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## Chairman's Address

Colin Smith

Board Chairman

27<sup>th</sup> June 2024

Tena Koutou Katoa

Welcome everyone to this the AGM for our 99<sup>th</sup> year and what a year it has been with the Board and head office consolidating Master Electricians position ready to launch into the next phase of our development.

You would have seen some major changes to how the team at Head office interact with members as we have a more interactive and engaged team, this is down to the presence of Alex who has brought a level of energy to the role of CEO that had been lacking in recent years.

Our organisation will benefit immensely from the vision and strategic direction mapped out and shared to you all via the NPAF, this should give you the members confidence that with prudent stewardship ME is in the best position to take charge of our destiny. We have a balance sheet that is strong, and this will enable new and exciting offerings to enhance your business. The advocacy work undertaken has placed ME as a trusted partner with the ministers and as the standards, wiring rules and interactions with EWRB and Worksafe/MBIE play out we are looking to be the voice of reason and sensible decisions.

The electrical industry in New Zealand has never seen such rapid change with new technologies, generation systems and business practices to meet consumer demand flooding the market. This is exciting but also requires a level of agility for ME to be able to respond and advise members and other stake holders of best practice. We had recently had the Serene heater recall as a case in point. This was handled in a prompt and efficient manner by our team at head office and, although there were some industry operators who had alternative positions getting the required information to our members was an absolute priority. I trust that those affected were able to benefit from this information being made available to them as the issue was breaking.

This also helped to launch the NAIC initiative which has seen unprecedented buy in from all sections of industry and is showing great promise with the collaborative approach. As I said earlier that the agility shown by head office

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is something that should be maintained and possibly enhanced. The possibility that we end up restricting operations because we need to have a committee deciding on a number of aspects of governance and operational decisions is very real. The decisions we make now will have long term impact on our organisation.

That being said, I am very excited about what the future holds and as we enter our 100<sup>th</sup> year our platform gives us a very strong position to launch into our next 100 years.

In closing I would like to recognise our departing president Gary Roxburgh and thank him for the effort he has put in over the last 6 years. Sharkie your up to the plate buddy and I know the board and NPAF will support you to carry chains of office into the future, and congratulations to Reece on his new role as VP.

This will also be the last AGM for our independent board member Craig O'Connell as his tenure draws to a close shortly. I would like to thank him on behalf of the members for his wise council and vision he brought to the board meetings.

And a huge thank you to you the members for your ongoing support for Master Electricians.

And in late mail, I would like to acknowledge some of the concerns that certain members have around the Skills financial benefits being paid annually to ME. The commercial and tertiary land scape has changed dramatically shifting the posts, we share these concerns and are actively working to address them. As part of this we have had Craig Oconnell appointed to the Skills board to act as our member elected representative. This should enhance the comms between the two boards.

Colin Smith

Chair Master Electricians