patron

Patron

Rt Hon Sir Anand Satyanand

Board

Chair

Dr James Kember (from July 2024)

Vice Chair

Dr Serena Kelly (from July 2024)

Board members

Karim Dickie

David Evans (MFAT appointee until Nov 2025)

Dr Richard Grant

Esther Guy-Meakin (from May 2024)

Suzannah Jessep

Andrew Wierzbicki

Ben Eckman (MFAT appointee from Dec 2025)

Officers

Executive Director

Dr Hamish McDougall

Administrator

Yvonne Palmer

Managing Editor, *New Zealand*

International Review

Dr Ian McGibbon

Chartered Accountant

Libby Davis, Accounting for Charities
Trust

Independent Chartered Accountant Don Trow

Honorary Vice Presidents

Dr Roderic Alley
Associate Prof Stephen Hoadley
Rt Hon Sir Kenneth Keith
Hon Russell Marshall (*passed away
17 Jan 25*)
Gerald McGhie (*passed away
27 Mar 26*)
Simon Murdoch
Emeritus Prof Roberto Rabel
Scott Thomson
Neil Walter

Emeritus Prof Gary Hawke
Emeritus Prof Les Holborow
Brian Lynch
Dr Ian McGibbon
Dr Malcolm McKinnon
Dr Ian McGibbon
Richard Nottage (*passed away 11 Oct 25*)
Hon Hugh Templeton
Emeritus Prof Don Trow
Andrew Wierzbicki

Life Members

Dr Roderick Alley
Brian Foley
Associate Prof Stephen Hoadley
Hon Sir Douglas Kidd
Dr Ian McGibbon
Scott Thomson

Emeritus Prof Dov Bing
Ian Grant
Rt Hon Sir Kenneth Keith
Brian Lynch
Emeritus Professor Roberto Rabel
Emeritus Professor Don Trow



In my report a year ago, I quoted the New York-based Council on Foreign Relations' remark that 2024 had been "a trying year". 2025, as it has since noted, provided no break. Russia's war with Ukraine has entered a fourth year, as has Sudan's civil war. Attacks on Iran's missile facilities mid-year have proved to be just a small precursor for what has followed since. Closer to us, clashes in South and Southeast Asia have occurred. While a ceasefire in Gaza came into effect in October 2025, the path to sustained peace will be much longer.

2025 marked 80 years since the end of World War II and the optimism that followed with the work of the United Nations, and the trust placed in the rule of law. But it was also the first year of President Trump's second term in office, with the US withdrawal from the World Health Organisation and from the Paris Agreement on climate change, the disbanding of the US Agency for International Development, and the introduction of global tariffs on an unprecedented scale. After 2023 and 2024, the world experienced its warmest year (since records were established in the mid-19th century) and the highest ever levels of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere.

The notion that New Zealand is somewhat remote from these global challenges is a chimera. As Foreign Minister Winston Peters commented in his message of congratulation on the 50th year of *New Zealand International Review*, this is a world of dramatic change, with the end of the Cold War, shifting power dynamics, rapid economic growth and global interconnectedness amongst the changes that have profoundly affected foreign policy.

Minister Peters suggested that the *Review* continued to have a critical role to play in helping New Zealanders "understand and navigate this shifting world". For the Institute, now well into its ninth decade, one of the 2025 highlights was acknowledging the magazine, its evolution and contributions over the fifty years of production. So too was the recognition of the work of Dr Ian McGibbon, its editor for 40 years, and now its Editor Emeritus.

The Institute lost two of its staunchest supporters in 2025. The passing of former Foreign Minister and Institute President Hon Russell Marshall at the beginning of the year was noted in last year's report. In October, former Secretary of Foreign Affairs and Trade, Richard Nottage CNZM, also passed away. He had been an Honorary Vice- President of the Institute since his retirement in 1999 and later, for five years, a member of the Institute's Standing Committee. Their contributions are noted in more detail in issues of *New Zealand International Review*.

During the course of the year, our Executive Director, Dr Hamish McDougall, indicated his intention to step down in 2026 after more than three years in the role. Apart from his work in managing the National Office, relations with our branches, and maintaining a high output in social media and the management of two major conferences (more detail on the most recent conference is in his report), he has also been key to implementing the direction of travel set by the new constitution adopted in 2021. The Board is extremely grateful to him for his leadership over his term as Director, as the organisation moves in a more focused way to meet contemporary needs. His direction of the 2025 conference and contribution to the new volume of *New Zealand in World Affairs* are major legacies.

That the Institute is able to carry out a strong programme of activities throughout the country is due in large measure to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade – funding support but also through its board participation – and to Victoria University of Wellington Te Herenga Waka for providing accommodation and other services. The Institute remains immensely grateful to them, to other organisations, and to members themselves, for the ways in which they acknowledge and recognise the value obtained from its work.

2026 will see the first of the mandatory retirements from the Board under the two-term limits established as part of the new constitutional arrangements in 2021; and there will be others similarly departing in 2027. On a personal note, it has been a great privilege for me to work with such a dedicated group of colleagues, including our Vice-Chair Dr Serena Kelly, as well as with our Patron, Sir Anand Satyanand GNZM, who has provided unflinching support to the work of the organisation over the years. The

National Office, with Yvonne Palmer as Administrator, continues to serve the wider interests of members. I have also enjoyed my interaction with the hard-working branch chairs and committees who invest considerable time into ensuring a solid programme of high-quality events.

This will not only be my final report: it also marks the end of a direct association that has in the past included a period as Executive Secretary, another some years later as the foreign ministry's representative to both the national organisation and the Wellington Branch, several years as Chair of the Institute's Research and Publications Committee, and then two terms on the new board. The international issues of greatest concern have changed over the years. But it is perhaps worth recalling that when former MP, and later Prime Minister, Walter Nash wrote to invite people to the inaugural meeting of the NZIIA in 1934 – a meeting at which he was a speaker – some of the prevailing issues were the problems of the Pacific and its security, this at a time when a British naval base was under construction in Singapore. The need for an organisation “to promote an understanding of international questions and problems so far as they affect New Zealand” (the words used in *Contemporary New Zealand*, a book published by NZIIA in 1938) is as great, perhaps greater, today. I wish the Institute and its members well and thank them all for their support during my term in office.

Dr James Kember

Chair



In my fourth and final annual report for NZIIA, it is satisfying to sign off with another year of progress. This is despite the external environment remaining distinctly unstable, as outlined in the Chair's report.

Our 2025 strategy focused on enhancing international affairs knowledge amongst key audiences; improving financial sustainability; and improving administration and governance. There were excellent achievements in all three areas last year, with 75% of our objectives completed and several others in progress or due for delivery in 2026.

The national conference was a particular highlight, held at Takina in Wellington in June. This brought together over 300 delegates and 40 speakers, including a keynote from the Minister of Foreign Affairs, to discuss the most pressing international affairs issues. Such professionally run events at-scale expose a broad audience to world-class expertise, test policy positions and formulate solutions. These are needed now as much as ever, given the stormy and challenging outside world.

NZIIA's branch network also enjoyed another good year, and my extensive thanks go to all those on Branch committees volunteering to bring such an impressive line-up of speakers to audiences around the country. Of note, 2025 saw NZIIA's first ever event in Rotorua, featuring Sir Peter Gluckman delivering an impressive speech on science diplomacy to an attentive professional audience there. We hope this will be a pre-cursor of a NZIIA Rotorua Branch being established in due course.

