



NEW ZEALAND SOCIETY OF
TRANSLATORS & INTERPRETERS

Te Rōpū Kaiwhakamāori ā-waha, ā-tuhi o Aotearoa

**Minutes of the AGM of the New Zealand Society of
Translators and Interpreters**

**Te Rōpū Kaiwhakamāori ā-waha, ā-tuhi o Aotearoa
held online at 5 pm on Sunday, 24 August 2025**

The meeting opened at 5.09 pm.

1. Welcome

Agustina Marianacci opened the AGM and welcomed the members.

2. Attendance

2.1. Present (see Appendix 1): 41 members

2.2. Apologies: Sara Bollati, Maria Marull, Sibylle Ferner, Margot Menzel

3. Adoption of the 2024 AGM minutes

Typo identified in the minutes relating to the Canterbury report ('her report' should be 'his report'). List of attendees also missing from the AGM minutes, despite being referred to as attached. Both will be corrected.

Motion: that the minutes of the 2024 AGM be adopted

Moved by Agustina Marianacci, seconded by Kathryn Malan

Outcome: The motion was carried.

4. Matters arising from the minutes

No matters arising from the minutes

5. President's report (Appendix 2)

Presented by Agustina Marianacci on behalf of Isabelle Poff-Pencole, NZSTI President

Motion: that the president's report be adopted

Moved Agustina Marianacci, seconded by Wei Teng

Outcome: The motion was carried.

6. Treasurer's report (Appendix 3)

Presented by Kathryn Malan on behalf of Maria Marull, NZSTI Treasurer

Motion: that the treasurer's report and the audited financial statements be adopted

Moved by Kathryn Malan, seconded by Patrick Delhaye

Outcome: The motion was carried.

Motion: that BVO Audit be appointed to audit NZSTI's accounts for the



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2025 financial year.

Moved by Kathryn Malan, seconded by Agustina Marianacci

Outcome: The motion was carried.

7. Branch reports

7.1. Auckland (Appendix 4)

No questions

7.2. Wellington (Appendix 5)

No questions

7.3. Canterbury (Appendix 6)

No questions

7.4. Motion: that the Auckland, Wellington, and Canterbury branch reports be adopted.

Moved by Agustina Marianacci, seconded by Wei Teng

Outcome: The motion was carried.

8. Elections

Agustina handed the chair to Caitlin Taylor-Maddock (NZSTI Events Manager) to run the elections.

8.1. Nominations for office holders:

President: Agustina Marianacci

Vice-President: Isabelle Poff-Pencole

Secretary: Sara Bollati

Treasurer: Maria Marull

Outcome: All nominees were elected.

8.2. Nominations for council members:

Diana Renker

Yoshi Isoyama

Outcome: All nominees were elected.

9. Thanks to council members

Agustina thanked Isabelle Poff-Pencole, who has served as the NZSTI President for many years and is staying on as Vice-President this year, for all the knowledge, hard work and commitment she has given to NZSTI, and for her belief in Agustina's ability to now lead NZSTI. Agustina also thanked Diana Renker, who is stepping down as Secretary but is remaining on council as a council member, as she has given NZSTI a lot of her time and effort in that role and has done an amazing job.



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Agustina congratulated everyone who has been elected to the council and she is looking forward to the coming year.

10. Other business

Agustina and Kathryn reminded everyone to give their input on the changes to the constitution, with the SGM scheduled for early October.

The meeting closed at 5.54 pm



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Appendix 1: Attendees

First Name	Last Name	Membership category
Thalita	Alves	Full Member
Indigo	Blue	Full Member
Elizabeth	Broom	Full Member
Hannah	Burdekin	Full Member
Anika	Burgess	Full Member
Caroline (Carolina)	Cannard	Full Member
Suet Mei (Evelyn)	Chow	Full Member
Ineke	Crezee	Full Member
Maria Paz	Diaz Gomez	Full Member
Shaun	Dyer	Full Member
Yuen May	Fung	Full Member
Alejandra	Gonzalez Campanella	Full Member
Linda (Fuqin)	Hill	Full Member
Yoshi	Isoyama	Full Member
Larissa	Jivykh	Full Member
Crystelle	Jones	Full Member
Guthrun	Love	Full Member
Glen	McCabe	Full Member
Linzi	Qiao	Full Member
Diana	Renker	Full Member
Quintin	Ridgeway	Full Member
Alison	Rodriguez	Full Member
Magdalena	Rowan	Full Member
Vanina	Schembari	Full Member
Melanie	Taylor	Full Member
Wei	Teng	Full Member
Tao-Ping	Tsao	Full Member
Min	Zheng	Full Member



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Yikang (Eric)	Zheng	Full Member
Kathryn	Malan	Full Member
Agustina	Marianacci	Full Member
Kathleen	Chen	Full Member
Wen	Yang	Full Member
Lingbo	Yu	Full Member
Patrick	Delhaye	Full Member - Fellow
Henry	Liu	Full Member - Fellow
Isabelle	Poff-Pencole	Full Member - Fellow
Anna	Gruczynska	Affiliate
Jessica	Harborne	Affiliate
Pinchanok	Maertzschink	Affiliate
Yangqiong (Joan)	He	Observer



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Appendix 2: NZSTI President's Report 2025

Tena koutou, tena koutou, tena koutou katoa!

I would first like to thank you all for taking an interest in the running of your society and for being here today. I hope that you and your families are fine. I am sure that you have followed what is happening at NZSTI and in our industry in our bi-monthly newsletter and on our website and social media but I would like to give you a brief account of the council activities and projects over the past year:

First of all, here is a stock take of our membership. We currently have 727 active members, including 7 fellows, 416 full Members, 2 retired members, 11 SLIANZ members, 221 affiliates, 19 observers, 46 student members, and 5 honorary members. The new student category which was introduced last year seems to be very popular with T&I students.

A key communication window for NZSTI is our website. Many improvements have been made since its launch five years ago. Make sure to check out all the information, resources and functionalities available. The forum in particular has proven a hit with many hot topics being discussed online. In addition to monitoring the forum and all information on the website, the Admin/IT committee has been focusing on streamlining processes for registrations, ensuring entitlement holders get the appropriate benefits, and generating event and reminder emails. There has also been a focus on streamlining the membership application process. Improvements are being made and new functionalities added all the time by our admin/IT committee consisting of the chair Diana Renker, Karoline Spiessl and myself, with the support of our operational management contractors Kathryn Malan and Caitlin Taylor-Maddock, and our administration services provider, BPS Ltd. I would like to thank them all for their involvement in maintaining and developing this most important communication and management tool for NZSTI.

On the administration side, BPS have continued to deliver secretariat services for us. The secretary Diana Renker and Kathryn Malan worked closely with BPS to ensure queries and communications with member are timely and professional. BPS also looks after the coordination of PD events under the MBIE service contract. I would like to thank BPS director Rosemarie Dawson, and her team Laura Jenkins, Yvette Vos, and Kyle Perwick.

I mentioned the MBIE service contract. Under this agreement, NZSTI has provided funded NAATI test preparation courses and PD workshops to assist NZ interpreters with the transition to NAATI certification. This work is being carried out by NZSTI trainers. In the last four years since the start of the contract, NZSTI has delivered 63 CPI test preparation webinars (14 since last year's AGM), 9 CI test preparation webinars (3



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since last year's AGM), 44 interactional management webinars (11 since last year's AGM), 17 ethics workshops and note-taking workshops, and other informative online sessions. As usual, face-to-face CPI test preparation workshop will be run on Friday 12 September just before our annual conference. As you can imagine, the management and implementation of this contract has been very complex and time consuming. We are most indebted to NZSTI's office holders Diana Renker (and myself), as well as operational management contractor Kathryn Malan for managing all aspects of the agreement. This agreement with MBIE ended on 30 June 2025.