In the past 12 months we have worked diligently on Volume V of *Aotearoa New Zealand in World Affairs*. This book series published by NZIIA covers important aspects of New Zealand's external relations going back to the Second World War, and the latest volume outlines the last 20 years with expert contributions edited by Mathew Doidge, Serena Kelly and myself. The book launch is coming soon and will be a highlight of 2026. It sits alongside the appointment of Mathew Doidge as the new editor of *New Zealand International Review*. Mathew replaces Ian McGibbon who

stepped down after 44 years of sterling service, leaving behind an enormous and invaluable body of work.

There was also pleasing financial progress, diversifying and growing NZIIA's revenue by co-delivering a policy dialogue and public diplomacy project for the European Union, operating the national conference at a small profit, and generating a range of sponsorships. The Institute is posting an overall loss of approximately \$30,000 for the year; however this comprises non-cash items (primarily depreciation of the website and treatment of conference pre-payments), and the National Office cash position actually improved, year-on year. This indicates prudent budget management and leaves a solid and improving financial base for the new Executive Director and Board to build upon.

As well as my leaving, there are two Board departures to mention here. Firstly James Kember steps down from the Board after successful stints as Chair and Vice Chair. He has provided countless hours of wise advice and tireless service to the Institute over the last few years, and deserves my and the Institute's fulsome thanks. Another to leave the Board after greatly helping in different ways is Suzannah Jessep, a long-standing supporter of NZIIA both on the Board and in leadership roles at Asia New Zealand Foundation.

In 2025, as in many previous years, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade and Te Herenga Waka Victoria University of Wellington have been hugely supportive. We could not operate without the support of those two organisations, and I am sure all NZIIA members echo our thanks to them.

My four-year stint as Executive Director has converted me into a life-long advocate for NZIIA and the work it does to foster expert discussion of international affairs as they affect New Zealand. I thank everyone who has contributed to NZIIA in my time here. I hope to remain involved in a less central capacity, and look forward to seeing a new Executive Director move NZIIA to greater heights in the coming years.

Ngā mihi nui

Dr Hamish McDougall

Executive Director

2025 National Office programme of events

- 4 Feb Public Address – Wellington: *The Viet Nam – New Zealand Strategic Partnership: Building a Common Narrative in the New Era* – Do Hung Viet, Deputy Foreign Minister of Viet Nam, with 82 participants
- 19 Mar Public Address – Auckland: *New Zealand’s International Futures: Security, Economy, Diplomacy*, Hon David Parker, Spokesperson for Foreign Affairs and expert panel, with 80 participants
- 6 May NZIIA Annual Lecture: – *Address by Hon Judith Collins KC, Minister of Defence*, with 209 participants
- 14 May Public Address – Wellington: *ASEAN-New Zealand: a Partnership for Peace and Prosperity*, HE Dr Kao Kim Hourn, Secretary-General of ASEAN, with 154 participants
- 17 Jun NZIIA National Conference – Wellington: *Aotearoa New Zealand’s Foreign & Trade Policies in Contested Spaces*

Keynote Speaker: Rt Hon Winston Peters, Minister of Foreign Affairs

Moderators and speakers: HE Vasyl Myroshnychenko, Emeritus Professor Roberto Rabel, Hon Dame Fran Wilde, Dr Julia Macdonald, Dr Jason Young, Raf Manji, Dr Ashalya Noa, Dr Serena Kelly, Zichen Wang, Professor Caitlin Byrne, Professor Lise Howard, Abhishek Sharma, Esther Guy-Meakin, Chloe Swarbrick MP, Kate Wilson Butler, Kristy Harrison, Sam Sachdeva, Hon Phil Twyford MP, Dr Reuben Steff, Professor Bethan Greener, Jacqui Caine, Caren Rangi, Mark Ramsden, Distinguished Professor Steven Ratuva, Associate Professor Anna Powles, Sione Tekiteki, Trent Fulcher, Rosalie Nelson, Shamubeel Equb, Catherine Beard, Professor Jason Mika, Juan Carlos Baker Pineda, Derek Grossman, Emily Mosley and Professor Alan Tidwell

MC: Dr Sarah Bradley

With 324 in person participants, and 28 online participants

- 20 Aug Inaugural Event – Rotorua: *New Zealand in a Global Science and Technology Revolution*, Sir Peter Gluckman, Kōi Tū Centre for Informed Futures, with 90 participants
- 20 Oct Expert Panel Event – Auckland: *Rising Global Autocracy and its Impact on New Zealand*, Speakers: Chris Ogden University of Auckland, Maria Amoudian, University of Auckland, Timothy Kuhner, University of Auckland, Jennifer Curtin, University of Auckland
- Moderated by: Hamish McDougall, Executive Director of New Zealand Institute of International Affairs, with 70 participants
- 23 Oct Moderated Expert Discussion – Auckland: *Europe and the Indo-Pacific: Security and Foreign Policy Connections. A Conversation with the Chair of Estonia’s Foreign Affairs Committee*, Marko Mihkelson, Chairman of the Foreign Affairs Committee of the Estonian Parliament, with 20 participants
- 3 Nov Public Address – Wellington: *The Struggle for Democracy in Belarus*, Sviatlana Tsikhanouskaya, President-elect of Belarus, National Leader and the Head of the United Transition Cabinet, with 71 participants
- 13 Nov Report Launch – Wellington: *Southeast Asian Perceptions of New Zealand*, co-hosted by the New Zealand Institute of International Affairs and the Asia New Zealand Foundation Te Whītau Tūhono, with 70 participants
- 17 Nov Public Address – Wellington: *Global Trade Policy Realignments: Drivers and Implications*, Professor Peter Draper, Institute of International Trade, with 40 participants
- 27 Nov Roundtable Discussion – Wellington: *Security in the Pacific: A Roundtable Discussion with the Embassy of the Republic of South Korea*, with 15 participants
- 2 Dec Public Event – Wellington: Commemoration of 50 years of publication of the New Zealand International Review, with 97 participants
- 15 Dec Public Lecture – Wellington: *Peace in Ukraine?*, HE Vasyl Myroshnychenko, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Ukraine to Australia and New Zealand, co-hosted by the New Zealand Institute of International Affairs and the Centre for Strategic Studies, with 100 participants

Branch Office Holders:

Chairperson: Francesca Long

Vice Chairperson Dr. Rouben Azizian

Administrator: Jayden Sul

Treasurer: Jodi Johnston

Public Relations: Emily Watts

2025 was a successful year for the Auckland Branch with events spanning a large breadth of international affairs, from leading academics unpacking today's shifting geopolitical landscape, to politicians and authors examining domestic policy and emerging technologies in warfare. Membership numbers also grew, reaching 82 paid members and 69 student members, a reflection of the branch's growing influence and relevance.

A highlight for our branch was welcoming Former President of Poland Aleksander Kwaśniewski, whose address was both timely and compelling given Europe's evolving security environment. It was truly an honour and great privilege to be able to hear from his address, with excellent and engaging questions from the audience too. We would like to extend a special thanks to committee member and Honorary Consul of the Republic of Poland in Auckland, Bogusław Nowak, for making this possible.

The branch also leaned into panel events this year, trialling a format where three to four speakers engage across a shared topic. Two standout events, one on the rise of global autocracy in partnership with the University of Auckland, and another on New Zealand's relationship with the Pacific in collaboration with the Pacific Cooperation Foundation, generated rich debate and strong audience engagement. We would like to thank everyone who collaborated with our branch, and we aim to continue fostering these and new relationships too. It has been a delight to see how our events drew a genuinely diverse crowd of students, policymakers, members of the diplomatic corps, and community members.

Another memorable moment was seeing the Ukrainian community rally behind author Kyrylo Cyril Kutcher's presentation, reflecting the kind of community connection our events aim to continue fostering in different

future events. Our goal remains to bring different corners of Auckland together, to network, to debate, and to strengthen New Zealand's connections with the world on the topics of international relations and trade.

Behind the scenes, the Chair and Vice-Chair worked actively to build new relationships and lock in exciting events for early 2026, with ambassadors and subject-matter experts already in the pipeline. We also made deliberate efforts to engage students interested in joining the future committee, with particular thanks to Dr. Rouben Azizian for his support in this area. As Chair, my aim is to hand over a committee that genuinely reflects Auckland's diversity in profession, background, and community ties to bring a larger variety of perspectives and events in the future.

None of this happens without a dedicated team of volunteers. I would like to express my sincerest thanks to our office holders, **Dr. Rouben Azizian** for tirelessly advocating for our branch; **Emily Watts** promoting our events; **Jayden Sul** for administrative support; **Sarah Fetuani** for event coordination; and **Jodi Johnston** for keeping our finances in order. We also extend warm gratitude to Executive Director **Hamish McDougall** for his continued support of our branch.

The successful year and growth of the Auckland Branch has been the result of collaborative engagement and help from each of our Branch's committee members. The committee is looking forward to evolving and working closer together in the upcoming year to provide even more variety of events and projects for our Auckland members and community.

Francesca Long

Chair

Events 2025

- 19 Mar *New Zealand's International Futures: Security, economy, diplomacy* – Hon David Parker, Spokesperson for Foreign Affairs and Export Panel
- 20 Mar *New Zealand's Geopolitics and the US-China Competition* – Dr. Reuben Steff, Senior Lecturer of Geopolitics and International Relations, University of Waikato
- 30 May *NZIIA Auckland Branch AGM 2025 and Identify, Security and Geopolitics of post-Soviet Transcaucasia and Central Asia* – Dr. Rouben Azizian, Chairperson of Auckland Branch 2024
- 04 Jun *The Russia-Ukraine war: obstacles to negotiations and finding solutions* – Professor Lise Howard, Georgetown University
- 11 Jun *Poland and Europe amid global tensions and conflicts* – Aleksander Kwansniewski, Former Present of Poland
- 20 Oct *Rising global autocracy and its impact on New Zealand* – Associate Professor Chris Ogden, University of Auckland; Associate Professor Timothy Kuhner, University of Auckland; Associate Professor Maria Armoudian, University of Auckland; Professor Jennifer Curtin, University of Auckland
- 30 Oct *Closing the Connection Gap: New Zealanders, the Pacific, and Global Affairs* – Hon. Carmel Sepuloni, Member of NZ Parliament and Deputy Leader of the Labour Party; Mr Sione Tekiteki, Senior Lecturer of Faculty of Law, Auckland University of Technology; Sarah Fetunani, NZIIA Auckland committee member
- 05 Dec *Z Empire Unmasked – Russia's War of Aggression, Ukraine's Defence, and Lessons for New Zealand* – Kyrylo Cyril Kutcher, author and researcher

Chair: Sandeep Sharma

Secretary: Max Mitchell

Treasurer: Paul Grainger

Committee Members: Sandeep Sharma; Paul Grainger; Serena Kelly; Toby Heale; Leonardo Bolstad; Max Mitchell; Andrew Wormald; Paris Chin

2025 has been a successful year for the NZIIA Christchurch Branch, a year defined by exceptional speakers, renewed energy within the committee, and a growing connection with students and early-career professionals across the city. Building on the strong foundation laid in 2024, the branch delivered a programme of events that was compelling and diverse in its reach.

We were fortunate to host Prof Lise Howard from Georgetown University, who brought valuable perspectives on international peacekeeping and conflict resolution, and Charles Edel from the Centre for Strategic and International Studies offered a timely analysis of Indo-Pacific strategy and great power competition.

Our diplomatic speaker series was a particular highlight. H.E. Makoto Osawa, Ambassador of Japan to New Zealand, opened the year with an engaging discussion on Japan's evolving policy reforms and trade negotiations; a topic of considerable interest given the shifting global trade landscape. This was followed by a well-attended session with H.E. Iona Thomas, UK High Commissioner, who spoke about the UK–New Zealand partnership and the significance of the bilateral free trade agreement.

The session hosted with H.E. Laurence Beau, Ambassador of France to New Zealand, on the Christchurch Call and the challenge of disinformation was among the most impactful events the branch has held in several years. It drew a full house and brought together members, students, academics, ethnic community representatives and diplomatic contacts under one roof. A genuine cross-section of Christchurch civil society.

We closed the year on a memorable note with an event co-hosted with the Asia New Zealand Foundation, featuring Joanne Ou from the Taipei Economic and Cultural Office on Taiwan's disaster management ties with New Zealand. This event was distinctive in that we took our programming back to the city centre, a refreshing change of venue that was well received by members and attracted strong attendance from across our stakeholder network. The partnership with Asia New Zealand Foundation is one we hope to build on in the year ahead.

In October, the branch held its Annual General Meeting alongside a special speaker event on 'Global Education as Soft Power: The Diplomatic Value of International Students' presented by branch Chair Sandeep Sharma, drawing on his recently published book *Good on You Mate*. Though the event moved online due to a red wind warning for Canterbury, it attracted strong attendance and sparked a lively discussion on international education as a vehicle for diplomacy and cultural exchange.

Across the year, our relationships with student clubs particularly at the University of Canterbury continued to strengthen. Student participation in events has grown noticeably. With new committee members bringing fresh skills and capacity, the branch is well-resourced to sustain and grow this engagement in 2026.

Acknowledgements

I wish to record my sincere gratitude to the committee members who have given their time and talent to the branch this year: Leonardo Bolstad and Andrew Wormald for their active and enthusiastic contributions throughout the year; Branch Secretary, Max Mitchell, whose dedication has been exceptional and deeply valued; Dr Serena Kelly and Toby Heale, whose experience and counsel continue to be a steadying and enriching influence on the branch; Paul Grainger, our Treasurer, for his continued commitment and steadfast support despite personal challenges and Paris Chin for her valuable practical assistance with events and member outreach.

I also extend warm thanks to the National Office. Dr James Kember, our National Chair, has provided thoughtful leadership and guidance

throughout the year. Hamish McDougall and Yvonne at the Executive Office have been an exceptional support and are greatly appreciated.

Looking ahead, the branch enters 2026 in strong shape with an engaged committee, a growing membership, and a programme that continues to attract speakers and audiences of real quality. We look forward to building on this momentum.

Ngā mihi nui,

Sandeep Sharma

Chair

Events 2025

- 13 Feb *Facing Challenges in a Turbulent World: A UK Perspective* – Lord Bourne of Aberystwyth
- 3 Mar *Policy Reform, Trade, Negotiation and Diplomacy* – HE Makoto Osawa, Ambassador of Japan to New Zealand
- 14 May *Understanding India: Reflections from New Zealand's Recent Visit* – Sandeep Sharma, Leonardo Bolstad, James To
- 29 May *Positioning New Zealand in Global Health Innovation: Parliamentary Leadership, International Collaboration and the Future of Medical Technology* – Dr Hamish Campbell, Member of Parliament
- 9 Jun *The UN Security Council and interstate War – a Russia-Ukraine case study* – Professor Lise Howard, Georgetown University
- 20 Aug *Trump 2.0 and the Indo-Pacific* – Charles Edel, inaugural Australia Chair, Center for Strategic and International Studies
- 25 Aug *Roundtable: Autonomy and Arms: Navigating the Future of Military Technology* – Dr Julia Macdonald, University of Denver & Asia New Zealand Foundation
- 11 Sep *The UK-NZ Partnership in Uncertain Times* – HE Ms Iona Thomas, British High Commissioner to New Zealand
- 8 Oct *The Christchurch Call, Disinformation, and the Role of Embassies* – HE Laurence Beau, Ambassador of France to New Zealand
- 23 Oct *Global Education as Soft Power: The Diplomatic Value of International Students* – Sandeep Sharma, NZIIA Christchurch Branch Chair
- 30 Oct *Building Global Resilience | Taiwan's Disaster Management and Climate Collaboration* – Joanne Ou, Representative of Taiwan to New Zealand

Branch report – HAWKE’S BAY

The Hawkes Bay Branch enjoyed another good year, with strong and growing levels of interest in attending our regular meetings.