We are very pleased to announce that we have signed a new follow-on contract with Te Tari Mātāwaka Ministry for Ethnic Communities on 27 July 2025 to continue supporting interpreters towards NAATI certification and recertification with the delivery of free NAATI test preparation workshops and PD events. New support programmes will be added next year. Watch this space!

In our meetings with MBIE and now MEC, we have continued to communicate our members' concerns and questions to ensure that MBIE and MEC are aware of the reality of the interpreting and translation industry in New Zealand. Our strengthened relationship with MBIE and MEC means that our input and feedback is carefully considered and incorporated when possible.

The Communication and Marketing Committee grew our online presence quite substantially over the last year with the help of our new part-time communications and events management contractor Caitlin Taylor-Maddock. Caitlin joined us in November last year and has already made a big impact on the amount of events and the quality of our communication visuals and marketing. Most of our website users are from NZ, followed by Australia, China and many other countries. The directory was accessed regularly. The forum is very active with many interesting discussions and nice exchanges of information. It is great to see our members making good use of this functionality. Caitlin has taken over the responsibility of putting out the bi-monthly newsletter and keeping the webpages updated with events and news. We are conscious that we need to continue to report more transparently on the work the council is engaged in. Caitlin also keeps NZSTI's social media channels active, posting about our events as well as stories of interest. Please follow, like, connect with NZSTI social media to keep in touch and take advantage of new opportunities. If you come across a story that you think is worth sharing, please send us an email at info@nzsti.org and we would be happy to pop it on our Facebook and LinkedIn pages. We are also always looking for contributions to our Word for Word blog reporting on either industry-related news and events or even sharing about a personal journey related to your work. I would like to take this opportunity to remind you that there is funding available to attend PD and conferences in exchange for a contribution to Word for Word or in some



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other form. Our thanks go to Caitlin Taylor-Maddock, Kathryn Malan and Diana Renker for developing our communication channels.

Since the last AGM, the Professional Development Committee has been working hard to provide a variety of events to cater to our members' needs and requests. Between August 2024 and August 2025, we hosted 14 PD events. Caitlin Taylor has been in charge of organising PD events since the beginning of the year with the support of Sara Bollati who is the chair of this committee. They have increased the number of PD events to two per month. All sessions have been well attended, averaging 20 to 30 attendees each time. The main focus has been to provide topics of interest to both interpreters and translators, favouring presenters from New Zealand, while also engaging international professionals. The events presented strived to offer a good balance of technical topics and other matters relevant to language service providers, such as discussion on ethics and privacy. An important concern for the PD committee was to make our workshops as accessible as possible. With this view, the committee has not increased the pricing of paid events. Thank you to Sara Bollati and Caitlin Taylor-Maddock for putting together a varied PD programme. Xuan Luo and Diana Renker deserve special thanks for starting up our peer support groups which provide interpreters with opportunities to give and receive collegial support and advice in matters related to interpreting.

The last NZSTI annual conference was held face-to-face in Auckland on 7-8 September 2024. I would like to thank last year's organizing team for creating a most interesting and successful event. We had a record attendance of 184 delegates with many sponsors supporting our conference. This year, our annual conference will be held in Wellington on 13 and 14 September. Registrations are still open until 30 August. I would like to thank Caitlin Taylor-Maddock who has organized the whole conference. I also want to thank our sponsors and all Wellington branch members and other volunteers who are and will be helping to make this event a success.

The Council had a strategy meeting in April in Christchurch. The goal was to formulate the strategic direction for NZSTI and to find ways to improve our governance, professionalism and sustainability as a society. We also discussed and developed a path towards compliance with the 2022 Incorporated Societies Act. We have looked in depth at introducing some changes in our new constitution, such as the length of tenure for office holders and council members in order to ensure the long term viability of our society. We are also proposing to modify our membership categories with the introduction of new categories. Kathryn Malan has been responsible for this special project and she has started a series of consultation workshops and surveys with the support of council members. We would like to engage as much as possible with our membership on this topic so please make your views count. We are planning for the



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new constitution to be adopted at a new Special General Meeting by the end of October.