While our limited finances pose some constraints, we fortunately continued to secure an array of interesting speakers, all of whom provided well-informed insights on global affairs for our members, and wider community. The Branch held eight meetings in 2025. Our speakers covered the gamut from government to diplomacy to business.

Branch membership remained broadly stable at around 50, as did turnout at our meetings, which averaged around 75 people.

Ian Hill

Chair

Events 2025

- 14 Feb *An address by Professor David Capie* – Centre for Strategic Studies, Te Herenga Waka Victoria University of Wellington
- 13 Mar *An address by Ian Hill* – Centre for Strategic Studies, Te Herenga Waka Victoria University of Wellington
- 10 Apr *An address by the High Commissioner of Singapore to New Zealand* – H.E. William Tan, Singapore High Commissioner
- 6 Jun *US Foreign Policy and its effects on the United Nations and the Multilateral System* – Prof. Lise Howard, Georgetown University
- 3 Jul *An address by the Ambassador of the European Union to New Zealand* – H.E. Mr Lawrence Meredith, EU Ambassador
- 25 Jul *Achieving Impact in a Contested World* – Taha MacPherson, Deputy Chief Executive – Policy, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade
- 8 Aug *An address by Fiona Cooper* – Chief Executive, NZUS Council
- 22 Aug *China's Foreign Policy in a Time of Uncertainty* – Dr Jason Young, Director of the New Zealand Contemporary Research Centre and Associate Professor of International Relations at Te Herenga Waka Victoria University of Wellington

I am pleased to provide this Report of the activities of the Nelson Branch over the 2025 year.

We have had a total of nine excellent presentations on varied topics; and one social occasion with a short presentation. You will see from the following list that we have attempted to be somewhat eclectic in the breadth of presentations – and not concentrated solely with what could be described as “international” affairs of the diplomatic sort.

Membership has remained at the limit of our present preferred venue – Nelson Golf Club: 55 Single and 66 Family. Our concern in that respect is such that we are investigating moving our presentations to the Pastorius Waller Theatre at the Suter Gallery in the centre of Nelson. This would have the advantage of increased capacity, but the disadvantage of increased monthly costs.

Our Committee members at the start of the year were Gay Hervey (Secretary), Steve Green (Treasurer), together with Alison McAlpine, and Judy Finn both of whom slot in to appropriate positions so that we cover the needs of our monthly meetings. Mid-year we were joined by Mattie Wall (a returning Nelsonian) who seems to be a ball of enthusiasm and helps to keep us on our toes. As well as recording my thanks to all Committee members, I must also mention the exceptional contribution of Gay Hervey our long time Secretary. I may be the official “face” as Chair, but she is the one whom (helped by other Committee members) does most of the background work and tries to keep me up with the play.

We have generally had a positive and cooperative working relationship with the National Office, and members are sorry to hear of the imminent departure of the Executive Director Hamish. There is however one concern worth noting. Although Nelson seems to be the Branch with the most paying Members; we are also the Branch with the highest special expenses, such as air fares and accommodation for out-of-town speakers making presentations. For that, and other reasons, our Committee was disappointed at the Board’s recent changes in the amount of National Office retentions in respect of the Annual Subscriptions.

Finally, I thank again all Committee members for their work, and also commend the ongoing loyalty of the Branch members, and all others who have contributed to our successful 2025 year.

John Fitchett

Chair

Events 2025

- 23 Jan *The sheer power of artificial intelligence is now growing at an exceptional pace. What will it mean for us humans* – Sir Malcolm Grant Former Chair of NHS England, President and Provost of University College London and Chancellor of University of York
- 20 Feb *The outlook for NZ & US relations under President Trump 2.0* – Fiona Cooper, Executive Director NZUS Council
- 20 Mar *Can democracy Survive the Current Polycrisis* – Professor Jonathan Boston, Emeritus Professor of Public Policy Victoria University
- 10 Apr *Disturbances – Then and Now* – Colin James, A political journalist known for his non-partisan approach to Parliament
- 8 May *The South China Sea: Past, Present, and Possibilities* – Peter Cozens, A long career in maritime security, strategy and education
- 12 Jun *How peace is made and maintained in some of the most volatile parts of the world* – Professor Dr Lise M Howard, Professor of Government and Foreign Service Georgetown University
(Cost of travel and accommodation borne by National Office and Centre for Strategic Studies Victoria University)
- 7 Aug *Greece – the Government, the Economy & the People* – Richard Palmer, Local Nelsonian based in Greece working at the intersection of international trade, primary production, and agricultural innovation
- 17 Sep *International Aid: What does it cost; What is its Value* – John McKinnon, Renowned for Nepalese Development work
- 29 Oct *Weaponised Words: Disinformation and International Affairs* – Gavin Ellis, former Editor New Zealand Herald and currently Honorary Fellow Koi Tu The Centre for Informed Futures
- 26 Nov Social Function with brief presentation from Dan George, a local Headmaster of one of the most multi-cultural schools with many immigrant and refugee children

Last year was another positive and productive year for the Palmerston North branch. Throughout the year, the branch continued its mission of promoting an understanding of international affairs, with a particular emphasis on engaging younger audiences and highlighting the relevance of global developments to New Zealand’s future. The branch also remained committed to strengthening connections between diplomacy, international affairs, and the regional business community, recognising the important role international relationships play in supporting regional economic development, trade, and innovation.

As in previous years, the branch maintained strong collaboration with regional partners including the International Relations team at Palmerston North City Council, the Manawatū Business Chamber, and tertiary institutions such as Massey University, UCOL, and IPU New Zealand. Building on this foundation, the branch also increased outreach to secondary schools as part of a broader effort to raise awareness among the next generation about the importance of international affairs, global citizenship, and opportunities available through international engagement.

Several notable events were held throughout the year. In March, the branch hosted the “Unlocking Doors for Global Experiences and International Opportunities” Expo, connecting students with organisations offering international exchange, study, and volunteering opportunities. Speakers included Libby Giles (New Zealand Centre for Global Studies), Mayor Grant Smith (President of Global Cities New Zealand), Kate Harridge (Palmerston North City Council), and Chris Gallavin (Global Citizenship New Zealand). Exhibitors included the Asia New Zealand Foundation, Volunteer Service Abroad, and several tertiary institutions. The event provided students with insights into global citizenship and the benefits of overseas experiences. It was also recorded and broadcast in partnership with Manawatū People’s Radio, marking the first time the branch worked with a local media partner to extend the availability of the event.

In June, the branch hosted a lunchtime discussion with John Pearson, Deputy British High Commissioner to New Zealand, at FoodHQ in partnership with Palmerston North City Council. The event explored the

evolving relationship between the United Kingdom and New Zealand, including diplomacy, trade, innovation, and cooperation in the Pacific. Dr Victoria Hatton, CEO of FoodHQ and Vice-Chair of the British New Zealand Business Alliance, also contributed insights on regional innovation and export collaboration.