More work was done in order to improve our operations, notably the drafting of new processes and documenting of all processes by Kathryn Malan with the help of all committees.

If we look at external relations now, office holders and council members have continued to work with New Zealand and international stakeholders for the benefit of our members. We have continued to maintain and develop our relationships with SLIANZ, MBIE, MEC, FIT, NAATI and AUSIT in particular, but also with LSPs, with delegates from many of these organisations present at our conference. NZSTI will be represented at the FIT Statutory Congress and World Congress in September 2025.

As the national council, the main focus of our work is to support you, our members. With this in mind, please do contact us with any feedback, comments, suggestions, we are here to provide the services and the support that you need.

There are many other aspects of Council work, but these are the main highlights.

I would like to thank the members of the council, and particularly the office holders, for the time they have put into meetings and discussions around council matters, as well as rolling up their sleeves to undertake the many tasks required in running our society.

And finally I would like to thank Kathryn Malan, Caitlin Taylor-Maddock and the team at BPS for all their work over the past year. Their support and advice have been greatly appreciated!

One last comment: Look out for each other, recommend your colleagues where you can, and again don't hesitate to contact the NZSTI council who represents you if you have any ideas or concerns.

I would like to give my - and all our - best wishes to the new council as they continue to adapt to a changing environment and keep the society relevant for us all.

No reira, tena koutou, tena koutou, tena tatou katoa

Isabelle Poff-Pencole

NZSTI President



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Appendix 3: Treasurer's Report

New Zealand Society of Translators and Interpreters (NZSTI)

For the year ended 31 December 2024

Tēnā koutou katoa,

I am pleased to present the Treasurer's Report for the financial year ending 31 December 2024. The financial performance of NZSTI over the past year has been strong, reflecting both prudent management and the continued support of our members and partners.

Financial Performance

For 2024, NZSTI achieved a surplus of **\$47,279**, following on from last year's surplus of \$58,134. The majority of this is made up of the funding provided by MBIE. While slightly lower than the prior year, this result demonstrates that NZSTI remains in a sound financial position.

- **Total revenue increased to \$381,982** (from \$323,215 in 2023). This growth was driven by:
 - Increased membership fees and new applications, reflecting the ongoing growth of our member base.
 - Continued income from the MBIE Service Agreement, which remains a key source of funding.
 - Increased income from events and conferences, with strong attendance at professional development activities and the national conference.
- **Total expenses rose to \$334,703** (from \$265,081 in 2023). The largest increases were in:
 - Administration and overheads (notably website expenses and legal costs).
 - Contractor fees, following the decision to invest in more operational management support.
 - Event and training costs, reflecting the higher volume of professional development activities delivered throughout the year.

Despite these increased costs, our revenues have more than kept pace, allowing us to maintain a healthy surplus.



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Financial Position

As at 31 December 2024, NZSTI held net assets of \$304,684, an increase from \$257,405 in the previous year.

- Cash reserves increased to \$344,996, giving NZSTI a strong buffer to meet future needs.
- Liabilities remain modest at \$99,443, largely comprising subscriptions and income received in advance.

These results provide assurance that NZSTI remains well-positioned financially to deliver value to members and invest in the growth of the profession.

Outlook

Looking ahead, NZSTI will likely continue to face rising operating costs, particularly in areas such as marketing, technology, administration, events, and governance. However, our stable revenue streams – including membership subscriptions and the MEC contract replacing the MBIE contract – provide a solid foundation.

It will be important for us to:

- Maintain prudent financial management.
- Continue diversifying income streams where possible.
- Ensure investments in operations and member services deliver clear value.

Conclusion

In summary, 2024 was another positive year financially for NZSTI. The surplus achieved, alongside strong cash reserves and growing membership income, ensures that NZSTI is well placed to continue supporting translators and interpreters across Aotearoa New Zealand.

I would like to thank the Council, branch committees, and our staff for their dedication, as well as our members for their continued support.