During the year, the branch also hosted a delegation from the Malaysia–New Zealand Business Chamber of Commerce, strengthening links between the Manawatū region and Southeast Asia. The visit included collaboration with partners such as CEDA and the Manawatū Business Chamber, and engagement with local businesses and emerging technology ventures, highlighting Palmerston North’s role in international business and innovation networks.

The year also brought governance changes for the branch. After two years of leadership, Nelson Harper stepped down as Chair in December, with Louis Batley taking on the role. Several committee members also transitioned from their roles as they relocated from the Manawatū region. The branch thanks them for their service and contributions.

These changes have provided an opportunity to refresh the branch’s strategic direction, with a renewed focus on strengthening partnerships, supporting younger members, and developing a targeted and collaborative programme of events for the future.

Louis Batley

Chair

Events 2025

- 6 Mar *Unlocking Doors for Global Experience* –Libby Giles (New Zealand Centre for Global Studies), Mayor Grant Smith (President of Global Cities New Zealand), Kate Harridge (Palmerston North City Council), and Chris Gallavin (Global Citizenship New Zealand)
- 2 May *Discover Opportunities Within Chaos* – Jarrod Kerr, Chief Economist, Kiwibank
- 6 Jun *Lunch with the Deputy High Commissioner: UK-NZ Diplomacy, Trade & Innovation* – John Pearson, Deputy British High Commissioner to New Zealand
- 3 Oct *Cuban Film Screening 'The World of Nelsito'* – Cuban Film Screening in Palmerston North

Branch report – WAIRARAPA

In Wairarapa our Branch has had a successful year. We held nine Branch meetings (February to November), a film fund-raiser, and members participated in both the Institute's annual conference and the AGM. The range of subjects covered by our speakers was wide: Israel and Gaza, our disrupted world, the current tariff 'war', threats to democracy, and the international aviation links of the Wairarapa, for example.

During March the Branch Chair was invited to speak to the Masterton Rotary Club – essentially a 'recruiting talk' to encourage Rotarians to also attend our NZIIA meetings. The talk was well received and the Rotary newsletter summarised the talk as "international affairs may seem remote to us given where we live but that knowledge of current events and their likely consequences would be vital in the days to come, and we could do far worse than to keep abreast of the latest developments."

We held our Branch AGM in April, followed by our guest speaker, Alan Emerson, who gave an insightful talk on the 2025 tariff war, including the then very recent imposition of Donald Trump's 'Liberation Day' tariffs. He also introduced us to BRICS, and described the likely impact here in New Zealand. It was a lively talk, followed by many questions and much discussion. Subsequently Alan's talk was edited and published in *New Zealand International Review*.

Two of our committee and one of our Life Members attended the National Conference in June.

We hosted a foreign film showing as our annual fund-raiser for our Branch, with the French comedy '*A little Something Extra*' provided for us from the NZ International Film Festival's line up. We appreciate the cooperation of the NZIFF and of our local boutique theatre 'The Screening Room'. The showing was held on a Sunday afternoon in September (not an ideal time once Spring had started to gain momentum) and the small theatre, new to us, had only 60 seats. We supplemented the seat sales with a couple of quick-fire raffles, but even so, the funds raised – while a boost to our coffers - were not as much as the previous year.

Our September evening meeting had to be cancelled at short notice when the guest speaker had to stay in Wellington with a family medical emergency. We are pleased that he was willing to reschedule and we will hear from him next March. The incident proved to us that a rapid method of sending out cancellations is also important. As well as sending out emails, we approached our local radio station which proved willing to carry our cancellation notice.

The October meeting with journalist and researcher Max Rashbrooke proved especially interesting. Our unofficial gauge of the success of any evening is how long some of the audience stay afterwards, either seeking to question the speaker or discuss amongst themselves. Max's talk was especially notable in that respect.

Of note our audience is typically about 30-40 people, with a consistent proportion (25% or so) being non-members, but happy to pay a koha of \$5. The koha has also kept our Treasurer happy, as we pay the motel accommodation cost for out-of-town speakers and include each of our speakers in our committee dinner at a nearby restaurant before their talk.

We enjoy good support from the owners of our usual venue, Rosewood, which has a good auditorium and a good audio-visual system. We are supported by our local paper which includes our monthly preview article in the weekly paper, and the Branch Chair is well served by an active and lively committee.

Our year closed with Dr John Deane; a former British Aerospace senior engineering manager, university lecturer and vintage aviation enthusiast. This was deliberately a lighter topic before we broke for Christmas but nonetheless attracted a good audience and engendered much discussion.

Thus at year's end we can report our Branch is on a sound footing, both financially and in core membership, but of course we would appreciate more of our younger citizens and students to attend our events.

We are well served by local businesses and we are confident that the Branch enjoys a high status within our district.

Richard Jackson
Chair

Events 2025

- 20 Feb *A Personal View of Gaza and the Conflict with Israel* – Marilyn Garson, who worked in Gaza from 2011 until 2015
- 25 Mar *Bringing International Affairs to Masterton – Address to Rotary Club* – Richard Jackson, Branch Chair
- 20 Mar *NZ's Relationship with Europe in Unsettled Times* – Rodney Harris, Divisional Manager, Europe, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade
- 17 Apr *Tariffs* – Alan Emerson, columnist for *Farmers Weekly* and the *Wairarapa Times Age*
- 15 May *Refugees – A Pathway to Settlement* – Paul Alsford, the Pathways to Settlement Manager, NZ Red Cross in Masterton, with Atta-Ul Maneeb, Settlement Lead for settlement communities in Wairarapa
- 4 Jun *NZIIA National Conference* – 3 members attended
- 19 Jun *A New Era in Canada/US Relations'* – Keith Smith, High Commissioner for Canada to New Zealand
- 24 Jul *Our Disrupted World* – David Capie, Director of the Centre for Strategic Studies and Professor of International Relations at VUW
- 14 Sep *Film Show Fund-raiser: Un Petit Truc en Plus* – members' event
- 18 Sep *The Iran Nuclear Dossier* – Sirous Amerian (Note: cancelled at short notice, rescheduled for March 2026)
- 16 Oct *Trust and Democracy; Threats and Solutions* – Max Rashbrooke, author, columnist and researcher
- 20 Nov *International Aviation Links with Wairarapa* – Dr John Deane, former Chief Engineer and Research Manager in the British aerospace industry

Branch report – WELLINGTON

The NZIIA Wellington Branch hosted 27 events in the 2025 calendar year including two significant events with the inaugural Environmental Diplomacy Symposium at Zealandia Eco-Sanctuary in March and the Gateways to Africa Event in May.

The branch has now widened our event portfolio to include public lectures, embassy and student roundtables, book launches, expert panel events, diplomatic community events, member social evenings and collaborative events with other Wellington based institutes and think-thanks. Attendance ranged from 15 for a typical roundtable up to 150-200 for major panel events and keynotes.

We hosted 64 speakers to the branch in 2025 including Diplomats, Academics, Members of Parliament, Climate Change experts, Business leaders, Government and Defence officials. We welcomed 14 guests visiting from overseas in 2025 including the overseas based Ambassadors to New Zealand of Kazakhstan, Costa Rica, Georgia, Kosovo, Finland and Ukraine as well as six European Members of Parliament.

Highlights of 2025 include our flagship Environmental Diplomacy Symposium, which was NZIIA Wellington Branch's largest undertaking in many years. This event, two years in the making, was held at Zealandia Eco-Sanctuary in Karori and included three distinguished panels on Conservation & Biodiversity, Sustainability and Climate Change as well as an insight session on Climate finance and a keynote on Australia's environmental policy by former Australian High Commissioner HE Harinder Sidhu. This event was sold out with large numbers of university and high school students in attendance and was followed with a great networking reception overlooking the sanctuary at sunset.

Our second major event was focused on Africa and took inspiration from the Africa Symposium organised by Brian Lynch in 2010 which was, in fact, the last time a major Africa focussed event was organised by NZIIA. This event brought together the two resident Heads of Missions of Africa to New Zealand, namely HE George Tadros, Ambassador of Egypt and HE Colonel Johnny Sexwale, High Commissioner of South Africa. Following the panel,

we had a networking reception with traditional Egyptian and South African foods, South African wine sampling and an expo with information on trade, investment and tourism for these two countries, as well as an opportunity to try writing your name in hieroglyphics.

The Wellington student sub-committee organised eight successful events in 2025. These ranged from small roundtables each hosting about 20 students, to the larger events, such as student mixers to start the academic year and the highly successful annual Careers Without Borders in September, now in its twelfth year.

Wellington branch membership at the end of 2025 increased to 730, from 701 in the previous year, continuing the upward trajectory of the last four years. Branch revenue was up to \$18,271 from \$8,339 in 2024 and this includes the introduction of non-member event fees and sponsorship for major events. Expenses were up to \$17,842, and at 31 December 2025 total branch assets were \$21,418 up from \$20,989 at the start of the year. Average attendance per event in 2025 increased to 70 from 61 in the previous year totalling 1,900 in-person attendees as well as online attendees at some hybrid events. I am again pleased that we have improved all our membership, financial and attendance target metrics set by the branch over the last four years.

The branch values the continuing support of Te Herenga Waka Victoria University of Wellington who generously provide the Branch with lecture theatre facilities free of charge and we in turn provide free access to full-time students to attend branch events.

Many thanks to our great event sponsors this year including the Australian High Commission, Embassy of Switzerland, The Kingdom of the Netherlands, Zealandia Eco-Sanctuary, European Union Delegation, High Commission of South Africa, Embassy of Egypt and the British High Commission.

We held five embassy roundtable events in 2025 and thank the Embassy of Switzerland, High Commission of Pakistan, Embassy of Argentina, Embassy of Ireland and the Embassy of Mexico for their kind hospitality.

I would also like to acknowledge the Dean of the Diplomatic Corps in New Zealand, HE Alfredo Pérez Bravo, Ambassador of Mexico, for his support and congratulate him on reaching the amazing milestone of fifty years in the Mexican Foreign Service, which the Wellington Branch celebrated with him with a very special “This is your life” style event in Rutherford House in December 2025.

I would like to thank Saskia Grant, Gwen Levick, Cass Maughan and Claudia Green who finished with the Wellington Committee at the end of 2025. In addition, I would also like to especially acknowledge Zinzan Goertzen who has worked tirelessly with the student committee over three years and completed his term in 2025.

We look forward to continuing to offer a great portfolio of events in 2026 and welcome new members to join the Wellington branch.

Ngā mihi

Angus Middleton

Chair

Events 2025

- 30 Jan *Russian aggression against Ukraine and the security implications for Indo-Pacific region* – in partnership with Centre for Strategic Studies – HE Vasyi Myroshnychenko, Ambassador of Ukraine to Australia and New Zealand
- 26 Feb *Russia Beyond Putin: The System Behind the Strongman* – Professor William Partlett, University of Melbourne
- 5 Mar *Advancing Peace and Sustainability Through Innovation and Science Diplomacy: A Swiss Perspective* – HE Viktor Vavricka, Ambassador of Switzerland
- 5 Mar *Student Social Mixer* – HE Laurence Meredith, Ambassador of the European Union
- 6 Mar *The Importance of Intelligence Cooperation with the Pacific* – Andrew Hampton, Director-General of Security at the New Zealand Security Intelligence Service
- 12 Mar ***Environmental Diplomacy Symposium at Zealandia*** – Moderated by Angus Middleton, Chair NZIIA Wellington Branch and Saskia Grant

Conservation Panel

Dr Danielle Shanahan, CEO of Zealandia and Adj Prof of Conservation at VUW

HE Kira Christianne D Azucena, Ambassador of Philippines

HE Carolina Molina, Ambassador of Costa Rica to Australia and NZ

Miriana Stephens, Te Taumata/Wakatu

Climate Finance Insight Session

Dr Olayinka Moses, School of Accounting at VUW

HE Viktor Vavricka, Ambassador of Switzerland

Sustainability and Circular Economy Panel

Mike Burrell, CEO of the Sustainable Business Council of NZ

HE Laurence Beau, Ambassador of France

HE Arto Haapea, Ambassador of Finland to Australia and NZ

John Pearson, Deputy High Commissioner of Britain to NZ

Keynote: *Australia's Green Economic Transition*

HE Harinder Sidhu, High Commissioner of Australia

Climate Change Panel

Dr Christina Hood, Head of Compass Climate

HE Ard van der Vorst, Ambassador of Netherlands

HE Harinder Sidhu, High Commissioner of Australia

Dr Iati Iati, Senior Lecturer VUW & Pacific Security Fellow at CSS

20 Mar *Syria: Implications for the Country and the Middle East* – Dr Karam Shaar, Syrian-New Zealander Economist and Founder, Karam Shaar Consultancy

24 Mar *Seventeen Years of Independence: The Kosovo journey to statehood* – H.E. Jetmira Berdynaj Shala, Ambassador of the Republic of Kosovo to Australia, New Zealand and Pacific Islands

2 Apr *Celebrating the contribution of Honorary Consuls* – Panel
Prof Carmen Dalli, Honorary Consul for Malta and Dean of the Wellington Consular Corps
Peter Kiely, Honorary Consul General for the Slovak Republic
Gloriana Quirós Venegas, Honorary Consul for Costa Rica
Moderator: Angus Middleton, Chair NZIIA Wellington Branch

17 Apr *Biodiversity, nature, and business opportunities: an introduction to Costa Rica* – HE Carolina Molina Barrantes, Ambassador of the Republic of Costa Rica to Australia and New Zealand

5 May *Withstanding Geopolitical Storms and Resolving Security Dilemmas: The Case of Georgia* – HE Beka Dvali, Ambassador of Georgia to Australia and New Zealand

26 May *Roundtable- Pakistan- the Heart of Asia* – HE Dr Faisal Aziz Ahmed, Pakistan High Commissioner

27 May *Egypt & South Africa: NZ Gateways to Africa* – Panel and Reception
HE George Tadros, Ambassador of Egypt

HE (Col) Johnny Sexwale, High Commissioner of South Africa
Moderator: Dr Olayinka Moses, VUW