Ngā mihi nui,

Maria Marull

Treasurer

New Zealand Society of Translators and Interpreters



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Appendix 4: Auckland Branch Report

Auckland branch report for 2025 NZSTI AGM

The Auckland branch held its first online AGM in October 2024, with 24 people attending. Tikanga was facilitated by branch kaumātua Robert Newson. We are now moving to anonymous online voting for branch AGMs, in line with what is being done at the national level. Our upcoming branch AGM will be held over Zoom on 15 October, followed by a PD event on working in the disability sector.

Since this committee has been in office, we have been busy with the following:

Branch events

Our end of the year event was held on 27 November at the Fable Hotel. We want to thank Jessica Sui for organising the venue, and all other committee members who helped run this event. Around 50 Auckland members attended.



In February, the Auckland branch hosted the national launch of the rates survey report at a hybrid event held at the University of Auckland and via Zoom, with a presentation by Dr Thanos Kyritsis. Even though the event was driven by the branch, we worked closely with our national Council, who provided both financial and logistical support. Around 20 people attended in person, and over 50 joined us online. The event marked the culmination of a long project originally initiated by former branch president Hannah Burdekin. The results have since been shared with government agencies, professional associations and other stakeholders across the country and will be further discussed at the 2025 NZSTI Conference in Pōneke.





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We also hosted visiting scholar Cindy Roat at AUT, in collaboration with Professor Ineke Crezee on 5 March 2025. The event was very popular, with around 35 members attending and discussing patient navigators and interpreters' role boundaries.



The Auckland branch's *Coffee & Chat* get togethers are now a branch staple, taking place all over Tāmaki Makaurau. So far, we've organised three events in October 2024, February 2025 and June 2025, each attended by around 20 members.



For the first time, we had a member host her very own *Coffee & Chat* in her neighbourhood. Even though Warkworth is an hour away from the CBD, the event was a success, with 10 members attending. Thank you, Shuyi Li!

If you are based in Auckland but find it hard to make it to our events, get in touch with us to organise one in your area.





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Auckland branch newsletter

In April 2024, we published issue 4 of the Auckland branch newsletter, edited and collated by committee member Andrea King. It featured an introduction to the new committee (better late than never!), recaps of past events, news about the upcoming ones, a 'A Day in the Life' section spotlighting Auckland member Laura Monzon-Storey, and a book review segment. We are now working on issue 5.

Upcoming events

The branch is supporting up to 21 members to attend the 2025 NZSTI Conference in Wellington this September. Priority will be given to members who haven't attended an NZSTI conference in the past five years.

We are also busy organising the Auckland branch AGM, which will be held online on 15 October. The AGM will be immediately followed by a free online PD event.

If you've been enjoying what we've been doing, please consider joining the crew. All you need to do is get in touch with any of us individually or email the branch at auckland@nzsti.org to express your interest and we'll take it from there.

As always, I would like to thank my wonderful committee for showing up to our meetings every month, keeping on top of emails and volunteering their precious time out of love for this community. It warms my heart to know that we're not alone in this work.

Thank you as well to Kathryn and Caitlin as well for your constant logistical support and endless patience as we navigate processes that we're never really sure how to work. And to the Council, thank you for the continued support without which we couldn't deliver the events we've all been enjoying.

Agustina Marianacci

NZSTI Auckland Branch President



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Appendix 5: Wellington Branch Report

The past year has been one of ongoing change for the Wellington branch. Following the branch AGM in November 2024, the newly elected committee members resigned due to various personal and professional reasons. For a short period, the branch was without a committee. However, we are pleased to report that a new committee has now been established, comprising Maria Marull (President/Treasurer), Belén Nuñez (Secretary), and Guthrun Love (Committee Member).

Although small, our committee has continued the great work of our predecessors and remains committed to holding regular events for our members. Since our last AGM, we have hosted four meet-ups (as of July 2025). Each gathering has welcomed both regular attendees and new participants, and it has been heartening to see new faces join us each time. We aim to run events monthly and look forward to seeing more of you there.