Preceded by 2025 Wellington Branch AGM

- 4 Jun *What does Trump 2.0 mean for the global political economy?* – Dr Ian Lovering, Lecturer in International Relations, VUW
- 10 Jul *NZIIA Wellington Student Quiz Night at Hunter Lounge*
- 22 Jul *Student Panel with Members of the European Parliament (MEPs)*
Mr Seán KELLY, Chair EPP, Ireland
Mr Kris VAN DIJCK, Vice Chair, ECR Belgium
Ms Gabriele BISCHOFF, Member S&D, Germany
Mr Axel VOSS, Member EPP, Germany
Mr Barry COWEN, Member RENEW, Ireland
Mr Jaroslav BŽOCH, Substitute P/E, The Czech Republic
- 29 Jul *Building a More Secure Future in a Changing Climate: How the UK Connects Climate, Growth, and Security* – Panel
Margaret Cooney, Chief Operating Officer, Octopus Energy
John Pearson, Deputy British High Commissioner to New Zealand
Moderator: Angus Middleton, Chair NZIIA Wellington Branch
- 14 Aug *Student Roundtable: Tariffs with New Zealand* – Stephen Jacobi, Executive Director, New Zealand International Business Forum
- 20 Aug *Roundtable: Argentina: New Opportunities in Trade, Investment and Economic Reform* – HE Maria Belén Bogado, Ambassador of Argentine Republic to New Zealand
- 21 Aug *Autonomy and Arms: Navigating the Future of Military Technology*
Dr Julia Macdonald, University of Denver & Asia New Zealand Foundation
Prof David Capie, Centre for Strategic Studies
- 4 Sep *Student Roundtable: Journeys in Foreign Affairs: Reflections from Ireland and New Zealand*
Paul O'Hara, Deputy Head of Mission, Embassy of Ireland
Samuel Mani, Foreign Policy Officer, MFAT

5 Sep *Third Annual NZIIA Wellington Diplomatic Tree Planting*

Dean of the Diplomatic Corps HE Alfredo Pérez Bravo, Ambassador of Mexico

Porirua Mayor Anita Baker

Jeremy Clarke-Watson, Chief of Protocol MFAT

Representatives of Brazil, Korea, France, Germany, United Kingdom, Costa Rica, South Africa, Pakistan and Australia

11 Sep *Student Roundtable: Oscillations in New Zealand - China Relations –*
Dr Mengdi Zhang, PhD Graduate in International Relations VUW

17-Sep *Careers without Borders*

MFAT Panel: James Lester, MFAT; Thandiwe Keet, MFAT; and Anya Donohue MFAT

Trade & Commerce Panel: Ailish Dodd, Wellington Chamber of Commerce; Phil Quinn, MBIE; and Gregor Thompson, Business Desk

International Development Panel: Peter Scott, former Disaster Manager; Rachel Harrison, Senior Pacific Program Operations Advisor; Grace Savage, Save the Children NZ; and Maree Newson (World Bank)

Defence & Security Panel: Kevin Moar (DPMC); Peter Shackleton (MFAT), Amy Brosnan (NZDF); and Dr Miriam Wharton (NZDF)

24 Sep *Roundtable: Mexico: Where Opportunity Meets Prosperity –* HE Alfredo Pérez Bravo, Ambassador of Mexico and Dean of the Diplomatic Corps

4 Nov *Kazakhstan and Central Asia: Fostering Regional Security and Prosperity, Leveraging International Partnerships in an Uncertain World –* HE Askar Kutykadam, Ambassador of Kazakhstan to Australia and NZ

10-Dec *Reflections of 50 Years in the Mexican Foreign Service: A Conversation with the Mexican Ambassador and Reception –* HE Alfredo Pérez Bravo, Dean of the Diplomatic Corps and Ambassador of Mexico to New Zealand
Moderator: Angus Middleton, Chair NZIIA Wellington Branch

New Zealand International Review – Report

The *Review* completed 50 years of publication in December 2025 — which also marked my retirement as managing editor.

As previously, the *Review* benefited from the voluntary contribution of the members of the Editorial Committee, which also came to an end in December. The membership in its final year was: Andrew Wierzbicki (chair), Paul Bellamy, Bob Bunch, Gerald McGhie, Malcolm McKinnon, Angus Middleton and Rob Rabel, with Anthony Smith as book review editor, a role he will continue in 2026. I thank them all for their support and help over many years.

As ever, the National Office provided excellent support for the *Review*. Yvonne Palmer continued her essential role regarding the financial arrangements and distribution of the magazine. I thank her, too, for her excellent support.

Circulation

As the attached statement indicates, the total circulation fell by 13 to 1210 in 2025. The total included 909 digital subscribers (75 per cent of the total, the same as in 2024). The magazine henceforth will be wholly digital, with a small print run for those willing to pay for hard copies.

Production

Morag Torrington of Sea Star Design continued to produce the magazine and Thames Pivotal to print it.

Advertising

Attracting advertising remained a problem.

Distribution

There was no change to distribution arrangements.

Finance

The projected deficit of \$16,750 for 2025 proved to be a major over call, with a surplus actually being recorded — only the third of my tenure. Major reasons for the difference were the large excess in advertising and royalties and the very low actual figure for postage.

Dr Ian McGibbon

Managing Editor, New Zealand International Review

NZIR STATEMENT OF CIRCULATION 2025			
CATEGORY	Dec 2023	Dec 2024	Dec 2025
Non-Branch*	92 (79)	107 (80)	95 (42)
Overseas*	26 (3)	29 (12)	28 (2)
Members: Auckland	21 (68)	18 (133)	20 (108)
Christchurch	17 (37)	17 (70)	16 (66)
Hawke’s Bay	32 (12)	33 (16)	28 (18)
Nelson	34 (50)	21 (43)	20 (43)
Palmerston North	2 (10)	6 (29)	4 (19)
Waikato	-	-	-
Wairarapa	15 (37)	17 (27)	15 (25)
Wellington	62 (391)	71 (476)	72 (562)
National Office	2 (22)	2 (16)	3 (24)
Total subscriptions/copies distributed	339 (720)	321 (902)	301 (909)
*Includes Corporate, Institutional members, Life Members, Complimentary, Student and Exchange copies. (Student member circulation is included from 2022, but not in previous years). Figures in parentheses are digital subscriptions.			

NZIR STATEMENT OF FINANCE 2025		
	2025 Estimate	2025 Statement
REVENUE		
Subscriptions:		
NZIR – Advertising & Royalties	1,400	14,150
NZIR – Branch Sales	12,000	11,896
NZIR Subscription – Corporate/ Institutional/ NZIR NZ/NZIR OS	9,700	9,747
NZIR – Sponsorship	4,000	
NZIR – Sales Miscellaneous	150	288
NZIR – Postal Recovery	-	
Total NZIR Income	27,250	36,081
EXPENDITURE		
NZIR – Artwork & Printing (200A)	25,000	24,594
NZIR – Honorarium (200H)	10,000	10,000
NZIR – Postage (200E and 200P)	9,000	744
Total NZIR Expenditure	44,000	35,338
PROFIT (LOSS)	-16,750	743

Statement of Service Performance

Description and Quantification of Outputs

Outputs	2025	2024
# National Office events	14	18
# average in-person attendees per National Office event	110	90
# of Branch events	82	90
# average attendees per Branch event	58	55
NZIIA Membership Subscriptions		
– Individual Membership (Paid)	565	542
– Corporate / Institutional (Paid)	70	70
– Student (Free)	647	704
– Life (Free)	12	12
Annual Conference attendees	328	No conference held in 2024
AGM and Annual Lecture attendees	183	170
New Zealand International Review publications	6	6
New Zealand International Review subscriptions		
– Hard copy subscribers	301	321
– Email subscribers	909	902
Combined National Office social media subscribers (X, LinkedIn, Facebook, YouTube, Instagram)	8,711	7,593
Individual website users (Google analytics)	26,000	21,000
Podcasts published	7	4

Review from an Independent Chartered Accountant

REVIEW REPORT FROM AN INDEPENDENT CHARTERED ACCOUNTANT TO THE MEMBERS OF THE NEW ZEALAND INSTITUTE OF INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

I have reviewed the accompanying Performance Report of the New Zealand Institute of International Affairs, which includes the Statement of Financial Position of the Institute at 31 December 2025 and the Statement of Financial Performance for the year then ended.

The responsibilities of the Board of the Institute

The Board is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of these financial statements, and for such internal control as the Board determines necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

The responsibilities of the Accountant making the Review

It is my responsibility to express a conclusion on the accompanying financial statements. This is a limited assurance engagement. The assurance practitioner performs procedures, primarily consisting of making enquiries of management and others within the entity, as appropriate, and applying analytical procedures, and evaluates the evidence obtained. The procedures performed in a review are substantially less than those performed in an audit conducted in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (New Zealand). Accordingly, I do not express an audit opinion on these financial statements.

In earlier years I have been Treasurer of the Institute and I am a Life Member. In recent years I have had no involvement in the administration of the activities of the Institute, and I consider myself independent of the Institute for the preparation of this report.

Conclusion

Based on my review, nothing has come to my attention that causes me to believe that the accompanying financial statements do not present fairly the financial position of the New Zealand Institute of International Affairs at 31 December 2025 and the financial results for the year ended on that date, in accordance with the applicable accounting policies.

10 April, 2026



Donald G. Trow
Chartered Accountant
Wellington

email: don.trow@vuw.ac.nz

NEW ZEALAND INSTITUTE OF INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION
as at 31 December 2025

	2025	2024
ASSETS		
Cash at bank held by NZIIA branches (note 1)	\$ 71,869	76,764
Cash at bank and on deposit at National Office	505,359	501,205
Accounts receivable and prepayments	1,814	21,249
Web site at cost (\$76,076) less depreciation	<u>7,413</u>	<u>22,238</u>
	\$ 586,455	621,456
LIABILITIES AND MEMBERS' FUND		
Accounts Payable	\$ 53,814	58,121
MFAT Operating Grant received in advance	100,000	100,000
Other income received in advance	35,397	35,355
Members' Fund	<u>397,244</u>	<u>427,980</u>
	\$ 586,455	621,456

NEW ZEALAND INSTITUTE OF INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS
STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE AND MEMBERS' FUND
for the year ending 31 December 2025

	2025	2024
REVENUE		
Grant from NZ Ministry of Foreign Affairs & Trade (MFAT)	200,000	200,000
Branch membership	21,715	19,473
Corporate & Institutional membership	22,112	21,242
Sponsorship from Victoria University	10,000	10,000
Contract services	500	30,652
Interest received	12,814	25,874
Donations received	14,333	2,549
Publication sales	150	39
Surplus from National Conference (note 3)	8,747	-
Surplus from NZ International Review (note 4)	743	-
Other revenue	-	28,000
	\$ 291,114	337,829
EXPENDITURE		
Staff salaries	181,403	179,520
Operating expenses (note 2)	90,403	118,652
Expenses of presenting seminars	32,940	23,265
Deficit Annual meeting and lecture (note 3)	2,279	4,706
Deficit for NZ International Review (note 4)	-	15,394
20% Depreciation of web site asset	14,825	15,053
	\$ 321,850	356,590
DEFICIT FOR THE YEAR	\$ (30,736)	(18,761)
Add funds from branches	-	89
Add total Fund at beginning of the year	427,980	446,652
MEMBERS' FUND AT END OF YEAR	\$ 397,244	427,980

NOTES TO THE ABBREVIATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS 31 December 2025

Note 1 Inclusion of branch circumstances

These financial statements incorporate the circumstances of the eight branches of the NZIIA. ¹

The only asset held by each branch is cash at bank.

			2025	2024
	Revenue	Expense	End of year	End of year
Auckland	\$ 3,024	1,785	4,552	3,314
Christchurch	890	2,156	9,456	10,721
Waikato	0	0	4,026	4,026
Hawke's Bay	1,514	502	9,148	8,136
Nelson	7,554	8,131	4,397	4,974
Palmerston North	699	5,748	13,884	18,933
Wairarapa	3,276	3,959	4,988	5,671
Wellington	18,271	17,842	21,418	20,989
Total cash held by branches			71,869	76,764

Note 2 Analysis of Operating Expenses

		2025	2024
Office at Victoria University of Wellington	\$	10,000	10,000
Website activity written off		15,661	11,411
Contracting services		16,140	36,715
Accounting services		1,599	4,142
Special projects		6,615	27,686
Other Office costs		40,388	28,698
Total Operating Expenses	\$	90,403	118,652

¹ Waikato Branch closed operations on 15 November 2022

Note 3 2025 National Conference and Annual Meeting

	Conference	AGM & Lecture
Revenue	\$ 128,014	3,533
Expenditure	119,067	5,812
Surplus (Deficit) from activity	<u>8,947</u>	<u>(2,279)</u>

Note 4 The New Zealand International Review

	2025	2024
Revenues received		
Advertising and royalties	\$ 14,150	1,353
Branch sales	11,896	11,486
Subscriptions, corporates and others	10,035	9,059
Total revenues	<u>36,081</u>	<u>21,898</u>
Publication and delivery expense		
Artwork and printing	\$ 24,594	24,975
Honorarium for editor	10,000	10,000
Postage and mailouts	744	2,317
Total expense	<u>35,338</u>	<u>37,292</u>
Surplus (Deficit) from publication of NZI Review	\$ 743	(15,394)

Revenue	Budget 2026
AGM and Annual Lecture Income	4,000
Contract Services	20,000
Donations	1,500
EU Public Diplomacy and Policy Dialogue	82,000
Grants – Ministry of Foreign Affairs	200,000
Grants – Other	5,000
Interest Received	13,000
National Conference Income	0
NZIA Membership – Corporate/Institutional	33,000
NZIA Membership – Individual	24,000
NZIR – Advertising & Royalties	10,000
NZIR – Sales Miscellaneous	500
NZIR Sponsorship	5,000
NZIR Subscriptions	5,000
Publication Sales	200
Sponsorship – Victoria University of Wellington	10,000
Total Revenue	413,200
Less Operating Expenses	
ACC Levy	550
Accounting Fees	1,800
Advertising	3,200
AGM and Annual Lecture Expenses	4,000
Bank fees	300
Board Expenses	3,000
Contractors – Communication	5,000
Contractors – Sundry	5,000
Depreciation	14,000
EU Project Contractors and expenses	45,000
General Expenses	600
Gifts to Speakers	2,500
Hospitality	2,500
Insurance	2,500
IT Expenses	1,500
KiwiSaver Employer Contributions	6,100
Legal Fees	5,000

National Conference Expenses	0
NZIR – Artwork & Printing	18,000
NZIR – Honorarium	21,650
NZIR – Mailouts	0
NZIR – Postage	1,500
Postage & Courier	500
Seminar & Function Expenses	5,000
Special Projects	10,000
Staff Training	1,000
Stationery & Printing	3,800
Stripe Fees	1,000
Subscriptions	6,400
Telephone	1,000
Travel	9,000
VUW Sponsorship Expense	10,000
Wages	199,500
Website Costs	16,000
Total Operating Expenses	406,900
Budget Summary	
Income	413,200
Expenses	406,900
Surplus/(Deficit)	6,300

Corporate members

Asia New Zealand Foundation
Beca Ltd
Beef + Lamb New Zealand Ltd
Business New Zealand
Chapman Tripp
Department of Internal Affairs
Dept of the Prime Minister & Cabinet
Government Communications Security
Bureau
High Commission of Australia
LawAid International Chambers
Massey University
Ministry of Defence

Ministry of Foreign Affairs & Trade
Ministry of Justice
MinterEllisonRuddWatts
New Zealand Security Intelligence
New Zealand United States Council
Office of the Ombudsman
Saunders Unsworth
School of People, Environment and
Planning, Massey University
Starboard Maritime Intelligence
Te Herenga Waka Victoria University of
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