We are particularly excited that this year's NZSTI National Conference will be held in Wellington. We look forward to welcoming translators and interpreters from across the country and hope to connect with many of you in person. A number of our branch members will be volunteering on the day – thank you in advance for your support. With a fantastic line-up of speakers planned, we hope the conference will inspire more members to become actively involved with the Wellington branch committee.

We are also exploring the possibility of reviving the Treaty x30 project. With NZSTI's 40th anniversary coming up next year, we see a unique opportunity to mark this milestone with a new edition: Treaty x40. To bring this vision to life, we will need volunteers to help with coordination and translation into ten additional languages. If you are interested in contributing, we would love to hear from you.

Finally, I would like to extend my sincere thanks to all past and present committee members – your support has been essential in keeping the Wellington branch going. I would also like to acknowledge and thank the Council members and NZSTI staff, especially Kathryn and Caitlin, for their ongoing guidance and encouragement.

Thank you.

Maria Marull

NZSTI Wellington Branch President



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Appendix 6: Canterbury Branch Report

This year, we've built on the momentum from last year, thanks to the wonderful support of our Canterbury members. The committee has been busy organising a variety of professional development and social events — creating opportunities not only for learning, but also for connecting with one another and fostering collaborations between NZSTI and academia.

We've also looked beyond Canterbury, reaching out to members and non-members alike. A highlight of this outreach is our first visit to Dunedin in August, which we hope will strengthen our presence and connections in the wider region.

By August, we had held two branch committee meetings—in February and June—but our focus has been on action rather than meetings. In that time, we've successfully run several branch events that promoted professional growth, encouraged networking, and celebrated our vibrant membership.

Professional Development (PD) Events

In 2025, the Canterbury Branch has continued to deliver high-quality PD opportunities for our members, hosting three events so far—each well attended and enthusiastically received.

• March PD

Our first PD event of the year took place in March, featuring Cynthia Roat, an international consultant from the US specialising in language access in health care and patient navigation. Cynthia shared valuable insights into the role of the Patient Navigator and the outcomes of this service. The session drew 23 attendees, including NZSTI members and Translation & Interpreting students from the University of Canterbury.

• May PD

In May, we partnered once again with the University of Canterbury to host Assistant Professor Katarzyna Czarnocka-Gołębiewska from the University of Warsaw, Poland. Her seminar focused on community interpreting and translation in oncological and palliative care—a topic of great relevance and importance. The event attracted 25 attendees, including local members, UC students, and interpreters from Christchurch Hospital, and concluded with a lively networking session.

• August PD (more updates to come at the AGM)



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On Saturday, 16 August, the Branch is making an unprecedented outreach to members and potential members in Otago. We are hosting a combined session introducing NZSTI and exploring the topic of vicarious trauma—an important issue for T&I practitioners. This initiative aims to raise awareness of NZSTI's work and build stronger connections within the Otago region.

Social Events

We recognise the value of informal gatherings for strengthening connections and attracting new members.

• May – Coffee & Chat

Our first Coffee & Chat of the year was held on Saturday, 4 May, bringing together 16 members and one non-member. Feedback was overwhelmingly positive, with attendees expressing enthusiasm for both the event format and the year's upcoming activities.

• August – Quiz Night (more updates to come at the AGM)

On Wednesday, 27 August, we will host our first-ever Branch Quiz Night—an evening of fun, trivia, and camaraderie. Members can look forward to a friendly test of knowledge (both useful and otherwise), with snacks provided by the committee and a prize for the top NZSTI team. Attendance is free; food and drinks will be at members' own cost.

Plan for late-2025

Looking ahead, the Branch Committee is committed to delivering at least one more PD event—either online or in person—alongside one or two additional social events, including our annual Christmas Function.

We warmly invite Canterbury and South Island-based members, especially those not yet affiliated with the Canterbury Branch, to get involved.

Finally, a reminder that the 2025 Canterbury AGM will be held at Tūranga Central Library (Spark Place, ground floor) on Friday, 7 November 2025, at 6:00pm. We look forward to seeing you there!

Branch report prepared by Wei Teng, NZSTI Canterbury Branch President

..... 12 August 2025